

FONT



SHARE THIS

Facebook

Twitter (/#twitter)

Google+

(/#google_plus)

Email (/#email)

LinkedIn

(/#linkedin)

MORE STORIES

Wildlife groups sue to block major timber sale on Mount Hood

 Steve Law  Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Advocacy groups say Crystal Creek Restoration sale would require 36 miles of roads, damaging environment and threatening endangered species.



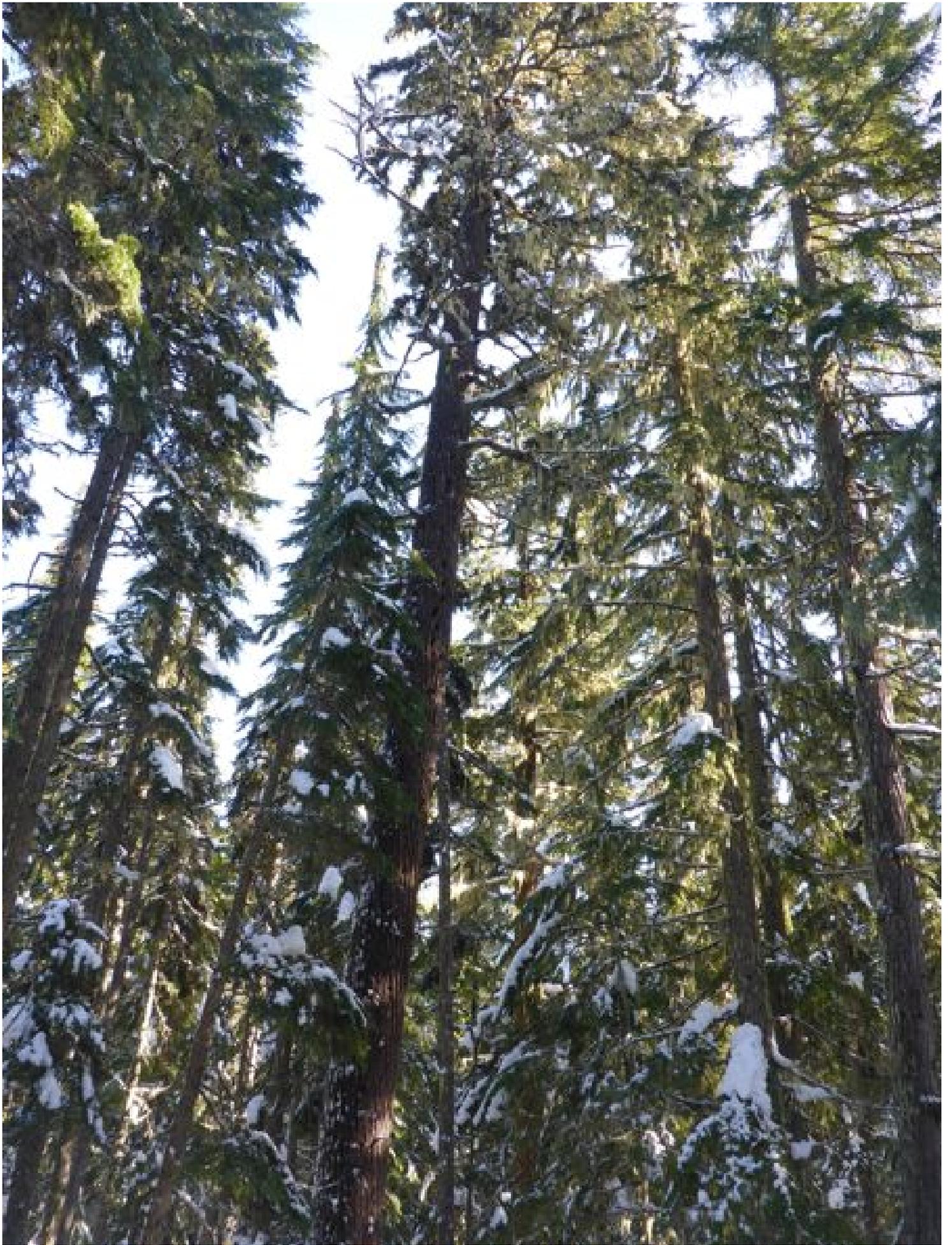
COURTESY BARK - Bark volunteers measure a hemlock tree in the proposed Crystal Creek Restoration Area in Mount Hood National Forest.

