

Oak Grove WA Notes, RE: Summit CE

(5) “The Oak Grove is a highly fragmented watershed within a fragmented subbasin...There are very few blocks of late successional forest in the watershed.”

“The Oak Grove watershed is one of the most important watersheds for recreation use in the Mt. Hood National Forest and attracts an estimated one half million visitors yearly.” Not just for Timothy Lake, but also back country lakes, historic geologic and interpretive features, meadows, deer and elk herds, sport fisheries, scenic drives, an extensive trail network, and groomed snow mobile trails”

Key Question: Hydrology

(8) “Any reduction in flow available for electrical generation at Oak Grove has a significant effect on the power generating capability and the cost-effectiveness of the project.” Generates 10% of PGE power!

Anadromous Fish Stocks (21)

Winter Steelhead – one of two salmonid stocks from the area classified as “**stock at risk.**” “From informal observations it is estimates that only 10 to 20 adult winter steelhead typically spawn in the OG fork in recent years. Steelhead production is limited by the lack of minimum flows from lake harriet dam and refection of spawning gravel caused by the dam. The overall population of the basin may be slowly declining.”

Coho Salmon – Clackamas river late run coho is “the last wild coho stock left in the entire Columbia R. basin out of over 100 coho stocks that once existed there.” The other Clackamas basin “**stock at risk**” (22).

Clackamas River Spring Chinook – continuing to increase

Key Question: Human Uses (26)

Next to “Developed Campground”

“The pattern of recreation use is based upon a combination of physical and biological characteristics as well as management direction and social preferences” (26).

“According to the SCORP results, all recreation uses currently in the watershed are projected to increase in demand”... “Other uses which can be transferred, such as camping at a back country lake [campground next to lake adjacent to Summit project], could mean a relocation of use to an undeveloped site or overcrowding” (30) [i.e., timothy lake recreationists are projected to increase and displace into other areas of the watershed – Summit being a prime example.

RECOMMENDATIONS: “expand developed recreation facilities around timothy lake” (31).

Key Question: Species and Habitats (38)

Meadows just West of project, River/Lake adjacent to or comprising project area (Map 3-1).

Meadows: create uniquely valuable conditions for sandhill cranes, elk, common snipe, sora and Virginia rail, other waterfowl and amphibians and “numerous sensitive plant species” (38)

INFORMATION NEEDS: “species preference for distance of forested cover around meadows” (41).

Key Question: Vegetation

Project Area comprised of “Closed Small Saw” and “Large Conifer” (Map 4-1)

Mostly Late and some Mid Seral Stages; Forest Series: Mtn. Hemlock (Map 4-3)

Seral stage influences disturbance processes (fire, **insects**, disease and windthrow)
“Seral stage also greatly influences aesthetic and **potential economic aspects** of the watershed” (45)

(49) “Most of the landscape is classified as “fragmented”

(51) “For management purposes, the highest risk to these species [NSO, pine marten, fisher, pileated woodpecker, northern goshawk, barred owl, and possibly wolverine] would occur by fragmenting or removing habitat within the blocks assigned values of 1, 2, 3, or 4.” According to Map 4-4, project area is comprised of a value 4 block, “Not Suit, Contributing”

Key late seral habitat components that should be cultivated in mid seral stands: down logs, large snags, large remnant trees in patches supporting wind-dispersed lichens (51). These are the qualities toward which the project should be striving – thinning is not necessary and only degrades snag and down log densities.

Project area comprises last remaining “interior forest” conditions with no edge effects (Map 4-5).

RECOMMENDATIONS: “increase connectivity of late seral habitat in the watershed in the future” “increase amount of interior forest habitat”