

DOES MY VOICE MATTER?

As a recreational user of a National Forest, it is your right to decide what happens here. National Forests are our public land, we are the ones who use and enjoy these pristine wilderness areas. It is imperative that we keep these last areas as they are meant to be... wild and beautiful.

IS RECREATION REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

Recreational use of public land is a major contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the United States. In the year 2000, recreation accounted for 108.4 billion of the 145.1 billion dollars added to the GDP from public land use. That's in comparison to a mere 3.9 billion added by commercial timber harvests of public land trees. If areas are threatened by logging, many recreational users will be pushed away by the declining number of forested areas. Maintaining areas as wilderness (such as this one), not only benefits ecological diversity, but continues to be a major contributor to our economy.



WHAT CAN I DO?

Write your concerns and send them to the Forest Service. Call them and ask questions regarding this Proposed Action. We, the public, are large players in Forest Service decision making and they deserve to hear out comments and opinions.

Forest Service contact:

Becky Nelson, NEPA coordinator
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For more information about this and other timber sales in the Mt. Hood National Forest, email [info@bark-](mailto:info@bark-out.org)



Contact BARK by phone at: (503) 331-0374 or check out our website at www.bark-out.org.

DID YOU KNOW THAT SOME OF THE LAST MATURE FORESTS IN THIS AREA ARE GOING TO BE CUT?



Within the Juncrock Proposed Action, Unit 8 holds several Douglas Firs that are considered to be old growth.

For specifics on the Juncrock Proposed Action contact Robert Hopkinson at rob@lclark.edu

Many of the remaining “islands” of older forests in this area are marked to be cut. The US Forest Service calls this area “Juncrock” because of the “junction” of the timber sale with the “Rimrock Quarry.” 562 acres within the Juncrock area have been deemed unhealthy and non-desirable and will be commercially logged in the next year or so. Recreational users of the Juncrock area are concerned that proposed “management” activities would diminish the beauty and recreational lure of this area.

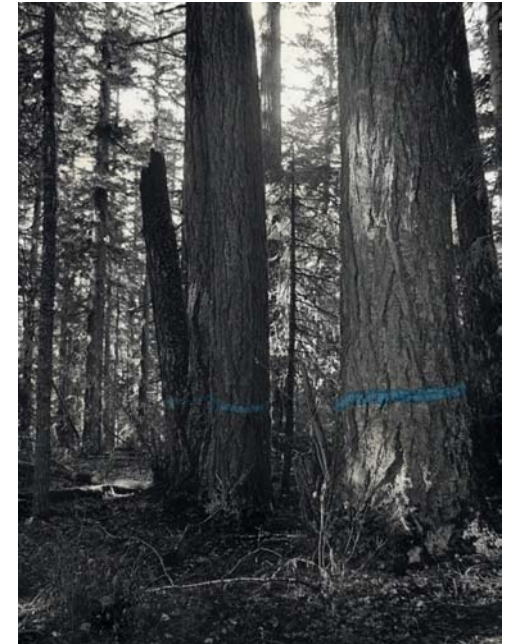
DOES THIS FOREST NEED HELP?

Yes, because certain areas have become heavily loaded with “downed woody debris” (branches and fallen trees), restorative work is needed. Aftermath of past logging operations has created thick, overstocked plantations rather than naturally forested ecosystems. Non-commercial, limited and careful restorative thinning would reduce fire risk in many of these areas. This type of restoration would also simultaneously stimulate healthy forest ecosystem growth. The USFS’s Proposed Action within the Juncrock area will have a very different outcome. The proposed logging would remove 80% of trees in some areas, and remove 50% of trees in most other areas.

Extraction of such a vast amount of trees would drastically change the forested landscape. Over-extraction would reduce wildlife habitat, creating more of a “patchwork” effect. As you can already see, “patchwork” forests already dominate much of this area.

WHY IS LOGGING OCCURRING HERE?

The Forest Service cites examples of tree disease within the 562 acres of logging. Fungal infections such as Indian Paint Fungus, Red Ring Rot, and Brown Cubicle Butt Rot infect conifers within the area. Active disease slowly kills trees over periods ranging from 20 to 60 years. Dead trees (whether standing or fallen) create habitat for various species residing within forest ecosystems. Although disease kills a number of trees within units, it is a natural part of a forest progression called a “disturbance process”. It is integral to forest health to allow forests to progress through a natural occurrence such as disease. Many forest pathologists agree that “disease, fires, wind-throw and other disturbances are a natural part of the forest ecosystem and assist in dynamic processes such as succession that are essential to long term ecosystem maintenance.”¹



Furthermore, evidence shows that tree mortality due to disease increases in logged areas.² Removing large trees here will not reduce susceptibility to disease but increases it. In addition, logging would disrupt all natural disturbance processes.

REFERENCES:

¹ Arthur Partridge, Professor of Forest Resources, Press Conference with Senator Robert Torricelli, April 28, 1998.

²USFS General Technical Report RM-234. United States Forest Service. 98-99.

All photos by Jessica Stern