

### A few thoughts from Bark:

1. 59 acres of riparian intrusion: The area is saturated by seeps, springs, streams and riparian vegetation. Timber harvest and roadbuilding in the 1950's were conducted throughout the riparian areas. The area is just now healing itself and should not be degraded once again. The Forest Service has .6 miles of new road construction planned for areas adjacent to riparian vegetation.

2. Landslide high risk: Units 1 and 2 are both ancient landslide deposit areas. This basically says it all. The possibilities for a major landslide under natural conditions is high, but when you add to that a prescription of timber harvest (50% canopy removal) and road construction, the chance for failure goes way up. Having just recently walked the area, I found one active slide less than 3/4 mile from the project area.

3. Impacts to rare species: Units 1, 4 and 5 include documented sites of two rare coral mushrooms listed in table C3 of the Northwest Forest Plan. *Ramaria araiospora* was found in unit 4 and 5, while *Ramaria gelatiaurantia* was located in units 1 and 4. The [De]Forest Service also found a rare gilled mushroom (*Cortinarius olympianus*) in unit 5, but did not confirm the site due to the poor condition of the fungi. They do mention, however, that potential habitat exists in the project area. Also, a rare oceanic lichen (*Hypogymnia oceanica*) is found throughout units 1, 2 and 5. This species is dependent on the interior microclimates of clumps of trees, or in other words, they fair better in shaded areas. How will up to 50% canopy removal benefit this species? The Columbia Dusky snail was also found adjacent to Units 2 and 6.

The obvious conclusion one could make from all the sensitive species found in the Mutt area is that it is blessed with diversity and doing just fine without man's help. The C3 standards and guidelines suggest that a Mycological Special Interest Area be established in order to protect areas with numerous rare sites. Bark's recommendation to the [De]Forest Service is to drop units 1, 2, 4 and 6 from the project area. Their mitigation efforts in the past, as far as for the protection of species, have been woefully deficient to say the least. We can't trust the current managers to protect these rare habitats adequately. Their site specific buffers for fragile species will most assuredly be a joke. Industrial logging and road building are not compatible with anything, much less these at-risk populations.

This alert was prepared by:  
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