

2007 AOP Public Comments and Responses

North Cascade District

Proposed Management Prescription

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT:

1. The proposed thinning to 100 trees per acre is severe and will likely lead to moderate to severe erosion.
2. Thinning to 100 trees per acres is far too aggressive. Thinning to 250 trees per acre is preferred.
3. The proposed “heavy thinning” will have significant impacts on specific properties.

RESPONSE: Options that minimize soil disturbance are being considered. A cable system that partially or fully suspends logs or helicopter logging is currently being considered. Where there is a risk of sediment entering Mackey Creek, from areas disturbed as a result of the operation, erosion control or mitigation measures will be required by the timber sale contract. Given that the Current Stand Condition (CSC) is classified as Understory and the Desired Future Condition (DFC) for the stand is Older-Forest Structure, a heavy thinning as the first commercial entry is desired to encourage development of the shrubs and hardwoods in the understory to provide some of the characteristics of Older Forest Structure.

After logging, the residual stand will contain about 100 trees per acre that are 8 inches DBH” and larger. Many smaller trees will remain as well, except where additional fuel hazard reduction and modification is completed. If clumps of small trees remain after the operation, additional trees may be removed to promote growth and minimize damage from fire to the residual stand. The slash from this after-harvest treatment will be treated to abate the additional fire hazard.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT:

1. Water supply lines for the City of Detroit are installed underneath Guy Moore Avenue. The street and water lines are not designed for heavy log truck use. It is anticipated that the road and water lines could sustain major damage. Multiple residential water service lines cross Guy Moore Ave.
2. Most streets (City of Detroit) have water lines under them. When the streets were constructed, they were built over rotten logs.
3. Culverts at Highway 22 and Guy Moore Ave. were installed over rotten logs.
4. The asphalt on Guy Moore Ave is sinking in some areas.

RESPONSE: The North Cascade District will work with the City, its employees and the Street and Water Commissioners to review the design standards for Guy Moore Avenue. We will obtain the necessary expertise to consult about what is needed to avoid damaging the City's infrastructure.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENTS

1. There are many accidents at the intersection of Guy Moore Drive and Hill Street with Highway 22 (City of Detroit).
2. Logging trucks making regular and frequent trips up and down Guy Moore Ave. and onto and off of Highway 22 seems very risky and will cause traffic problems and the high probability of accidents in that area.

RESPONSE: The District will work with the City to identify the hazards associated with timber sale traffic at the intersection. ODOT will also be contacted to determine what concerns they may have about truck traffic entering and leaving Highway 22 at the intersection.

North Cascade District-continued Slope Stability and Geotechnical Issues

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT:

1. There is concern for the safety of its citizens, visitors and for the personal property losses resulting from the harvest. There is a known runoff stream that flows towards homes on Mackey Lane E and another that runs along the left-hand side of Clifford. Any debris flows in these streams could cause damage or threaten the safety of citizens.
2. Erosion, debris flows- The State Forestry Department must protect our home and property from damage by creating a plan that fully mitigates any and all potential risks on Mackey Lane and by managing the operator during the harvest, especially when operating near private property.
3. We ask that our home and property be evaluated for risk of shallow, rapid moving landslides in relationship to the planned timber harvest.

RESPONSE: The Northwest Oregon Area Geotechnical Specialist has visited the site. It is his opinion that although the potential for debris flow and landslides is high, none of the structures adjacent to the Southwest boundary of the sale area will be in the path of a debris flow from Hill Creek and Mackey Creek. We will review additional sites, including the area that can potentially affect homes on Mackey Lane E with the Geotechnical Specialist.

A Sale Contract Administrator is always assigned to monitor active sales. Because the sale area is adjacent to the domestic water supply of the City of Detroit, the District will place a high priority for the Sale Administrator to make frequent inspections.

Recreation Resources

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT: It is very important that the Mackey Creek Timber sale be handled in a manner as to make the least negative impact on the community and resort area.

RESPONSE: One of the Guiding Principles of the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan is that the plan will be an integrated forest management plan that takes into account a wide range of forest values. These values include recreation and scenic resources and water quality and quantity. The District will work with the city and members of the community to plan and harvest the timber in a manner that will be consistent with the above principle.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT: The City (Detroit) watershed must be protected.

RESPONSE: The Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan includes Resource Management Goals for diverse forest resources. These include water quality and water supply resources. The goals for water quality include (1) Maintain a level of water quality sufficient to support beneficial uses of waters of the state, including industrial, municipal, recreational and other legitimate uses(ORS 468B.015 (2)). (2) Maintain water quality that meets standards established by Oregon under the mandates of the federal Clean Water Act (33 USC et.seq.). (3) Maintain compatibility with Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 6. (4) Maintain healthy watershed conditions to support the beneficial uses of the waters of the state. (5). Maintain natural watershed storage capacity processes. (3) Protect water-related functions of riparian lands.

