



# Sprots

## Northwest Wildfire Team Helps in Columbia Shuttle Recovery

### February 19 – March 21

The Pacific Northwest National Incident Management Team 2 from Oregon and Washington managed 960 searchers from an Incident Command Post in Corsicana, Texas, about 50 miles south of Dallas.

The team, under incident commander Mike Lohrey of Portland, was on a 30-day assignment to look for material from the space shuttle Columbia. They set up camp in five rented warehouses near the town of Corsicana, Texas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Aeronautics and Space Administration mobilized the team because of its experience in running large wildland firefighting operations involving hundreds of people.

The Oregon/Washington management team is one of 16 incident management teams nationwide. It is comprised of 50 USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fire Service employees from Oregon, Washington, and northern California. They were one of four teams in eastern Texas looking for parts from the Columbia, which exploded over eastern Texas on February 1, 2003.

Nearly 1,200 personnel were on site at the Corsicana command post, including 48 20-person crews from states including Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas.

The searchers included 31 Forest Service crews, nine from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, four from the Bureau of Land Management and three state crews. Working side by side with the crews were 110 personnel from the Environmental Protection Agency, 40 from NASA, four from FEMA, and six from the National Park Service.

Crews had to contend with mud, fire ants, snakes, poison ivy, and the sharp thorns of mesquite trees. Searchers stand twenty feet apart in long lines and then just start walking in a systematic grid pattern hunting for any and all material from the space orbiter.

The list of hometowns of management team members reads like an atlas of Oregon and Washington, and includes Gresham, Hood River, Pleasant Valley, Portland, Troutdale, Vale, Medford, Olympia, Colville, John Day, and Vancouver.

## Plan Amendment to Remove the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (collectively the Agencies) will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to meet the requirements of a Settlement Agreement pursuant to a lawsuit by Douglas Timber Operators against the Forest Service and BLM. The proposed action, generally, is to change the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan), currently included in planning documents of the Forest Service and BLM. Specifically, the Agencies propose to remove the Survey and Manage mitigation measure standards and guidelines. Habitat needs of the affected rare or little known species would rely on other elements of the Northwest Forest Plan and the existing Forest Service Sensitive Species and the BLM Special Status Species programs, as needed and appropriate. The proposed action would amend land and resource management plans for National Forests and BLM Districts within the range of the northern spotted owl (generally western Oregon and Washington, and northwestern California). This action will be addressed in a SEIS because the affected species and their management were specifically addressed in the Agency's SEIS for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, issued in November, 2000, and because the species and their habitat were also addressed in the SEIS for the Northwest Forest Plan, issued in February, 1994. Notice of this proposal was first published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2002.

*Draft SEIS:* January 31, 2003; *Public Comment Period:* February 1, 2003—May 1, 2003; *Final SEIS:* June 20, 2003; *Record of Decision:* July 25, 2003.

For more information on this proposal or to receive a copy of the draft SEIS, write to: Survey and Manage SEIS Team, PO Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208.

## Forest-Wide Projects

### Tamarack Rock Quarry Expansion EIS

*Contact:* Mike Redmond

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The Proposed Action includes expansion of the existing Tamarack rock quarry (formerly called Mud Creek) on approximately 60 acres of National Forest System land. The proposal may also include road improvements on the access road to the quarry. The rock excavated from the quarry would be used over time by the Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation to help meet the long-term needs of maintenance, and reconstruction of roads in the Mt. Hood area.

The project area is located approximately 4 miles south of Government Camp, in Section 2, T.4S, R.8-1/2E, Willamette Meridian, Clackamas County, Oregon. The project area does not include any wilderness, roadless areas, wild and scenic rivers, late successional reserves, or riparian reserves.

Some of the preliminary issues that have been identified include visual quality as seen from key view points on the Forest, and traffic management conflict between commercial use and recreation.

The draft EIS is planned to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by June 2003. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the [Federal Register](#). The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the NOA appears in the [Federal Register](#).

