

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 11/28 /17 **Approx Start Time:** 1:30pm **Approx Length:** 60 min

Presentation Title: Clackamas County Briefing –US Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest

Department: BCS/County Parks & Forest

Presenters: Laura Pramuk, Public Affairs Officer; Jackie Groce, District Ranger, Clackamas River Ranger District; Vicki Peterson, Acting District Ranger, Zigzag Ranger District; Rick Gruen, County Parks & Forest Manager

Other Invitees: Laura Zentner, BCS Interim Director

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Informational update from the Mt. Hood National Forest on projects and activities in the Zigzag and Clackamas River Ranger Districts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Seventy-Five percent of Clackamas County's 1.2 million acres is in some type of forest use. This includes both public and private forestlands. The Mt. Hood National Forest encompasses about 1.1 million acres with about half of those acres (545,000 acres) located within the boundaries of Clackamas County. Together with the BLM's 90,000 acres of managed O&C forest lands, federal forest ownership comprises approximately 54% of the total acres in Clackamas County.

With significant federal forestland ownership in Clackamas County, it is important for the County to take an active interest and play a role in how federal forests are managed in order to maintain healthy ecosystems and watersheds as well as provide goods, services and jobs for local communities. One such effort was the formation of the Clackamas Stewardship Partners (CSP). This collaborative group began in the summer of 2006 when the Clackamas River Ranger District, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas River Basin Council, Bark, Oregon Wild, private industry and the Board of County Commissioners began using the stewardship contracting authorities under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to drive forest restoration, timber harvesting and job creation in Clackamas County. In 2008, CSP won the Two Chiefs award from the chiefs of the US Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service recognizing "outstanding partnerships in forest conservation work." Current forest management planning efforts underway on the Mt. Hood National Forest include:

1. Hunter Integrated Resource Area
2. North Clackamas Integrated Resource Area

Designated C1- timber emphasis matrix lands within these resource areas will provide a significant amount of forestland acres to be available for restoration thinning and regeneration harvests while also providing for habitat, recreation and economic benefit to rural communities.

Mt. Hood National Forest staff will provide the BCC with updates on forest management and recreation activities occurring within the Clackamas River and Zigzag Ranger Districts:

- Clackamas Stewardship Partners
- Government Camp – Cooper Spur Land Exchange
- North Clackamas Integrated Resource Area

- Hunter Integrated Resource Area
- Zigzag Ranger District recreation
- Search and Rescue Cooperation
- Ongoing – Liaison and next steps

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing): N/A

Is this item in your current budget? N/A YES NO

What is the cost? \$ N/A What is the funding source?

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Forest and timberland asset management
- Honor, Utilize, Promote and Invest in our Natural Resources

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS: N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Clackamas County and the Mt. Hood National Forest have collaborated on a number of projects and agreements in place to promote and enhance outdoor recreation and natural resource management on forest lands in Clackamas County.

OPTIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – North Clack Integrated Resource Project

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=2765ae10f7c34ed3bb042614bd837461>

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact <u>Rick Gruen</u> @ <u>x4345</u>

North Clack Integrated Resource Project

Clackamas River Ranger District
Mt. Hood National Forest
Pacific Northwest Region
USDA Forest Service

This is a text-only version of an ArcGis Online Story presentation intended for those unable to use the interactive map version. It is an overview to introduce individuals to the project area and its history.

Vicinity

The North Clack Integrated Resource Project is in the Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon. In the online version, the first vicinity map shows that the Mt. Hood National Forest is in the Northwest part of Oregon. The second vicinity map shows the North Clack project area in the west central portion of the Forest. The third vicinity map shows a close up of the North Clack project area with stream names including the North Fork Clackamas River and Tumala Mountain to the northeast and Bedford Point to the northwest.

This project area encompasses the North Fork Clackamas River subwatershed. An interdisciplinary team of agency resource specialists is in the process of developing a proposed action to address the needs and opportunities within the project area to contribute to the goals of the Forest Plan. These activities will likely emphasize enhancing forest health and stand growth, improving wildlife and fish habitats, enhancing Late-Successional Reserves and Riparian Reserves, and providing early-seral habitats. The proposal will also include changes to the transportation system to address areas of resource concern, improve road conditions along specific road segments, and identify the maintenance level appropriate for project area roads.

