

Logging in the Cooper-Spur Area

The Polallie-Cooper & Clear Timber Sales



North-Side Wild: A Threatened Mountain

Four big projects threaten the Cooper Spur area on the North East side of Mt. Hood: (1) the Polallie-Cooper timber sale; (2) the expansion of the Cooper Spur ski area from 50 to as much as 1400 acres; (3) a massive resort development on private land just outside the Mt. Hood National Forest boundary; and (4) the Forest Service's Clear timber sale. Each of these projects is being prepared separately. The full cumulative impact to the North-East side of Mt. Hood is not being adequately assessed.

The North-East side of Mt. Hood encompasses the Middle Fork and East Fork Watersheds of Hood River. The proposed logging and development will degrade most of the remaining low-elevation forest in these watersheds. This will increase fragmentation of a key migration corridor for deer, elk, and raptors, and help break the genetic links between east-side and west-side populations of old-growth associated species. The projects compromise the drinking water quality in the Hood River Valley.

The Polallie-Cooper Project; Clan, Kilt & Tartan Timber Sales

East Fork Hood River Watershed

- 875 acres of logging
- 9.8 million board feet of timber removal
- Negative impacts to Tilly Jane Creek
- Negative impacts to key wildlife migration and "connectivity" corridors.



The Polallie-Cooper project has been divided into three sales which will log mature native forest to the East and West of Highway 35 near the Cooper-Spur area. The Tartan sale lies to the East of Hwy 35, while Clan and Kilt, located West of 35, directly surround the area proposed for ski expansion.

KEY ISSUES:

- The planning area lies entirely in the 'transient snow zone' where precipitation can occur as either rain or snow and where rapid melting due to rain on snow events is not an uncommon occurrence (Forest Service Environmental Assessment, p. 23). Logged areas accumulate more snow, thus have greater run-off, greater erosion, and a substantially increased risk of slide and debris torrents, negatively affecting streambank stability.
- "The [Polallie-Cooper] Planning area is located in a crucial position on the landscape for the connectivity of late successional associated species around the north side of Mt. Hood. This is the only link for small home range, mature forest wildlife species around the north side of Mt. Hood." (EA, p. 36). The sale would result in a negative impact to an important "connectivity corridor" providing for the dispersal habitat and reproductive needs of late-successional associated species on the North-side of Mt. Hood.



The Clan Sale Auction is July 9th, 2002.

The other Polallie-Cooper sales may be auctioned as soon as Summer 2002.

www.bark-out.org

(503) 331-0374

info@bark-out.org



Clear Timber Sale, Middle Fork Hood River Watershed

- The Forest Service is proposing to log 459 acres of native forest, including old growth, and build 5.2 miles of roads in the Clear planning area.
 - **Clear will build roads and log in a roadless area adjacent to the Mt. Hood Wilderness area.**
 - Clear is still in the earlier stages of planning. An Environmental Assessment has yet to be completed. **Raising our objections now gives them the best chance of being heard.**
- **CUMULATIVE EFFECTS:** The Polallie-Cooper timber sales alone would have a negative effect on the wildlife migratory corridor and wildlife genetic variability. The Clear timber sale would magnify this negative effect, both in scope and duration. In the Polallie Cooper Environmental Analysis, the Forest Service explains the negative effects to wildlife, specifically the "connectivity corridor" would be "discrete in time (8 years) but large in scale" (EA 62). However, before that 8 years is complete, the Forest Service hopes to log the Clear Sale, located in that same "connectivity corridor." Meanwhile, the Forest Service intends to enter the Polallie-Cooper area for additional harvest in 15-20 years, while the area is still feeling the magnified effects of the Clear sale. This is a blue-print for ecological fragmentation and devastation.

What You Can Do:

PHONE CALLS & LETTER WRITING

1. Write a letter to Hood River District Ranger Kim Titus asking her to stop all action on the Polallie-Cooper sales until an analysis of the cumulative effects of all of the projects can be completed. Contact info: Hood River District Ranger, 6780 Highway 35, Mt. Hood/Parkdale, OR 97041, Phone: (541) 352-6002
2. Write Mt. Hood Forest Supervisor Gary Larsen, using the points above: 16400 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055.
3. Write Senator Ron Wyden, using the points above: U.S. Senate, 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-3703

GET OUT IN THE WOODS

1. Join us on a hike in the Polallie-Cooper area, or better yet download the maps and driving directions from the Bark website and start exploring and ground-truthing the area on your own (and fill out a timber sale survey sheet on each unit). We will be conducting hikes in the area throughout the summer. Call (503) 331-0374 for date and location of next hike.
2. Hike leaders needed! Please contact Bark if you are interested in leading hikes in the Polallie-Cooper timber sales this summer. We prefer people with experience hiking the Cooper Spur area and people who have experience leading hikes. We can teach you the timber sale information you would need to know.

DONATE MONEY

Send us money to support this campaign. Checks made out to Bark and mailed to PO Box 12065 Portland, OR 97212. Be sure to write Polallie-Cooper in the memo line.