



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Clackamas River
Ranger District,
Mt. Hood
National Forest

595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023
(503) 630-6861
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File Code: 1920

Date: May 1, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

The Clackamas River Ranger District is conducting an analysis of plantation thinning opportunities. The project is located in the Middle Clackamas and Collawash River watersheds in T.5S., R.5E.; T.5S., R.6E.; T.6S., R.6E.; T.7S., R.5E.; T.7S., R.6E.; Willamette Meridian.

The project involves the thinning of plantations that are between 30 and 60 years old. At this point we are calling this project Plantation Thinning – 2007. It will eventually be split into several timber sales or stewardship projects.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this initiative is to thin second-growth plantations to achieve multiple objectives:

- Provide forest products
- Increase health and vigor and enhance growth that results in larger wind firm trees
- Enhance and restore diversity
- Enhance late-successional reserves and 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 5000 acres of plantations. The plantations occur in various land allocations including matrix, late-successional reserves and the dry upland portion of riparian reserves. Variable density thinning would enhance or restore diversity. Late-successional reserves and riparian reserves would be thinned to accelerate the development of mature and late-successional stand conditions.

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 May 30, 2006.

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.