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CLEAR DODGER Timber Sale, BLM

January 8th, 2006 Bark-About

Location/Description: Clear Dodger is located 7 miles SE of Estacada Oregon on the Hillockburn Road in the Lower and Middle Clackamas Watersheds. These watersheds provide the water sources for Estacada, Lake Oswego, Clackamas, and Milwaukee. The elevation in the project area ranges from 1300-2000 feet.

Project Overview: Clear Dodger is a BLM project with two parts. Part 1 is a commercial timber harvest on land designed as "Matrix" by the NW Forest Plan. Part 2 is a restoration project in riparian (wet) areas. This restoration project involves snag creation and girdling understory trees. While it is controversial whether these treatments will actually speed up recovery of restoration areas, today's Bark Hike focuses on Part 1 of the Clear Dodger Project.



Your Letters Helped Remove This Stand of Trees from the Clear Dodger Project!

Issue 1: Celebration

Clear Dodger is an example of a project where Bark's voice was heard! Thanks to Bark's involvement and resulting public outcry, the BLM removed the oldest, wettest, steepest stands from the Clear Dodger Project. Your letters and visits to Clear Dodger preserved many of the areas previous Bark hikes have visited. Today, we revisit this sale to consider remaining environmental issues, and to ground-truth the BLM's environmental mitigation measures.

Issue 2: Commercial Timber Harvest of Natural Second Growth

The BLM still proposes to log 143 acres of forest containing 65-90 year old naturally regenerated trees. These forests grew back on their own following a fire around 1900. Some stands have previously been thinned and some have not. The BLM stated goal is to provide wood products while retaining ecosystem diversity. In an area, where much of the forest has been converted to plantations, does it make sense to log one of the few remaining areas of natural second growth in order to produce timber products?

Questions to consider:

- What effect can we expect on water quality?
- What effect can we expect on soil productivity?
- What effect will the temporary (to be decommissioned) roads have?
- What effect will the road renovations have?
- Will increased ORV abuse occur? What impact will that have?
- Can increased risk of fire be expected?
- What will be the overall impact on species diversity and ecosystem health?

While we are hiking, ask yourself: In what state are the forests surrounding this project? In what state is the forest proposed for logging? What species diversity is currently present? Is there a multi-story canopy? Does the forest appear healthy? Are there any invasive species present?

Issue 3: BLM Environmental Mitigation

One of Bark's purposes in ground-truthing is to make sure that the environmental mitigation promised by law or promised in timber harvest planning documents are actually implemented on the ground. The sale specific questions to search out for Clear-Dodger are listed below:

- Are proposed temporary roads actually sited on low to moderate slopes?
- Are sale slopes actually small enough to prevent significant erosion?
- Are all riparian buffers large enough (see chart below)?
- Are all old growth trees being left? Are the largest trees in each unit being left?
- Are all snags over 20' DBH being preserved?
- Will skid roads be blocked effectively to prevent ORV abuse? Will the BLM monitor their effectiveness?
- What shape are the roads proposed for renovation in? What type of impact can we expect from this?
- The BLM proposed to wash all equipment prior to entering sale area to prevent spread of invasive species. What invasive species are currently present? Are there other means to spread invasive species that the BLM should be concerned with?

Table 5: Riparian Reserve Widths

Type of Stream or Wetland	Riparian Reserve Width (on each side of the stream)			Applies to Unit(s)
	Standard and Guideline (RMP p. 10)	Site potential tree height for this area (feet)	Riparian Reserve Width	
Non-fish bearing streams and wet areas larger than one acre	Width – one site-potential tree height	180 feet	180 feet	A1 (Units 5 & 9), B1 (Unit 4), B2 (Unit 3), B4 (Unit 8), B5 (Unit 1), C1 (Unit 6), D1 (Unit 7)
		200 feet	200 feet	
Fish Bearing Streams	Width – two site-potential tree heights	180 feet	360 feet	South edge of A1 (Units 5 & 9) and the southwest corner of unit D1 (Unit 7).