



SENT VIA EMAIL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 29, 2014

Ms. Janeen Tervo, District Ranger
Hood River Ranger District
Mt. Hood National Forest
6780 Hwy. 35
Mt. Hood – Parkdale, OR 97041

Dear Ms. Tervo:

We are writing to express concern with logging proposed near the Vista Ridge Trail on the north side of Mount Hood. We urge your support for an alternative approach you are considering that would advance timber and huckleberry production goals while protecting a pristine, beloved natural area. By selecting this compromise, the Forest Service could affirm that when Oregonians collaborate on tough forestry issues it is possible to reach mutually acceptable outcomes.

We understand the Vista Ridge logging is part of a project called the “Lava Restoration Thin,” which includes 52 different logging sites. The Forest Service developed this project after receiving input from a diverse collaborative group of landowners, tribes, logging interests, and conservationists. We understand that a broad consensus exists in support of thinning 48 of the 52 sites in the Lava Sale, but the remaining four sites are very controversial.

Of greatest concern, the Lava Sale would include logging at the trailhead of the Vista Ridge Trail, one of the most scenic trails on Mount Hood. This is an area that hasn’t been logged before and meets criteria for Wilderness protection. This site is particularly precious because other land in the area has been scarred by recent fires.

We have learned of an effort that would protect the Vista Ridge Trail area while meeting Forest Service goals for timber production and huckleberry enhancement. This approach would allow logging to proceed on the 48 non-controversial units and swap out the most controversial site, at the trailhead, for logging in a less controversial location. We urge you to support this approach.

By selecting this compromise, the Forest Service would show Oregonians – including conservationists who have agreed to harvest on 48 sites in the Lava Sale – that the Forest Service understands the importance of Mt. Hood’s wildlife habitat and world-class recreation opportunities. This compromise would build trust and

Letter to Janeen Tervo
September 29, 2014
Page 2

goodwill among sometimes competing interests that would help us work through difficult forestry issues into the future.

Mount Hood is an Oregon icon and is integral to sustaining the quality of life for surrounding communities, preserving prime habitat, and protecting clean water. The decisions we make regarding this icon have statewide significance. With the Lava Sale, we have the chance to model a positive new approach to forest management decisions in Oregon. Please support the compromise approach and help make that happen. Thank you for your teamwork and your leadership.

Sincerely,

Rep. Peter Buckley
House District 05

Sen. Michael Dembrow
Senate District 23

Sen. Richard Devlin
Senate District 19

Rep. David Gomberg
House District 10

Ken Helm, Esq.
Candidate for House District 34

Rep. Paul Holvey
House District 08

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer
House District 46

Rep. Ann Lininger
House District 38

Rep. Nancy Nathanson
House District 13

Rep. Barbara Smith Warner
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Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson
House District 47

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House District 29