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Bark's Priority Recommendations for the Hood River Ranger District's Travel Analysis Process

Road 3512-640: Opportunity for a road-to-trail conversion. This road is in significant need of maintenance, and poses aquatic risks at two stream crossings. Currently a low-use road, it ends at an existing trailhead which includes a historic warming shelter. Users of this conversion could include snowshoers and day-hikers.

Road 3500-640 and connected spurs: Opportunity for road removal. This road and its associated spurs provide little user access other than target shooting, dumping of trash and illegal trail creation. Bark is also concerned because the roads are also in a state of erosion in some places, and include two main stream crossings.

Road 3520: Opportunity for improved non-motorized access. Currently gated and decommissioned, this road passes through a previously flooded area, and near the area of the Bluegrass Ridge fire. Because of the past flooding and the educational opportunity of accessing the burn area, we recommend this road remain closed to motorized vehicles. Users of this conversion could include mountain bikers, snowshoers and day-hikers.

Road 3560 and connected spurs: Opportunity for road removal. This cluster of roads was partially slated for closure with some decommissioning through the 2010 Increment 3 proposal. To remain open, these low-access road would require maintenance, and the steep nature of the surrounding terrain causes Bark to be concerned about the rationality of such an action. Please consider decommissioning these roads.

Road 4400-631: Opportunity for road removal. Other than a small dispersed campsite near the entrance of this road from the 4400, this road only provides access to target shooting and dumping of garbage. We recommend decommissioning this road past the dispersed campsite.

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Road 4400-620: Opportunity for a road-to-trail conversion. This road, which extends past the trailhead for *Trail 678*, provides a great opportunity for mountain bikers accessing the Dog River trail to the northwest. The road is already used by mountain bikers for this very reason, and has low motorized vehicle traffic. However, there is pothole and erosion-related maintenance if this road is to be left open. A closure to motorized vehicles on this road would complete a loop connecting the Dog River and Zigzag trails.

Road 1700-680 and connected spurs: Opportunity for road removal. This cluster of roads is currently closed, and the high road density here is concerning to Bark. Please keep these roads closed and consider active decommissioning in areas not affecting mountain biking routes.

Road 4800-520: Opportunity for road failure repair and decommissioning. A significant failure has occurred on this road which has resulted in gullies, delivering sediment to the North Fork Iron Creek. To protect aquatic resources, please remove this road from the system.

Road 4800-530: Opportunity for a road-to-trail conversion. This road would provide strictly non-motorized access to the Mount Hood Wilderness area, while currently it abuts the wilderness area. Restoring natural stream crossings on this conversion would benefit aquatic habitat.

Road 1611: Opportunity for a road-to-trail conversion. This road has been removed from some maps, with small barricades at each entrance. However, these barricades have been breached. Bicycling is a popular activity in this area, and so we recommend that this road is re-closed to motorized access and promoted as a bike trail, connecting Road 16 with Road 1610.

Road 1630-660: Opportunity for a road-to-trail conversion. This low-use road would connect Road 1631 to Perry Lake and *Trail 626* via hiking trail. The road currently abuts wilderness, which raises concerns for Bark.

Road 1640 and connected spurs: Opportunity for road removal. This cluster of roads was considered for partial closure and decommissioning as part of the analysis for the Red Hill timber sale. This road network provides little access and would require significant maintenance to remain open. Bark is concerned about the rationality of such an action. Please consider decommissioning these roads.