Wild Fires

But first, let's look at some fire history for this area. In the online version, a photograph taken from a helicopter shows the recent 36 Pit Fire. It shows a mosaic of severely burned areas that are black because the fire totally consumed the branches and ground fuel, moderately burned areas that are brown because the heat scorched the trees and killed them, and unburned areas that are green and alive. A wisp of smoke shows that the fire was not out yet when the photo was taken. The photo is presented as an example of how many fires burn.

Early Fire History

A fire mapping effort occurred in 1914. In the online version, a map shows that more than half the planning area burned in 1902. It likely reburned some areas that had been burned by previous large fires in 1868 and 1883. A photo from the vicinity shows a 1913 replanting effort in a fire-killed stand. No salvage logging occurred in those days. These fires were all human caused - they were close to early settlements where fire was used to clear land and was difficult to control.

In the online version, a second map shows a fire that burned in 1929. It burned about a third of the project area. A photo showing this fire was taken in 1933 from Bedford Point looking south across the 1929 fire area. It shows a vast area with no live trees.

In the online version, a third map shows the Boyer Fire that burned in 1939. It burned about a quarter of the project area. It reburned some of the areas that had burned 10 years earlier.

In the online version, a fourth map shows the 36 Pit Fire that burned in 2014. It burned about one tenth of the project area.

In the online version, a fifth map shows all of these fires together. It shows that over time, about 90% of the project area has been burned.

A bit more history of land management.

In the online version, a map shows colored blocks that represent lands that were once privately owned before becoming National Forest lands through exchanges or court actions.

Much of the planning area was once part of the Oregon and California Railroad lands (O&C). The O&C land grant came into existence in 1866 when Congress provided subsidies, in the form of land grants from the Public Domain, for the purpose of aiding the construction of a railroad line. The O&C railroad land grant included all odd-numbered sections of Public-Domain land, within 30 miles of each side of the proposed railroad line. About half the project area was once O&C lands.

In the 1920s, the portions of the planning area in private ownership that had not been burned and had mature timber, were the focus of intensive logging. Portions of the LaDee Flat area was owned by the Union Lumber Company that began logging in 1923. They owned about 7 square miles. They used a railroad and steam donkey system with an incline that lowered rail cars down a steep slope to the confluence of the North Fork Clackamas River. Some other adjacent lands were also logged utilizing the same rail system. On September 11, 1929, a fire started from overheated railroad brakes and it rapidly burned approximately 15,000 acres pushed by an east wind.

Much of the burned area was salvage logged. The Union Lumber Company went bankrupt and the land was transferred to the Forest Service as part of a settlement for fire damages. The area was eventually replanted and reseeded.

A photograph shows steam donkeys as they were burned over in 1929. A steam donkey is like a large sled; two large side logs make the base and a platform for steam powered winches that operated long cables to bring logs to the railroad track.

If you want to learn more about the history of railroad logging at this site, a detailed report by [Pamela K. Paullin](#) is available.

How it looks today

Since the 1930s, roads have been built, some by private land owners and some by the Forest Service. Over time, trees have grown into uniform, mid-seral stands. In the online version, the map shows an aerial image that shows a vast area of dark green second-growth stands. The 36 Pit fire and the trees killed can be seen in the southwest part of the planning area.

A photo shows a typical stand of trees in the LaDee Flat area with trees approximately 70 years old. The trees are relatively dense and uniform. Most of the trees are Douglas-fir and average about 12 inches in diameter. The photo shows some young hemlock saplings in the understory.

Recent thinning

In recent years, some stands have been thinned to provide for health and growth. In the online version, a map shows these thins color-coded. About one eighth of the planning area has been thinned. Clicking on the map reveals the name and date of each thinning unit.

A photo shows the Jag Thinning in action as an example of that a thinning looks like. The felled trees are still there and the yellow skyline carriage can be seen moving some logs up to the landing. The photo shows that a lot of trees remain after thinning.

Off-Highway Vehicles

The [Record Of Decision for the Off-Highway Vehicle \(OHV\) Management Plan](#) was signed on 8/16/2010. It designated roads, trails and areas that are open to motor vehicle use including the one at LaDee Flat. The reasons this area was selected include its proximity to Portland and other towns on the west side of the Forest and because it is relatively dry with low stream density.

