

NOTICE of PROPOSED ACTION

Public comment is invited on the Goat Mountain Thin proposed action and Preliminary Assessment. The project is located in the Mt. Hood National Forest at T.4 S., R.5 E.; T.5 S., R.4 E.; T.5 S., R.5 E; WM, Clackamas County, Oregon. The proposed action includes the following (quantities are approximate).

- Variable density thinning on 2,754 acres of plantations
- Decommissioning 0.5 mile of system roads
- Closing 16 miles of system roads
- Reconstructing and rehabilitating 8.4 miles of temporary road alignments
- Constructing and rehabilitating 1.4 miles of temporary roads
- Repairing and maintaining 60 miles of system roads
- Restoring 10 unauthorized shooting sites
- Enhancing 3 quarries for safer shooting opportunities
- Rehabilitating areas damaged by Off-Highway Vehicles
- Enhancing forage for deer and elk on 50 acres
- Falling trees into streams to provide needed woody debris
- Providing special forest products such as firewood, boughs, beargrass and poles
- Enhancing scenic vistas at four locations

A copy of the Preliminary Assessment can be downloaded from the Forest web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mthood/landmanagement/projects>. The Responsible Official is Jackie Groce, District Ranger, Clackamas River Ranger District. An Environmental Assessment will be prepared after comments are received and considered.

Comments and/or requests for additional information on the proposed action should be addressed to Jim Roden at –

mail: 595 NW Industrial Way, Estacada, OR 97023

phone: 503-630-6861 office hours: 8-4:30 M-F

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

Electronic comments must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected.

The legal notice for the 30-day comment period on this project was published in the Oregonian on January 29, 2016. Comments are due on February 29, 2016. Comments must be signed or in the case of electronic or telephone submissions, commenters must verify their identity upon request to be eligible to object. This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this

proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official.

This project is subject to predecisional administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subpart B, also called the “objection process.” The full text of the rule can be found at the following website - <http://cfr.regstoday.com/36cfr218.aspx>.

The objection process provides the public an opportunity to comment and express concerns on projects before decisions are made, rather than after. The Forest Service believes this aligns with our collaborative approach to forest management and increases the likelihood of resolving those concerns, resulting in better, more informed decisions.

The objection process provides the public an opportunity to seek higher-level review of unresolved concerns before the project decision has been signed. Individuals and entities who have submitted specific written comments at this stage will be eligible to object. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed project or activity unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for comment. Comments received during this public review of the Preliminary Assessment will be considered, and a revised EA and draft Decision Notice will be released for a 45 day review and objection period.