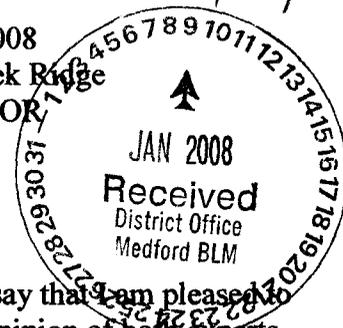


January 8, 2008
10 Deer Creek Ridge
Eagle Point, OR
97524



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision. First let me say that I am pleased to see that you are attempting to come up with a viable plan and that you are seeking the opinion of both experts and the public. We need to use our forests in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of the environment, the wildlife and their habitat, a sustainable forest, and public recreational use.

In particular I would like to address your proposed Off Highway Vehicle Designation in the Lake Creek area. I have lived at the confluence of Deer Creek and the South Fork of Little Butte Creek for the last 25 years. Our fifteen acres borders BLM land. My family and I have spent countless days hiking the area that you are considering for OHV designation. Two of our favorite hikes are from our home to Lost Lake and also up to the spot that is locally known as The Monuments. This is a site on which the local Native Americans erected basalt pillars. This archeological site was shown to us about twenty years ago by an eighty year old man who had been show it as a boy by one of the first settlers in this area. It was old then. This site seems, from the maps I have seen, to be included in the OHV designated area. This is of concern to me as it is so vulnerable to destruction.

I have witnessed two major wild land fires at the top of Deer Creek. As a member of the Lake Creek Fire Department I helped fight the first one some twenty years ago. I have seen three major floods, including the New Years flood of 1997. Two years ago there was a major landslide at the top of the Deer Creek drainage. It took out huge trees, several parts of the road, mangled one of your BLM gates, and deposited rubble at least six feet deep at the bottom of the creek. It was of such a magnitude that it deposited a boulder of at least 10 feet in diameter in the middle of the road. Just this week we had a storm that blew over 45 large fir trees on our 15 acres alone. Most of them were uprooted. My point being that the soils around here are very fragile and the forest is already very vulnerable to fire. South Fork of Little Butte Creek, into which most the proposed OHV proposed designation area drains, is listed as a critical habitat for Steelhead and Wild Coho. We are also in a critical wildlife wintering grounds. We need to treat this area with care, not add more stress to it.

I understand the need to have an area designated for OHVs. I only hope that you take into consideration the damage they do to an area and choose a place where they will have the least impact in regard to the larger ecology and to the recreational needs of hikers, bird watchers, hunters and fishermen. I also hope that where ever you designate an area that you are able to maintain its use in accordance with the laws and see that clear boundaries and trails are adhered to. The sections being considered in Lake Creek are scattered amongst private lands. It seems likely that it would be difficult to keep OHVs off of private land. This has historically been a problem. Additionally, as Lake Creek is distant from the metropolitan area, designating an OHV area up here would increase the travel time to such activities and thus lead to further pollution and traffic.

Please take my concerns into consideration. Once the land is compromised it is hard, if not impossible to go back.

Sincerely,

Margina Kennedy