



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Clackamas River
Ranger District,
Mt. Hood
National Forest

595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023
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File Code: 1920

Date: November 8, 2005

Dear Interested Party:

The Clackamas River Ranger District is conducting an analysis of thinning opportunities in the No Whisky area. The project is located in the North Fork Clackamas and Lower Clackamas River watersheds in T.4S., R.5E.; T.4S., R.6E.; Willamette Meridian. Scoping for this project began in 2000, but there have been delays and I wanted to give you an update and ask again if you have any input for this project.

The No Whisky project area has had a history of logging and wildfire. The area was privately owned and logging began in 1923 using a railroad and steam donkey system. On September 11, 1929 a fire started from overheated railroad brakes and rapidly burned approximately 15,000 acres pushed by an east wind. Much of the burned area was salvage logged and there were other smaller fires that reburned portions of the area. The land was transferred to the Forest Service as part of a settlement for fire damages. The area was eventually replanted and the trees are now approximately 55 to 70 years old. The No Whisky Thinning also includes one unburned stand that is a 40-year old plantation.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this initiative is to thin and fertilize second-growth forest stands to achieve multiple objectives:

- Maintain health, vigor and growth that results in larger wind firm trees
- Enhance and restore diversity
- Provide forest products
- Enhance riparian reserves
- Enhance forage for deer and elk

Proposed Action

The action proposed by the Forest Service to meet the purpose and need is to thin and harvest wood fiber from approximately 1720 acres from matrix land and the dry upland portion of riparian reserves. Variable density thinning prescriptions would be designed to enhance or restore biological diversity. Riparian reserves would be thinned to accelerate the development of mature and late-successional stand conditions. New temporary roads are needed to access landings (1.5 miles). These roads would be located on gentle terrain and obliterated and revegetated after completion of the project. Certain units within the matrix would be aerially fertilized.



Further details and Maps are available on the Mt. Hood Forest web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/> in the Projects & Plans section.

Questions or comments may be directed to:

Mail: Jim Roden
Estacada Ranger Station
595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023

Email: jroden@fs.fed.us

Phone: (503) 630-8722

I am requesting your comments concerning this project. If you have any site-specific knowledge or concerns about the proposed actions, please bring them to our attention. The more specific you are, the better we will be able to address issues important to you in our environmental analysis process. Please submit your responses by November 30, 2005.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

/S/ Andrei Rykoff
Andrei Rykoff
District Ranger

Note: Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.