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January 11, 2008

JAN 11 2008

BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear WOPR staff:

My comments on the WOPR proposal are derived from living in Southern Oregon for 35 years, enjoying the opportunities to hunt, fish, snow shoe, ski and more recently ride horses in the back country in several federal forests in the state. I also have been peripherally involved in several environmental organizations.

1. Timber harvest proposals

Clear cutting BLM forests in southern Oregon have had a disastrous history when looking at the Howard Prairie plateau specifically Conde Creek. After the clear cut, the high ground temperatures did not permit new seedling survival, and after several attempts at reforestation, and failure in the elimination of proliferating ground rodents, the land was withdrawn from the timber base.

In a separate large clear cut failure, a large area of Fredenburg Mountain near Butte Falls was replanted with a mono culture of just pine that all were killed after three years from a freeze. I do not know if another budget to reforest that area was ever appropriated.

Annual precipitation levels

Salem--39.16
Eugene--49.37
Sexton Summit--35.68

Medford--18.86

Because of the high summer daytime temperatures, low precipitation levels, clear cutting in southern Oregon must be strongly discouraged.

Despite the allowance of a few trees in clear cuts south of Grants Pass, or whatever the euphemism is for clear cut, a clear cut is not an attraction for hunting, equestrian activity or tourist--not in my lifetime.

The amount of road building to accomplish the timber harvest will certainly result in erosion which will be superimposed on the negative environmental effect of cutting more timber in the riparian zone.

At a time that wildlife resources are being stressed, resulting in more restrictions on fish harvest or survival, is not the time to gamble with their possible extinction e.g. Rogue River and Chetco River wild salmon and steelhead.

Richard Hebert
3095 Burrell Rd.
Medford, OR 97501
541-772-1448

The loss of overstory created by the clear cut will also result in the following damages;

- 1 Rapid springtime snow melt will erode roads, streams, and silt in fish spawning beds.
2. Reduce summertime stream flow or cause warmer temperatures or eliminate flow altogether-negatively impacting fish survival

2. OHV emphasis areas

The proposed 100,000 acres for OHV emphasis is outrageously generous and inappropriately chosen. Specific comments will be made on two of the 13 proposals.

Attached are other OHV sites offered by USFS, State Parks and county parks that are available to OHV enthusiasts—reducing the need for the extensive duplication by the BLM. The WOPR OHV proposal also ignores the need of other outdoor recreation enthusiasts—especially equestrian activities.

EAST HOWARD OHV EMPHASIS

This area has already been used illegally by OHV. It is inappropriately chosen because of its proximity to the County Park 'Lilly Glen' which is a horse facility for young families who will ride areas that conflict with motorized vehicles, which could spook a young horse with injuries to the young riders. Also, an abandoned quarry in the area is used by nudists and families who should have their privacy protected by prohibiting OHV access to the bluff where they engage in their voyeuristic activity. The environmental damage caused by the illegal OHV have left deep ruts and bogs that will take years to heal the damage from the OHV.

WORTHINGTON OBENCHAIN

This area is not recommended for OHV use, despite past use with extensive damage to the environment. It also is close to many private residences who object to the noise pollution caused by OHV use. Because of the fragile soil, erosion caused by ruts from OHV use will result in high maintainance to keep ditches and culverts clear.

Better use of this land would be to designate it for non-motortized activity i.e. hiking and equestrian trails This would permit low elevation riding year round.

Richard Hebert
3095 Burrell Rd
Medford, OR 97501
541 772 1448

LAKE CREEK

NOT RECOMMENDED. This area is important for hunting and wildlife habitat

The BLM has an opportunity to support non-motorized activity available to all, free of snow, and free of conflicts the OHV sports

The BLM has very little support for equestrian sports in the Medford District. The corrals at Hyatt Lake are primitive with no trail system, except for a short connection to the Pacific Crest Trail. The disparity between OHV emphasis and other recreational activities is unexplained.

USER FEE DISCREPANCY	
Snow park permit--\$20.00	OHV none
Northwest Forest Pass--\$30.00	OHV none
Boat Launch \$6-8.00	OHV none
REGISTRATION FEE	
FISHING BOAT \$52.00	OHV \$10.00
CAMPER \$145.00	OHV \$10.00

GENERAL COMMENTS

The success of the BLM OHV plan will largely depend on adequate law enforcement to ensure compliance with rules and regulations and with adequate punishment of those who violate those rules. Punishment of those who mud bog, should be triple other fines.

To support the enforcement will require a substantial increase in law enforcement personnel, perhaps supported by establishing a user fee for day use of the public lands by OHV.