**40/60** – Project may create openings-larger than the 40 or 60 acre limitations stipulated by the National Forest Management Act, 36 CFR 219.27. Such creation requires 60 day public notification and approval of the Regional Forester.

**CCF** – 100 cubic feet

**CE** – Categorical Exclusion

**EA** – Environmental Assessment

**EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement

**MBF** – 1,000 board feet

**MMBF** – 1,000,000 board feet

**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act

**VEG** – This symbol indicates a project that may include treatment of unwanted vegetation. When a site-specific project to prevent or treat unwanted vegetation is being considered, the official responsible for that project is to notify the public.

# Forest-Wide Projects

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## **Watershed Restoration 2003**

Contact: John Dodd

Hood River Ranger Station,

6780 Highway 35, Parkdale, OR 97041

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: [jdodd@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdodd@fs.fed.us)

In the last issue of *Sprouts* we described a project called Watershed Restoration 2003. At this time we have a list of projects that are in the developmental stage. We still must do field surveys for plants and animals and heritage resources, as well as other detailed analyses of the costs, impacts and benefits of the projects. The final list of projects may be pared down somewhat depending on what we find. The following is intended to give you a feel for the types of projects being considered.

- **Fish Passage Projects**

Certain culverts at road/stream crossings partially or totally block fish passage. Includes culvert replacement or culvert removal so that fish can get through to access habitat on the other side. Includes 53 culverts.

- **Ditch to Pipe Conversions**

Irrigation ditches leak and occasionally wash out. Pipes would be installed to transport water, reducing seepage and erosion. Includes Wolf Run Ditch and Lyda's Ditch.

- **Fencing**

Includes fencing of meadows and sensitive areas to control the movement of livestock. Two fences are included.

- **Wildlife and Vegetation Management Projects**

- Oaks would be released by cutting small conifers.
- Snags would be created from live trees by girdling, topping, and heart rot inoculation.
- Down Woody Debris would be created by felling trees in areas that are deficient.
- Roads would be closed to reduce harassment.
- Meadows would be restored by removing encroaching young conifers.

- **Rock Quarry and Gravel Stockpile Restoration**

Includes the addition of soil, reestablishment of natural drainage patterns and revegetation. Three areas would be restored.

- **In-stream Projects**

Includes the addition of logs or boulders into streams to create pools and improve diversity.

- **Riparian Projects**

Includes riparian planting and thinning in the dry upland areas near streams.

- **Road Stabilization and Repair**

Includes deep patch repairs of cracking and sinking roadways, resurfacing and erosion control. Twenty-three miles of roads would be repaired.

- **Road Decommissioning**

Includes the removal of gravel and culverts (if any) and deep ripping, water barring, and revegetating. Twelve miles of roads would be decommissioned.

Project descriptions and maps are available at the Mt. Hood National Forest web site. Look under Forest Projects at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>.

It is anticipated that an Environmental Assessment will be completed sometime in 2003.

We are continuing to implement the restoration projects from last year's EA as funding becomes available. Last year's EA and the prioritization model can be viewed at our web site under Forest Publications.

# Barlow Ranger District Projects

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## **Juncrock Planning Area**

*Contact: Becky Nelson*

*Phone: (541) 467-2291*

*Email: bnelson@fs.fed.us*

The draft EIS is nearing completion. The document will be available on the Mt. Hood web site. Individuals who have given comments will receive a notice of the availability of the draft document.

## **East of 27 #2 Underburn (2,500 acres)**

*Contact: Joel Pomeroy*

*Phone: (541) 352-6002*

*Email: jpomeroy@fs.fed.us*

This underburn is in the beginning planning stages. It is located between Tygh Creek and Jordan Creek on the Barlow Ranger District. The objective is to introduce fire back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs and shrub species. Required surveys for this project will be completed this summer. Expected completion date for the CE is spring of 2004, with completion of the project being spring of 2005.