(<https://pamplinmedia.com/images/artimg/00003619588256-0645.jpg>) Environmental advocacy groups filed a federal lawsuit Monday, Sept. 10, to challenge the proposed Crystal Clear Restoration timber sale in the Mount Hood National Forest.

The proposed timber sale, the most extensive on Mt. Hood in more than a decade, would include 7,498 acres of commercial logging on the eastern shoulder of the forest near White River, including 3,494 acres of mature and old-growth forest.

Groups including Bark, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, and WildEarth Guardians contend the 11,000-plus acre sale threatens endangered species habitat and increases fire hazards.

The lawsuit, filed in the Federal Court for the District of Oregon, notes that 36 miles of roads would be built, and old-growth trees that are resilient to fires would be cut.





COURTESY OF BARK - A stand of trees in the proposed Crystal Creek Restoration Area, slated for a big timber sale.

(<https://pamplinmedia.com/images/artimg/00003619588305-0645.jpg>)"Forest roads bleed sediment into rivers and streams, split apart wildlife habitat, create barriers to migration, and invite invasive species. There is no way the agency needs all of the hundreds of miles of roads in the project area," said Marla Fox, attorney for WildEarth Guardians said in a prepared statement. "Removing and rehabilitating unneeded roads would improve watershed health and habitat connectivity, but the Forest Service did not prioritize this type of real restoration work."

A D V E R T I S I N G | Continue reading below

"The Forest Service has failed to explain why it is choosing to conduct extensive logging that will transfer thousands of tons of greenhouse gases from the forest to the atmosphere and make climate change worse, when sound forest conservation could actually be part of the solution." stated Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild..

The timber sale amounts to roughly double the recent annual amounts of timber-cutting in the forest.

stevelaw@portlandtribune.com (mailto:stevelaw@portlandtribune.com); 971-204-7866

@SteveLaw/Trib

To get Sustainable Life news delivered weekly to your inbox: <https://bit.ly/2lsfz1F> (<https://bit.ly/2lsfz1F>)



(<http://SavingLocalNews.com>)

You count on us to stay informed and we depend on you to fund our efforts. Quality local journalism takes time and money. Please support us to protect the future of community journalism.

Sponsored

The Best Way to Stop a Barking Dog (Try This)

Bark Begone

American Seniors Should Be Wearing This Amazing New \$109 ECG Smartwatch

G7 SmartWatch

The Current Hourly Rates Of Roofers in Portland Might Surprise You (Check Now)

Pamplin Media Comment Policy

Comments are welcomed and encouraged on this site. Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.



Comments for this thread are now closed



2 Comments

Pamplin Media

Privacy Policy

Login ▾

Recommend

Tweet

Share

Sort by Best ▾



StrangerThanU • 2 years ago

Would it be better if it all just burned?



doug fir → StrangerThanU • 2 years ago

To justify such fuel reduction logging in suitable owl habitat on ecological grounds requires several findings: (1) that wildfire is highly likely to occur at the site of the treatment, (2) that if fire does occur it is likely to be a severe stand-replacing event, and (3) that spotted owls are more likely to be harmed and imperiled by wildfire than by logging at a scale necessary to reduce fire hazard. Available evidence does not support any of these findings, which raises serious questions about the need for and efficacy of logging to reduce fuels in western Oregon and other forests lacking frequent fire return intervals.

The location, timing, and severity of future fire events cannot be predicted making it difficult to determine which forests will benefit from treatment - consequently fuel treatments must be extensive and many stands will be treated unnecessarily, thus incurring all the costs of fuel logging, but receiving none of the beneficial effects on fire behavior.

Furthermore, logging for purposes of fuel reduction has impacts on owl and prey habitat that remain under-appreciated, especially the reduction of complex woody structure, and the long-term reduction in recruitment of large snags and dead wood. Fuel reduction logging also has complex effects on fire hazard with potential to increase fire hazard, especially when fuel reduction efforts involve removal of canopy trees. Ganey et al (2017) said “Existing studies on the effects of fuels reduction treatments on spotted owls universally suggest negative effects from these treatments (Meiman et al. 2003, Seamans and Gutiérrez 2007, Stephens et al. 2014a, Tempel et al. 2014).” Ganey, J.L., H.Y. Wan, S.A. Cushman, and C.D. Vojta. 2017. Conflicting perspectives on