In the online version, a closer inspection of LaDee Flat shows that several roads were converted to trails, and some new trails were created. Some roads are also designated as dual use, for both OHV and cars. Some roads that were cut off by these trail conversions were decommissioned.

Creating challenging routes

A mix of trail types from easy to challenging have been developed, and more work is planned. A photo shows a challenging section of trail where boulders were brought in, with an easier bypass. This allows riders of different skill levels to get the experience they want. This would include families with advanced-skills adults with children along that are learning.

Vegetation management

The project area contains many land allocations from the Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan (as amended). [The Forest Plan and its many amendments](#). Many of these land allocations encourage active vegetation management to provide forest products and meet many other Forest goals and objectives. In the online version, a map shows the various land

allocations discussed in the tables below. Colors on the map are simplified to show the most important allocation where there are overlaps.

Northwest Forest Plan Land Allocations within the North Clack Project Area

Land Allocation	Acres in Project Area	Management Theme
Congressionally Reserved	6,907	These lands are reserved by acts of Congress to be managed for specific objectives such as Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. (A2 and A1 on map)
Late-Successional Reserves	2,534	Late-successional reserves are to be managed to protect and enhance old-growth forest conditions. Thinning or other silvicultural treatments inside these reserves may occur in stands up to 80 years of age if the treatments are beneficial to the creation and maintenance of late-successional forest conditions. (LSR on map)
Administratively Withdrawn	510	These are areas where the existing Forest Plan land use allocation indicates scheduled timber harvest is not allowed. Specific management direction for these areas is located in the Forest Plan. (A4, A6 and A9 on map)
Riparian Reserves	3,757	Riparian reserves are areas along all streams, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and unstable or potentially unstable areas where the conservation of aquatic and riparian-dependent terrestrial resources receives primary emphasis. The main purpose of the reserves is to protect the health of the aquatic system and its dependent species; the reserves also provide incidental benefits to upland species. These reserves will help maintain and restore riparian structures and functions, benefit fish and riparian-dependent non-fish species, enhance habitat conservation for organisms dependent on the transition zone between upslope and riparian areas, improve travel and dispersal corridors for terrestrial animals and plants, and provide for greater connectivity of late-successional forest habitat. (Green on map)
Matrix	10,775	Matrix is the remaining area outside the above allocations and is the area where most timber harvest and other silvicultural activities are conducted. Management objectives for matrix lands are specified by Forest Plan land use allocation objectives. (Grey on map)

Mt. Hood National Forest Land Allocations within the North Clack Project Area

Land Allocation	Total Acres	Management Theme
A1 Wild and Scenic Rivers	2,814	Protect or enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the Clackamas River. There are scenic and recreational segments. There is substantial overlap with Wilderness.
A2 Wilderness	5,739	Preserve wildness. There is substantial overlap with Wild and Scenic Rivers.
A4 Special Interest Areas	739	Protect and, where appropriate, foster public recreational use and enjoyment. Includes the Tumala Botanic Area. It is totally overlapped by Late-Successional Reserve.
A6 Semi-Primitive Routed Recreation	69	Provide a variety of year-round dispersed motorized semi-primitive recreational opportunities. It is totally overlapped by Late-Successional Reserve. (This area is not included in the LaDee Flats OHV area.)
A9 Key Site Riparian	687	Maintain or enhance habitat and hydrologic conditions.
B2 Scenic Viewsheds	283	Provide attractive, visually appealing forest scenery with a wide variety of natural appearing landscape features. It is totally overlapped by Late-Successional Reserve.
B3 Routed Recreation	151	Provide a variety of year-round recreation opportunities in natural appearing routed settings. (This area is not included in the LaDee Flats OHV area.) It is totally overlapped by Late-Successional Reserve.
C1 Timber Emphasis	10,775	Provide lumber, wood fiber, and other forest products on a fully regulated basis, based on the capability and suitability of the land. Acreage for the C allocation includes the area in Matrix.

Proposed Action

Stay tuned.

As we gather more information in the coming months and digest the comments received from public involvement efforts, more detail will be posted showing what integrated actions we think are appropriate here to move the landscape toward desired conditions, and to provide products and services.

In the online version, the [Forest's web site](#) is shown that you can browse for more information on this and other projects.

If you want to comment on this presentation or be added to the project mailing list, one way to do that is to send a message to this address -

comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood-clackamasriver@fs.fed.us

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