## **Swisher/West Gobbler Underburn (1,480 acres)**

*Contact: Mel Gard*

*Phone: (541) 467-2291*

*Email: mgard@fs.fed.us*

Analysis of the underburns is continuing. The Barlow Ranger District is proposing to burn approximately 2,200 acres in two different areas. The objective is to introduce fire back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, prevent the bark build-up around the base of large ponderosa pine, and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs, and shrub species. Underburning will enhance deer and elk forage quantity and quality, reduce risk of a stand replacing fire, and protect large ponderosa trees from the effects of future underburning. Required surveys for these projects have been completed. Final field verifications are being completed.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment on these projects, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality.

Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified time-frame.

# Clackamas River Ranger District Projects

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## Thinning Program

Second-growth stands across the District are being examined for thinning opportunities. At this time four planning areas are moving forward into the early stages of environmental analysis. Descriptions of the purpose and need, and the details of the proposed action including maps and photos are available on the Forest web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/> under Forest Projects.

- **Upper Clackamas Area**

700 Acres

Contact: Jim Roden

Phone: (503) 630-8722

Email: [jroden@fs.fed.us](mailto:jroden@fs.fed.us)

- **South Fork Clackamas and Clear Creek Area**

590 Acres

Contact: Jim Roden

Phone: (503) 630-8722

Email: [jroden@fs.fed.us](mailto:jroden@fs.fed.us)

- **Oak Grove Area**

970 Acres

Contact: Don Davison

Phone: (503) 630-8742

Email: [ddavison@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddavison@fs.fed.us)

- **Collawash Area**

340 Acres

Contact: Don Davison

Phone: (503) 630-8742

Email: [ddavison@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddavison@fs.fed.us)

## Olallie Lake Resort Defensible Space

Contact: Craig Edberg

Phone: (503) 630-8786

Email: [cedberg@fs.fed.us](mailto:cedberg@fs.fed.us)

Fire hazard is high in the Olallie Lake area due to buildup of fuels. The lake and the improvements around the lake, and the public that use the area are at risk from wildfire. This project involves the creation of a defensible space from fire around the Olallie Lake Resort and Paul Dennis Campground. This would entail making a 500-foot wide shaded fuel break around the east and north sides of the historic resort and campground. The treatment would cover approximately 60 acres, removing brush and small trees. No new temporary or permanent roads would be constructed and leave trees would be left at variable spacing. The intent of a shaded fuel break is to eliminate ladder fuels that would otherwise create an intense crown fire. Instead, an approaching fire would burn on the ground with low intensity giving firefighters a chance to extinguish it. Descriptions of the project, including maps and photos, are available on the Forest web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/> under Forest Projects.

This is the first stage of a multi-phase effort to deal with fire hazard in the area. Comments are due by May 31, 2003.

In an effort to better serve you and conserve resources and energy, *Sprouts* is available online. You can now view the most current issue of *Sprouts* on the Mt. Hood National Forest Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>

# Hood River Ranger District Projects

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## Removal of Three Closed Bridges

Contact: Stewart Fletcher  
Phone: 541-352-6002, ext. 616  
Email: [sjfletcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:sjfletcher@fs.fed.us)

Hood River and Barlow Ranger Districts propose the removal of three closed bridges on Roads 2730160, 4300221, and 3500220. These bridges have been closed due to structural failure. Hood River and Barlow Districts will determine when and how these bridges will be removed, and if vehicle or trail bridges will replace these bridges.

## Dollar Quarry Mineral Permit Renewal

Contact: Stewart Fletcher  
Phone: 541-352-6002, ext. 616  
Email: [sjfletcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:sjfletcher@fs.fed.us)

Hood River District will consider renewal of a Minerals Permit to Oregon Department of Transportation to remove 100,000 cubic yards of rock material for road maintenance from Dollar quarry, located on Road 1631630 in the Red Hill area.

