

Summary of Public Comments and Hearings

Representing comments received through January 5th, 2016

The first public hearing was held on December 17th, 2015 in Salem. Two individuals from Trask Mountain Trail Runners attended the hearing but no testimony was given.

The second public hearing was planned to be held on January 4th, 2016 in Portland. This meeting was rescheduled due to the inclement weather in Portland on that date. It is now scheduled for January 20th, 2016 from 6-8 at the World Forestry Center.

The public comment period began on December 1st and ends on February 8th. There have been some written comment provided via email. Comments received from the general public have touched on the topics of possession of loaded firearms (2 comments), the proposed ban on nudity in designated recreation areas (21 comments), road closures (1 comment), and weed-free hay (1 comment).

On the topic of weed-free hay, concern over the availability of the hay was expressed. The commenter wrote, "If you make it required, then you need to make it possible for horsemen to conveniently buy it at a reasonable cost." He cited a specific occasion in which he had to drive several hours to find weed-free hay, as there was none available locally.

On the topic of loaded firearms in designated recreation areas, a commenter stated, "loaded Firearms can constitute a risk and threat." Another commented that firearms should not be allowed in designated recreation areas for safety reasons, especially where alcoholic beverages are present.

On the topic of the prohibition of nudity in designated recreation areas, we have received written comments from twenty-one individuals so far. Many have expressed concern over the prohibition on nudity (as contrasted by indecent or lewd behavior). The opinion provided is that social nudity is not sexual and should not be prohibited. "Most jurisdictions and the general public agrees that "simple nudity, in appropriate settings, is NOT objectionable." One of the commenters stated that if nudity is banned, then women and men ought to be treated equally, rather than a sexist "war on women's breasts." Many comments support the notion of a prohibition on lewd or obscene behavior. There is also concern that the definition of nudity is too broad or not consistent with state law.

Commenters from ODFW expressed concern over the language regarding unattended personal property and the use of tree stands, blinds, and game cameras. They also pointed out a requirement to use an earthen backstop for target shooting would preclude shooters from using commercially manufactured bullet traps. Concern was raised regarding the ability of ODFW to trap problem wildlife in designated recreation areas (e.g. bears in campgrounds) and the expansion of designated recreation areas that would reduce the amount of land available to hunters.

The comment about road closures came from a county that expressed concern over closing roads to recreational use in that county. ODF does not have any state forest lands in that county.