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Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
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January 4, 2008

Mr. Alan Hoffmeister  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

Mr. Hoffmeister

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District Board (the District) have concerns regarding the off-highway vehicle emphasis areas for the Medford District. Specifically, the District's concerns are within the Lake Creek and Salt Creek emphasis areas, as follows:

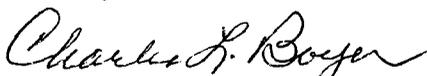
1. There is a wide variation of soil types within these areas. The clay soils are susceptible to compaction and rutting, while the coarse textured soils are very conducive to erosion.
2. The slope on many of these sites is very steep and heavy disturbance will cause rill and gully erosion.
3. Much of the terrain has a north aspect with many springs, seeps and wet meadows. These areas stay moist well into the recreational season allowing for excessive disturbance from OHV's.

The above concerns will have negative impacts to the water quality in many of the tributaries to Little Butte Creek, one of the most important Salmon rearing streams in the upper Rogue River Basin.

4. OHV's are excellent instruments for the transportation and seeding of invasive species. Once these species have established it is extremely difficult for beneficial, native and introduced species to compete. These invasive species include Yellow starthistle, Medusahead rye, Ripgut brome, and several other perennial and annual species.

For these reasons, the District asks that the Lake Creek and Salt Creek sites not be considered as OHV emphasis areas.

Sincerely,

  
Charles Boyer, District Chair

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