## SCCA Road Rally

Contact: Stewart Fletcher  
Phone: 541-352-6002, ext. 616  
Email: [sjfletcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:sjfletcher@fs.fed.us)

Hood River and Barlow Districts will consider a proposal by the Oregon Chapter of the Sports Car Club of America to host an "Against the Clock" Road Rally on several single lane gravel roads within the Forest in October 2003. Roads 17, 4440, 1722, 1722160 will require up to six hour temporary closures on a weekend to provide for public safety.

## Bear Knoll Planning Area

T.4S., R.9E., Sec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36 and T.5S., R.9. 2, 3, 4, 10  
Contact: Pat Haley  
Phone: (541) 467-2291  
Email: [phaley01@fs.fed.us](mailto:phaley01@fs.fed.us)

This planning effort has started up again. Bear Knoll proposes to thin overstocked mature and immature stands through commercial timber sales and the sale of special forest products (post, poles and firewood). Over-mature stands, especially those heavily infected with Indian Paint Fungus, are proposed to be regenerated. Commercial thinning and restoration projects are proposed in the riparian reserve area of Frog Creek. Visual enhancement projects along Highway 26 are proposed. Removal of off-site ponderosa in a plantation is proposed. Temporary road construction, road closure and decommissioning are also proposed. An EIS will be completed during the spring of 2003.

## Long Prairie Grazing Allotment

Contact: Dan Fissell  
Phone: (541) 467-5117  
Email: [dfissell@fs.fed.us](mailto:dfissell@fs.fed.us)

An Environmental Assessment is scheduled for this grazing allotment during 2003. The analysis will determine the level and intensity of grazing management within this allotment. The plan will also identify restoration opportunities. The Decision Notice is anticipated in the fall of 2003.

## Mill Creek Planning Area

Contact: Becky Nelson  
Phone: (541) 467-2291  
Email: [bnelson01@fs.fed.us](mailto:bnelson01@fs.fed.us)

This project has been put on hold until both Juncrock and Bear Knoll planning projects have been completed.

## HRM Ski Way – Mt Hood Meadows Ski Resort

Contact: Doug Jones  
Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682  
Email: [dgjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:dgjones@fs.fed.us)

The ski area has proposed for many years, an extension of the HRM ski way. Another switchback is needed in the ski way to allow beginner snow riders get around a steep slope on their way to the bottom of Hood River Express chairlift.

## Mt Hood Meadows Base Area Projects: Wetland restoration; main lot stormwater improvements; Buttercup re-grading

Contact: Doug Jones  
Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682  
Email: [dgjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:dgjones@fs.fed.us)

The ski area plans to restore a wetland area near the bottom of Blue Chair that was filled in the 1960's. The area will make modifications to the main parking lot to improved sheet drainage of water and to riprap the bank beneath the lot to protect soil on the fill slope. Several culverts will be improved. The Buttercup beginner trail is concave which forces inexperienced skiers into a trough. The re-grading would move about 18,000 cubic yards of soil from the existing "island" in the main parking lot to Buttercup where it would be shaped to level the trail.

## Mt Hood Meadows Super Pipe

Contact: Doug Jones  
Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682  
Email: [dgjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:dgjones@fs.fed.us)

The ski area proposes the construction of a permanent Super Pipe ( a big league half pipe for snowboarders) about 2/3 of the up and under the Easy Rider chairlift. The project would involve relocating part of the South Canyon service road.

Project continued on next page. . .

## Hood River Ranger District Projects (cont)

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This project was scoped by members of the public last summer when proposed near the South Lodge. The resort planner has found that that location is not large enough for a “regulation” 400 foot long half pipe.

### **Mt Hood Meadows – Dallas Bowl Surface Lift**

Contact: Doug Jones

Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682

Email: dgjones@fs.fed.us

The ski resort proposes a Master Plan amendment to build a surface lift to the top of Dallas Bowl. Dallas Bowl is located immediately above the top terminal of Cascade Express. The lift would run up the ridgeline on the south edge of the Bowl. This lift would give skiers better access to the advanced skiing terrain usually only accessible by hiking or when transported by snowcats. The proposal includes transforming the original Cascade construction route into a permanent service road to access the top of Cascade for heavy summer maintenance.

