

TO: Jerry Chetock

SUBJECT: Potato Hill logging plan, public comment.

FROM: Dave

Date: 8 March 07

Dear Jerry,

I have some comments for you and the Oregon Dept. of Forestry to take into consideration before the logging plan as published is finalized.

I have a great concern about the impact of the local east wind conditions that we have in this very local area, that most people and agencies are not aware of.

The Mad Creek residences and those all along the north boundary of the sale can tell you of the very strong east winds that blow when a low pressure system approaches us from the west. Just like the Columbia Gorge, high winds are normal and expected when weather forecasters indicate high east winds east of Troutdale. Winds can be calm in Gates and Mill City, as we are hit with 25- 50 mph and higher sustained winds and gusts.

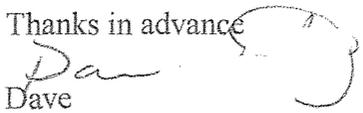
I would think that a thinning vs. the patch clear cutting would be more wind resistant and be able to hold up to this local weather quirk.

My small wood lot has suffered blow down and broken alder and fir trees when the private area just east of us had a 30 + acre clear cut. This was a direct result of winds hitting standing timber, after years of being wind proofed by other standing timber.

I'm not against logging Potato Hill, but against the clear patch cut method suggested.

Also, we have a cattle operation on our 21 acre farm that we pride as natural raised beef without any herbicides used on our land. A winter stream flows from the base of Potato Hill into our wood lot and into a stream that we use to water stock. We would be very upset if herbicide use would allow "any" cross contamination of our grass or water.

Thanks in advance


Dave



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Forestry

North Cascade District
Santiam Unit
22965 North Fork Rd. SE
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Phone: (503) 859-2151
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June 12, 2007

Dave W



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Dear Mr. W,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed Potato Hill timber sale in the North Cascade District. As foresters, we share your concern over windthrow. As a result of wind events occurring during the winter of 2006, a significant amount of timber blew over in areas located across the Santiam State Forest. Much of this timber was located within recently thinned stands and along our road system.

The desired future condition for the Potato Hill stand is designated by the landscape design in our Implementation Plan (IP) as eventually developing in to a complex condition. A thinning prescription was evaluated for moving the Potato Hill stand towards this condition. If a thinning prescription were to be implemented, it would necessitate underplanting to generate a layered complex condition. Underplanting however, would not work due to the North aspect of the slope. The steep slopes and visual considerations of this stand resulted in the decision to use a helicopter to harvest, so as to avoid more conventional logging methods which would require additional road construction and the placement of yarding corridors to access the timber. Considering these factors, the district determined that the best way to harvest this stand and advance the development of a complex condition was to utilize patch cuts.

We plan to harvest 30 acres within the larger stand by designing small (5-10 acres) patch regeneration units. We envision about two additional patch-cut entries over the next 40 years to achieve the desired future condition for the stand as designated by the landscape design in our Implementation Plan (IP). The openings will be replanted to eventually create different layers within the stand. The exact number and size of these patch cuts will be determined during sale layout in collaboration with ODF biologists and resource specialists. Its expected that the patch openings will be located internally within the stand. Bringing to our attention the local wind

“quirk” you have described will prove useful for considering windthrow during sale layout, and help us best determine the size, shape, and arrangement of the patches.

An herbicide site preparation spray may be used to prepare the patch cuts for planting. If used, this would be a ground application method. The application would comply with the “Chemical and other Petroleum Product Rules, Oregon Forest Practices Rules Division 620”, state and federal regulations for using pesticides, and all herbicide label requirements. As a result of compliance with the stated rules and regulations, herbicides will be applied using the minimum concentration and quantity to obtain the desired effect. Additionally, as per our Northwest State Forest Management Plan (FMP) we will utilize un-sprayed and uncut buffer strips along streams to protect water quality and riparian vegetation. We will notify you prior to any herbicide application on the north side of Potato Hill.

Please feel free to contact me at 503-859-4325 if you would like to talk more about our proposed Potato Hill timber sale or any other proposed activities for FY 2008.

Sincerely,

Scott West
Acting Assistant District Forester

KROON Jodi E

From: CHETOCK Jerry J
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 9:12 AM
To: KROON Jodi E; STROBEL Howard N
Subject: FW: patch logging of Potato hill in 2008

An AOP comment for Potato Hill.

