



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Helping Wildlife • Enhancing Habitat • Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

April 16, 2009

Oregon Department of State Lands
Attn: Stockade Block Plan Comments
775 Summer St. NE Ste. 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279

RECEIVED

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Subject: Draft Stockade Block Area Management Plan

Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the "Draft Stockade Block Area Management Plan (AMP).

Oregon has a long-standing tradition of allowing public access to public lands. The proposal to lease recreation rights to 230,000 of public land as stated on page 35 of the Stockade AMP is strongly opposed by the members of this organization. This proposal is highly inflammatory to the hunters of the State of Oregon who fund 96% of wildlife management cost in the state. The costs are funded through license and tag fees paid by sportsmen.

Oregon Wildlife Policy as stated in Oregon law, ORS 496.012 states that "It shall be the policy of the State Of Oregon that wildlife shall be managed.....to provide optimal recreational and esthetic benefit for present and future generations of this state. Additionally ORS 496.012 (4) states, "To develop and maintain public access to the lands and waters of the state and the wildlife resources thereon." The proposal in the Stockade Block AMP may violate both of these provisions of ORS 496. If it does not violate the ORS 496 we believe it is at odds with the intent of ORS 496.

There is much discussion in the plan about leases for renewable energy sites. A major concern is the remediation and mitigation that should occur if these sites impact wildlife habitat. Remediation and mitigation to enhance wildlife habitat needs to be included in any plan for these leases.

Oregon Hunters Association strongly opposes any action that will deny public access to public lands while allowing access to a few who may purchase such access

Fred Craig, President
Oregon Hunters Association

Fred Craig
cc: Representative Brian Clem

Aaron Richardson, OHA Harney County Chapter President

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