### **Cooper Spur Ski Area Summer Projects 2003**

Contact: Doug Jones

Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682

Email: dgjones@fs.fed.us

Cooper Spur Ski Area proposes increasing parking by about 1 acre to meet the needs of existing users who often cannot find parking on busy weekends. The parking expansion would occur largely by widening the out-bound road from the old rock quarry north.

The area also wants to install a buried waterline approx. 3,000 feet long from the nearby private land, up the Nordic ski trail to the base of the ski area. The water would be used for snowmaking around the base and on the tubing hill. The line could be up to 8 inch diameter.

## Zigzag Ranger District Projects

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### **Lady Creek Water Line Replacement and Permit Renewal**

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 668

Email: pnorman@fs.fed.us

The Lady Creek Water District is replacing approximately 4,000’ of water line within the District’s recreation residence tracts. Project implementation is planned for the summer of 2003. The special use permit for the water district has expired and needs to be renewed. The Forest Service is evaluating reissuing the special use permit to the current permittee to allow for continued use of the water system collection and transmission facilities on National Forest Lands.

### **Timberline Ski Area**

#### **Timberline Express Lift and Ski Trail System R 9E, T 3S, SW1/4, Section 7**

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

Based on both agency and public scoping responses, we will be developing alternatives to the proposed action. The proposed action consists of constructing a new detachable quad (four passenger) chairlift and 6 new trails in the southwest corner of the ski area’s special use permit boundary. The proposal also includes an addition of approximately 10 acres to the existing 1,400-acre permit boundary. A draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and available for public review by August 2003.

### **Timberline Accessibility Projects**

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 668

Email: pnorman@fs.fed.us

In December 2002, the Forest Service completed installation of a new public entry elevator for the Historic Lodge and is now proceeding with the design and construction of additional accessibility projects. Those projects include:

- Modifying 4 different types of guest rooms at the Lodge to make them fully accessible.
- Installing mechanical lifts to provide access to the swimming pool area, a conference room and to the balcony in the main public area of the Lodge.
- Installing a ramp to provide access from the central part of the lodge to the Lodge’s conference wing and dining room.
- Changing a current storage room into an accessible conference/meeting/banquet room.

The main goal of the above projects is to have the Lodge accessible to all who come to visit while protecting those historic qualities of the Lodge. The team designing the projects includes architects, historic preservation specialists, an accessibility specialist and staff members from RLK & Company, the permittee who operates Timberline Lodge Ski Area.

# Mt. Hood National Forest Offices

## **Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters Office**

16400 Champion Way  
Sandy, OR 97055  
Business: 503-668-1700  
Visitor Information: **503-622-7674**  
Hours: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

## **Barlow Ranger District**

780 NE Court Street  
Dufur, OR 97021  
Phone: **541-467-2291**  
Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

## **Clackamas River Ranger District**

595 NW Industrial Way  
Estacada, OR 97023  
Business: **503-630-6861**  
Visitor Information: **503-630-8700**  
Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-Sat  
Closed weekends during winter months.

## **Hood River Ranger District**

6780 Highway 35  
Mt. Hood - Parkdale, OR 97041  
Phone: **541-352-6002**  
Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F  
Summer Hours: May 30 - Sept. 6  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, 7 days a week

## **Zigzag Ranger District**

70220 E. Highway 26  
Zigzag, OR 97049  
Business: **503-622-3191 or  
503-668-1704**  
Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

## **Mt. Hood Information Center**

*Forest Service Information in partnership  
with Clackamas County and Mt. Hood  
Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor  
Information*  
65000 E. Highway 26  
Welches, OR 97067  
Phone: **503-622-7674**  
Hours:  
Saturday thru Thursday, 8 am-4 pm;  
Friday 8 am-6 pm  
(Closed Dec 25)



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