

PROPOSED LOGGING THREATENS RECREATION AREA ON MT. HOOD



The scenic Cooper Spur area on the northeast side of Mt. Hood is threatened by a large timber sale being planned by the U.S. Forest Service. Last week the agency released the Environmental Assessment for the **Polallie-Cooper Timber Sale**. The planning area includes popular hiking and mountain biking trails, roadless lands that have wilderness characteristics, and previously unlogged native forests. A map released by the Forest Service in early 2015 shows two new logging roads that will be built across the Dog River Trail. The trail is a favorite of mountain bike riders from Hood River and the Portland metro area.

Why is the scenic Polallie-Cooper area important to people in Portland?

Mt. Hood is an icon in our backyard. Mt. Hood National Forest is a precious landscape that inspires us and provides a place of respite from our busy lives. The forest and its rivers are habitat for salmon, wolves, spotted owls and rare and endangered plants. It provides a critical anchor for biological diversity, in the face of climate change and is the source of clean drinking water for many Oregonians.

Historic structures, such as Cloud Cap Inn (right), are a reminder that people have long been drawn to Mt. Hood and the attraction of wild places that provide a contrast to city life.

Recreation opportunities on Mt. Hood contribute to our quality of life

Access to high quality recreation opportunities in Mt. Hood National Forest is important to the quality of life for many people in Portland and the residents of each gateway community around the mountain. Mt. Hood provides world class recreation opportunities for thousands of Oregonians and other tourists each year.



Environmental health is a foundation for strong, diverse economies

A healthy natural environment attracts businesses, and their employees, to Portland, Hood River and the other gateway communities around Mt. Hood.



We have contacted numerous bicycle stores in Portland and Hood River about this timber sale. They are concerned about how logging and road construction will impact the highly regarded Dog River Trail and their businesses.

To quote from a letter to President Obama in 2011: "As economists and academics in related fields, we believe that federal protected public lands are essential to the West's

economic future. These public lands ... attract innovative companies and workers, and are an essential component of the region's competitive advantage.”¹

Protect the drinking water for local families, farms, and businesses

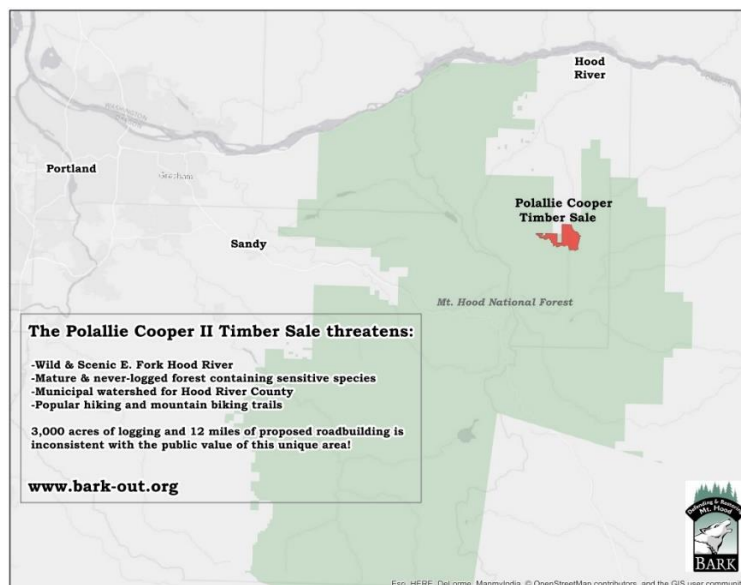
Clean, reliable sources of water are essential for local communities, businesses, and agriculture in the Hood River valley. **Protecting high quality drinking water and the watersheds it comes from are two of the most important values that the Forest Service must focus on in Mt. Hood National Forest.** The proposed timber sale includes logging 782 acres and building 4.6 miles of roads in the sensitive drinking water aquifer for the Crystal Springs watershed used by the Crystal Springs Water District. The district serves approximately 5400 households and businesses including six fruit processing plants in the Odell area.

Concerns with the proposed Polallie-Cooper Timber Sale

1. Impact of logging and road construction on:
 - Popular trails including Dog River, Tilly Jane, Elk Meadow, and the cross country ski trail to the historic Cooper Spur warming hut (below).
 - The **Crystal Springs Watershed**
 - The scenic Cooper Spur area
2. Logging and road construction in designated **Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl**; two-thirds of the sale area is Critical Habitat and used by 7 breeding pairs of owls. Logging will damage habitat that is necessary for the survival of these owls.
3. The loss of wilderness characteristics on currently roadless lands.
4. Increased road density and impacts to water quality as a result of constructing 12 miles of new “temporary” roads.
5. Cutting older, never before logged forests that provide habitat for diverse species of wildlife.



The historic Cooper Spur Warming Hut (above) is a popular destination for cross country skiers and snowshoeing.



¹ Letter from economists to Obama November 30, 2011 cited in: Power, T.M. and G. Wuerthner. Dec. 28, 2015. Wilderness and Economics. <http://www.newnationalparks.org/wilderness-and-economics/>