-----Original Message-----

From: jkc:
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 2:55 PM
To: CHETOCK Jerry J
Subject: patch logging of Potato hill in 2008

Hi Jerry, Thanks for your phone call a few weeks ago. I am opposed to any logging taking place on Potato hill. I own property adjacent to this parcel on the west side, some of which runs up on the lower part of Potato Hill. There is quite a good size herd of elk that often occupy this forest and at times our pasture as well. Any logging here would disturb the elk migration and winter feeding. All areas of Potato hill are steep to very steep and since our area gets over 90 inches of rain per year, I really don't see how any clear cutting could take place without disturbing the forest habitat and causing serious erosion and even mud slides or water run off to those of us adjacent to this property. For the past 20 years we and our guests have been hiking to the top of Potato hill for exercise and recreation. The view of the valley and coast range from the top is wonderful. We plan to continue to do so and clear cutting or patch cutting would have a very negative impact on our recreation activities as well as many others. Living adjacent to this beautiful forest area full of birds (owls, eagles, hawks and many more) and varied kinds of wild animals in abundance is awesome. I would have to have this interrupted for our benefit or for theirs. It appears to me, although I am not an expert, that some trees are old growth here. Is that true? Have you checked for spotted owls or for other endangered species here. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and of our habitat as well.

Sincerely, Jim and Kathy



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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June 12, 2007

Jim and Kathy C



*"STEWARDSHIP
IN FORESTRY"*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. C:

Thank you for your March 30, 2007 comments about our planned Potato Hill Timber Sale. The North Cascade District (NCD) does take seriously your concerns about the potential impact of this sale on forest resource and adjacent private land. We have known for some time that some citizens would prefer we exclude the timber on Potato Hill from harvest; in particular, the timber adjacent to non-industrial private land. As you know there are several forest resources and uses that are important on Potato Hill. The North Cascade District has and will continue to strive to manage the forest in a way to provide economic, environmental and social benefits that include forest products, wildlife habitat, scenic views, recreation opportunities, and maintain water quality.

By the authority of ORS 530.050 the State Forester is directed to manage state forests to provide the greatest permanent value to the state. The greatest permanent value is defined by Oregon Administrative Rule 629-035-0020. To meet this requirement, we are following the strategies contained within the Northwest State Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the NCD Implementation Plan (IP) (2003).

The landscape design in our IP designates that this stand eventually become older forest structure in the future. Currently, the stand is categorized as being an understory stand, which would take a very long time to develop naturally into older forest structure. For this sale we plan to accelerate the development of older structure and stand layering by harvesting 30 acres of small (5 to 10 acres), variably shaped and distributed patches. These small openings would be planted promptly. All individual old growth trees will be retained. The arrangement of these patches, or openings will be designed collaboratively by our wildlife biologists, resource specialists, foresters, and planners. We envision about two additional patch-cut entries over the next 40 years to further promote the advancement of a older forest structure. We are planning to harvest the sale using a helicopter. This will minimize impacts to water quality. By using a helicopter we will be able to harvest without building roads and having yarding corridors which would result in a less aesthetic condition on the landscape. We will have our Northwest Oregon Area Geotechnical Specialist evaluate the harvest areas for slope stability and provide recommendations to minimize the risk of landslides and erosion from harvest activity.

The patch-cut openings will provide new foraging habitat for elk, deer and other animals as well as habitat for birds. We will work with ODF biologists to provide optimum habitat value within and surrounding the units. The sale and surrounding area has been surveyed for Northern Spotted Owls in 2005 and 2006. There were no responses during these surveys. If any Northern Spotted Owls are detected prior to or during the sale, agency protocol will be followed to avoid harming the protected species.

As mentioned, the old-growth trees scattered across the hillside will not be cut. By leaving them we will provide a portion of the structure component needed to achieve the desired future condition of the stand. We recognize that there is a potential for timber to blow-down during strong wind events, especially along the edges of the openings during the first few years following harvest.

