
From: theckard@CanbyTel.com
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 11:49 AM
To: Stockade Block
Cc: VICGILLIAM Rep
Subject: Comments on Draft AMP for Stockade
Attachments: Blockade area draft AMP comments.doc

Please see attached comments regarding the draft AMP for the Stockade Area of state public lands from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Oregon Chapter.

Thanks

Tony Heckard
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
823 E 8th
Molalla, Oregon 97038
5033604516



Oregon Chapter

823 E 8th St.

Molalla, Oregon 97038

503-360-4516

hunter@canby.com

www.backcountryhunters.org

9 April 2009

Dear Nancy Pustis,

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) would like to thank the Oregon Department of State Lands for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Stockade Block Area Management Plan.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) is an all-volunteer, non-profit hunting conservation organization with members in 44 states with over 100 members represented in Oregon. BHA seeks to ensure America's outdoor heritage in a natural setting, through education and work in behalf of clean water and wild lands. Our Oregon chapter members spend many days in the Stockade Block Area throughout the year hunting for such treasured big game species as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, sage grouse and chukar as well as angling for redband trout.

While we appreciate the efforts of the Department of State Lands to try to maximize revenues from those public state lands to fund education we must take exception to the "Lease for Recreation Uses" section starting on page 35 of the plan.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is adamantly opposed to "selling" exclusive recreation leases to outfitters and guides on our state public lands. Such an act would essentially lock out the general public who seeks to enjoy and recreate on our public lands. Although you state in the draft that "charging hunters for the use of and access to hunting lands is a popular business activity on private ranch and farmland" it must be kept in mind that the Blockade is public land and the state of Oregon is not a private entity or enterprise. Hunters, anglers, hikers, rock hounds and other folks who visit the Stockade also spend money in the local communities. Restricting access to this area to a few who pay for an exclusive guide service would eliminate the cash infusion that all the other visitors now generate in those communities.

Perhaps a better idea would be for the DSL to work cooperatively with BHA and other conservation organizations to enhance and improve the quality of the habitat and land for fish and wildlife to increase big game numbers so we can draw more visitors to the Blockade area. There are groups out there that would be willing to build hiking trails and other improvements to draw visitors to the area and in turn they will infuse much needed cash into the surrounding communities, which will provide the tax base to fund schools into the future.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Anthony J. Heckard
Oregon Chapter chair
823 E 8th
Molalla, Oregon 97038

5033604516

cc: Governor Ted Kulongoski
Rep. Vic Gilliam