Sincerely,



Richard Hebert
3095 Burrell Rd
Medford, OR 97501



INLAND OREGON RIDE AREAS

REGION MAP

Cottage Grove

Three trails are available for offroading. The 4 mile Noonday Wagon Road #1405 is open for Class II. Knott Trail #1417 is 3.9 miles and Bohemia National Recreation Trail is open only for Class III. Detailed information is available from the Cottage Grove Ranger District office.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

Diamond Lake

Four trails are available for Class I ATVs. Three trails are available to Class III ATVs. Detailed information and maps are available from the Diamond Lake Ranger District Office.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

Elliot Ridge

Six trails are available for Class III ATVs. Detailed information and maps are available from the Applegate Ranger District office.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

Galice

A variety of National Forest trails suitable for Class III OHV's - varying levels of challenge and skill. See website for more information.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

Huckleberry Flats

33 miles of trails for Class I and III ATVs. Detailed information and maps are available from the Middle Fork Ranger District office.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State Parks
- United States Forest Service
- ▼ Bureau of Land Management
- Counties and Other

John's Peak

Over 14,000 acres of trails with varying degrees of difficulty. For Class I, II and III vehicles. Jointly maintained by the BLM and the Motorcycle Riders Association.
Map Region: Inland

BLM

McGrew 4WD Trail

The McGrew trail is open to all classes of ATVs. Detailed information available from the Galice Ranger District. 20 miles of 4WD trail for the very experienced driver. Area is remote and should not be attempted alone. Lots of rock and mud. Sourdough Camp (a primitive campground) is at the end of the trail. Map available from the local Forest Service office in Cave Junction. There is a wet season closure (Sept-June) on this road to help prevent the spread of spreading Port Orford cedar root rot.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

North Umpqua

Nine more difficult trails for Class III ATVs. Recreational opportunity guide available at Glide office.
Map Region: Inland

USFS

Prospect

Many trails and roads are available for Class I, II and III ATVs. Woodruff Play Area is ideal for novice riders. Detailed maps and information are available from the Prospect Office, OHV Program Coordinator Blair Anderson (541) 560-3456,
Map Region: Inland

USFS

Santiam Pass

CLOSED DUE TO SNOW. Due to fire in 2003,

USFS

travel is restricted to roads posted with orange dots in burned area near Island Lake, Link Lake and Cache Lake. Signs and maps posted along Hwy 22 east of the summit. 1,500 acres of trails and roads in the Cascade Mountains for Class I, II and III ATVs. Information available from the local Forest Service Office.

Map Region: Inland

Shotgun Creek OHV Area

BLM

Checkerboard ownership. Be sure to respect private property. Get map from Eugene District Office. Shared-use road segments shown on map are the only paved roads open to unlicensed (non-street legal) vehicles. All other paved roads in the Shotgun trail system are CLOSED to non-street legal vehicles. Dispersed camping opportunities are available with a 14 day stay limit within a calendar year.

Map Region: Inland



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

SOUTH COAST OREGON RIDE AREAS

Blue Ridge

BLM

REGION MAP

Twelve miles of more difficult trails and gravel or dirt roads. Trails developed in association with the Coos County Riders Association.
Map Region: South Coast

Chetco

USFS

Two trails are available for Class III ATVs. Chetco Gorge Trail is along the upper Chetco River northeast of Brookings and Chimney Camp Trail is a wooded trail southeast of Brookings on the Winchuck River. Detailed maps and information are available from the Chetco Ranger District Office.
Map Region: South Coast

Honeyman State Park

STATE PARK

ATV Dunes access from the park October 1 - April 30. Campground with access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area for Class I, II and III ATVs. Reservations for camping are recommended. There are no trails within the park.
Map Region: South Coast

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

USFS

Sand dunes and trails offer easy to difficult riding for all classes of ATVs. Fees for entry and camping. Map available from the Oregon Dunes NRA office.
Map Region: South Coast

-  Oregon Department of Forestry
-  Oregon State Parks
-  United States Forest Service
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Counties and Other

Pine Grove and Illinois River Trails

USFS

Two difficult forest trails for Class III ATVs. Detailed information and maps are available from the Gold Beach Ranger District office.
Map Region: South Coast

Riley Ranch

COUNTY

130 acre site adjacent to Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Site will have day-use parking, camping, RV sites and small trail system.
Map Region: South Coast

Saunders Lake Dune Access

COUNTY

15 acre, no fee access point to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. There is no parking available on access road. The sand road is narrow (8") and a moderate incline.
Map Region: South Coast

Winchester OHV Trails

Around 30 miles of trails of moderate difficulty using groomed trails and dirt roads for Class III ATVs, mountain bikes and equestrian users. Information and map available from local bike shops or online at www.coostrails.com.
Map Region: South Coast

COUNTY