If you have more questions give me a call at 50-859-4325. Jerry Chetock has retired but I will be available to work with you should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Scott West
Acting Assistant District Forester

Pacific Rainforest Wildlife Guardians

Public Comment of Marcia D, Director
2008 AOPS Timber Sales Of Santiam State Forest

March 14, 2007

Mackey Creek There were 2 responses by Spotted Owls. It is speculation who the Owls are and where they are from. They are using the area and may not have enough suitable habitat in the circle nearby. I need statistics of suitable habitat for the neighboring Owls and the Owls detected in the surveys, not stories. These Owls might be a new pair that have moved to the sale area to breed. Please survey in 2007 and 2008 before deciding to log. Do light thins, please. Wildlife and logging can co-exist if we try.

Mad Monument You keep logging around where there are Spotted Owls. Each new sale you say "Well where did that Owl come from?" You might be flushing them from place to place. Please establish an Owl site if there are more detections. Do not determine the site to be small because it is a new Owl. New nests happen. Give it a second year of no detections, please before proceeding with the sale.

Wagon Road; Please survey for 2 years of non-detections before proceeding to log. Owls of surrounding areas may not have enough suitable habitat and you could be cutting what they do have.

Above 1000; Must be cancelled. There is too little suitable habitat in that core now. Cores must not have roads built in them. Roads let predator birds into the breeding area and cause predation. This sale is a potential take and could flush the nest site, also. Cancel it, please.

Boulder Creek: Cancel this sale. There is too little suitable habitat for the Dry Creek Spotted Owls now. This is a take in excess of Incidental Take Guidelines. Boulder Creek is illegal and must be cancelled.

* *** *

The Santiam SF is over logged and the cut is too high. Please reduce the cut in better quality habitat. Your thins of younger stands are good. I commend you. Please don't clear-cut our State Forests, for the local economy, wildlife and recreational users.

We need statistic for population and suitable habitat for all of these sales to make an informed decision for our comments. Please wait until surveys and biological assessments are complete before offering sales for public comment. We [I] cannot approve of any sales without completed data.

If pollution of the waters of the State or harm to threatened wildlife or fish might occur, I would sue under the Clean Water Act or Endangered Species Act.

Thank you,

Marcia K. D



Oregon

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June 12, 2007

Marcia D



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Dear Ms. D,

Thank you for your recent comments on the FY 2008 Annual Operations Plan for the North Cascade District. With regards to your comments about Northern Spotted Owls (NSO), it is ODF's policy to implement the strategies defined for the North Cascade District by the USFWS to avoid "take" of the NSO, as defined in the *Procedures Leading to Endangered Species Act Compliance for the Northern Spotted Owl (1990)*.

All proposed sales within the FY 2008 AOP, including Mackey Creek, Mad Monument, Wagon Road, Above 1000 and Boulder Creek were surveyed for Northern Spotted Owls in 2006 and will be surveyed again in 2007 as per ODF's NSO Survey Protocol. The NW Area biologist for ODF, ODFW biologists, the USFWS, staff resource specialists, and District planners have reviewed the FY 08 AOP; and analyzed for each of the proposed operations their consistency with our "take avoidance" policies.

The road being built for the Above 1000 (Alternate) sale is not located within the core area of the NSO, but rather on the extreme edge of the 1.2 mile circle of the NSO site. The USFWS has reviewed the Biological Analysis for this sale and had "no concerns with the development of this specific road segment".

After consultation with our ODF biologist and concurrence from the USFWS, improvements may be made in the 2007 survey station layout and coverage for the Boulder Creek (Alternate) sale and Dry Creek NSO site. This should provide more information in regards to the owls in this location. In addition, the District will review the proposed sale in the field with representatives from the USFWS. Following the 2007 survey results, this alternate timber sale may be modified and resubmitted for public review as a proposed sale in the FY 2010 Annual Operations Plan.

In regards to your concern about the District's harvest, the planned harvest levels on the Santiam State Forest are lower in the FY 2007 and 2008 Annual Operations Plans than in the past. The district is currently in the process of revising our Implementation Plan. A portion of the revision process is examining alternative strategies for the management and protection of species of concern. Another part of the revision process is an upgrade to ODF's harvest model, including significant improvements

to the forest inventory and yield tables. Additional model runs will occur and may help identify adjustments that need to be made to the district's harvest levels for the future.

Hopefully I have adequately addressed the concerns you expressed. Please feel free to contact me at 503-859-4325 if you would like to talk more regarding our proposed activities for FY 2008.

Sincerely,

Scott West
Acting Assistant District Forester