The District takes seriously the importance of the domestic water quality and supply resources from Mackey Creek. We intend to apply the Best Management Practices during the planning, layout and administration of the sale as well as during post-harvest monitoring. The District will evaluate the need for additional riparian management area (RMA) width along streams to protect the domestic water supply. We anticipate leaving additional unmanaged RMA along Mackey Creek by posting the timber sale boundary at the top of the slope break South and East of the City's holding pond and water intake in Mackey Creek. The pipeline carrying water to the Treatment Plant will be marked and extra precautions taken to minimize the chance of damage during the operation.

No Comments

Other Issues

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT: Falling timber could cause structural damage to homes.

RESPONSE: It is not clear if this comment is referring to timber that will be cut as part of the Mackey Creek Sale or timber that may fall as a result of weather conditions after the sale. The district always makes every effort to have trees felled away from structures and other improvements.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT: This logging activity will undoubtedly result in soil erosion as well as wind tunnels that will only jeopardize the ecological stability in the area so close to homes and property. We could not only suffer from low quality drinking water but unstable soils could undermine our homes and roads in our town.

RESPONSE: This is an expression of opposition to the sale. The District has noted that the commenter opposes the sale.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

Comment:

1. Helicopter logging is great but not 7 days a week from dawn to dusk.
2. Helicopter logging is preferred because it will cause less disturbance to the forest floor and the watershed. Request that the hours of operation include a week-end black-out day and a start time of 9:00 am.
3. There has been lots of helicopter logging in the area during the last two years. Nobody has complained about the use of them for logging. In fact, tourists like to watch them. They do not leave scars.

RESPONSE: The District will explore all available options to put reasonable restrictions on timing of helicopter operation if that is the logging method required in the contract. The District agrees the helicopter logging has advantages but they are obtained at a considerably higher cost.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT The South border of the State land should be surveyed.

RESPONSE: The District Forest Engineer, a Licensed Professional Surveyor, will inspect the property lines adjacent to the operation area to locate evidence of the property line. Where evidence is located, tree blazes and other property markers will be “freshened-up” to clearly identify the line. Where the line cannot be located he will resurvey the line

COMMENT:

1. North winds are notorious for falling trees (in the Detroit area). Currently it is the state forestland that helps protect residential developments from North winds. The existing trees about 150 wide should be left in areas where North winds are a concern.
2. Private property and improvements, pets and residents are at risk of damage/injury in the event of a strong north wind. The State forestland serves as a buffer. A 200-foot buffer strip adjoining Mackey Lane property is requested to help protect against the north wind.
3. The proposed “heavy thinning” will have significant impacts to specific properties. Adjacent properties will likely experience considerable blow-down. I (sic) suggest that a lighter thinning or wider buffer strip along the south property line may negate the concern about blow-down.

RESPONSE: The District will evaluate the potential impact of commercial thinning immediately adjacent to private property. Alternative prescriptions ranging from light thinning to removing only suppressed trees, understory saplings and poles (ladder fuel) and pruning the lower branches of residual trees will be considered. We will keep interested parties informed through our communication with the City of Detroit

Mackey Creek Timber Sale**COMMENT:**

1. Log trucks using city streets (Detroit) will do great harm. They will present an inconvenience to permanent and summer residents.
2. The safety of residents and visitors on Guy Moore Avenue and Hill Street is of primary concern. There are no sidewalks along the streets. There are twenty-seven homes that use Guy Moore Ave. Residents, visitors and children walk on the streets. Summer residents who own recreation vehicles use several lots during the summer. If the street is used, special considerations must be taken to protect public safety.
3. The potential for road damage seems high and the city of Detroit has very little money for any kind of repairs.

RESPONSE: The District will work with the City, its employees and concerned residents to address safety concerns. Provisions may be included in the contract that require the purchaser to take specific actions that will minimize the risk to those that will use Guy Moore Ave and Hill Street. Alternative logging methods will be considered that will minimize traffic from the operation.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT: Exhaust brakes are illegal in all towns in Oregon. If used, the noise from them will disturb all residents along any of the streets (City of Detroit) used for transporting logs.

RESPONSE: All timber sale contracts contain a provision that requires the purchaser and its employees and subcontractors to obey all laws and regulations.

Mackey Creek Timber Sale

COMMENT: We request a “call list” to handle our questions/comments/complaints during the harvest.

RESPONSE: The district will provide the office phone numbers of managers and other employees that may be contacted about timber sale activities.