

# JUNCROCK TIMBER SALE, WHITE RIVER WATERSHED, MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

The Forest Service proposes to “treat” (i.e. log) 14 acres of riparian habitat in Juncrock. Riparian areas are extremely sensitive, because sediment from logging operations often runs off into bordering aquatic ecosystems, damaging the entire ecosystem. In addition, BARK has found inadequate buffer distances (less than the required 100 foot distance) between clearcut areas and adjacent streams. If the correct buffers are not restored, sediment from logging will certainly run off into nearby streams, threatening the already declining populations of Redband Trout and Spotted Frog.

- 551.9 acres of logging
- Mostly clearcutting planned for in units.
- Part of a massive interlocking timber extraction program also including Bear Knoll and Hilynx.

The Forest Service justifies “management” in the Juncrock timber sale by proposing to remedy a disease infestation problem with an extensive logging operation. The diseases identified by the Forest Service that necessitate such “management” are the Indian Paint Fungus, Red Ring Rot, Brown Cubicle Butt Rot, and Mistletoe. But the Forest Service fails to recognize two points. First, science has shown that suppression of natural disturbance processes like disease can be harmful to forest development. Second, logging itself exacerbates disease infection. Intense logging operations often spread fungal spores throughout the forest.



A rare type of mollusk resides in the Juncrock area. *Cryptomastix hendersoni*, also known as the **Columbia Oregonian mollusk**, is a rare land snail usually found in springs and seeps in low elevation areas. Recently, the Forest Service also discovered the Oregonian in mid-elevation hemlock stands throughout the Mt. Hood National Forest. This change may be prompted by a loss of traditional habitat due to stream diversion. So far, the Forest Service has recommended a “no cut zone” of a minimum of ten acres around areas where the Oregonian is found.

This is not enough. Before the Forest Service considers permitting timber extraction (and thus decimating a *hendersoni* habitat), they should first identify the complete range and extent of the Oregonian population, by conducting surveys in a variety of seasons, not just for timber sale purposes. In addition, livestock grazing contributes to bankside erosion that destroys Oregonian habitat. Removing livestock from the area could boost the *hendersoni* population.



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**Driving Directions:** From Portland, take highway 26 east approximately 13 miles past the junction with highway 35. Take a left on highway 216 toward Bear Springs and Maupin. In approximately 3 miles, turn left of 2130. The timber sale units are off roads 2139, 4310 and 2313.

**What You Can Do:** Contact the Barlow Ranger District and ask them to stop logging to suppress a natural disturbance process, and cancel the Juncrock timber sale. Contact:

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