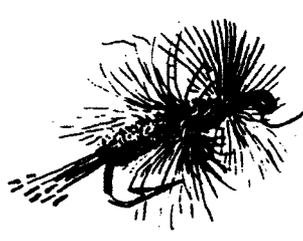


2372



# Chris Tarrant

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January 9, 2008,

WOPR  
P. O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

To those involved in reviewing this process:

Since our land borders BLM, we are very much opposed to increasing OHV use in the proposed Worthington Road area of Jackson County for many reasons.

First, BLM made a huge improvement over the past year in this area by building fences and providing secure gates for seasonal closures. In the past, mud bogging and general four-wheel frolicking caused massive soil erosion with resultant siltation of Little Butte Creek. This entire area is festooned with ribbons marking sensitive plant sites with quad tracks running through many of them.

Second, this area is designated as important winter range for deer and elk--including many restrictions on adjoining private land. The new gates and fences have helped to reduce the rampant poaching that occurred in the past. Those improvements further reduced stress on the wintering animals that don't have to avoid as many quads buzzing past them at this critical stage of the year.

Third, most people have an interest in the environment and prefer to follow the rules, especially those willing to wander without wheels. Almost all of the vandalism, poaching, and careless handling of fires and firearms in this vicinity happens within easy reach of some form of vehicle. The same minority that causes most of the problems won't dump their garbage if they have to pack it in.

Although we're in our mid-sixties and are quad owners, our real preference would be to close the entire area to OHV's. That would still leave it open to hunters, hikers, and horse riders. Since you're not likely to consider that idea, we hope the decision will be to leave it as it is and to provide more enforcement.

Thank you for considering our views,

*Chris Tarrant & Eloise Tarrant*

Chris and Eloise Tarrant