



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Hood
National Forest

Zigzag Ranger District
70220 E. Highway 26
Zigzag, OR 97049
(503) 622-3191
Fax: (503) 622-5622

File Code: 1950

Date: March 3, 2011

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Mt. Hood National Forest is seeking comments and input from the public at this time for the **Timberline Ski Area Mountain Bike Trails and Skills Park Proposal**. The project is located on the Zigzag Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon.

A copy of the proposed action and a preliminary assessment can be downloaded from the Forest web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/mthood>, in the Land and Resources Management section under "Projects". The primary purpose of this project is to develop a managed, ski lift-assisted downhill-only mountain bike trails system and skills park within and adjacent to the southern portion of the Timberline Ski Area special use permit boundary.

The proposed action also includes watershed restoration activities to reduce erosion that is occurring within the project area. The proposal would consist of an approximate 17 mile trail network and a separate "skills park" that would encompass approximately 0.2 acre. The trail system would be designed to accommodate all skill levels with an emphasis on beginner and intermediate levels. The watershed restoration activities would involve road and trail stabilization and decommissioning measures on approximately 2.1 miles of native surface roads and trail within or adjacent to the project area.

The Timberline Ski Area Mountain Bike Trails and Skill Park Environmental Assessment (EA) is still in the process of being completed and no decision has been made yet. The Forest is requesting your comments on this project to help guide the final decision. Upon completion of the EA, there will be no further public comment period. As such, this 30-day comment period represents the final pre-decisional opportunity for public review for the project. Comments must be received or postmarked within 30 days of the date that notice for this comment period is published in *The Oregonian*. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday the comment period shall be extended to the close of business of the next Federal working day. In order to have standing to appeal a decision under 36 CFR 215, comments must be submitted during this 30-day comment period. Comments must be signed, or in the case of electronic or telephone submissions, commenters must verify their identity upon request to be eligible to appeal.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project, available for public inspection, and released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.



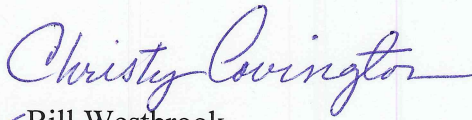
Electronic comments must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed or containing viruses, will be rejected.

Comments and/or requests for additional information on the Preliminary Assessment should be addressed to Christy Covington at:

Mail: 70220 E. Highway 26, Zigzag, Oregon 97049
Phone: (503) 622-3191; office hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, M-F
Fax: (503) 622-5622
Email: comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood-zigzag@fs.fed.us

Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,



for Bill Westbrook
Zigzag District Ranger

Cc: Christy Covington