



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mt. Hood National Forest Releases Controversial Plan to Allow Extreme Mountain Biking at Historic Timberline Lodge**

*Portland, OR- 7/1/10-* Today Mt. Hood National Forest released a scoping notice for a plan to create an extensive network of lift-assisted mountain biking trails at Timberline Lodge, on the southern slope of Mt. Hood. Lift-assisted biking is a specialized niche sport in which bicyclists are carried up the mountain by ski lift and then travel at speeds up to 40+mph. The proposal to build this extreme mountain biking playground is in its initial stages and the Forest Service is now soliciting comments from concerned members of the public.

“Generations of Oregonians and millions of visitors have meditated on the view from the terrace of Timberline Lodge,” says Dennis Chaney, board member of Friends of Mt. Hood. “Turning this peaceful high alpine setting of meadows, wetlands, and forest into a downhill bike park is an insult to the heritage of Timberline Lodge.”

Local groups are also concerned about potential environmental impacts. “This area is right above the headwaters of Still Creek, which is home to threatened steelhead and coho salmon. We are concerned that this project will erode fragile volcanic soils and harm water quality in important salmon habitat,” says Lori Ann Burd, Restore Mt. Hood Campaign Manager and Staff Attorney for Bark, Mt. Hood’s watchdog group.

“It is disappointed to see Timberline Lodge and the Forest Service launch into lift-assisted mountain biking while more traditional human-powered mountain biking opportunities are still lacking. This project will do nothing for the vast majority of mountain bikers who seek longer rides with more varied terrain and not quick, lift assisted thrills.” The public comment period is open until July 30. The proposal and associated maps can be viewed at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects/nepa\\_project.shtml?project=32278](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects/nepa_project.shtml?project=32278)

Bark's mission is to transform Mt. Hood National Forest into a place where natural processes prevail, where wildlife thrives and where local communities have a social, cultural, and economic investment in its restoration and preservation.

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