

*Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
Asante Riverwind
Eastern Oregon Forest Organizer
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October 20, 2008

Acting Regional Forester,
Pacific Northwest Region Forest Service,
John Allen, Forest Supervisor,
Deschutes National Forest,
Shane Jeffries, District Ranger,
Bend Fort Rock Ranger District,

Notice of Conditional Withdrawal of the Snow Fuels Reduction Project Appeal

In accord with the agreement below, modifying the decision for the Snow Fuels Reduction Project EA, reached by the Deschutes Forest Service Supervisor John Allen, and Bend Fort Rock District Ranger Shane Jeffries, and by Asante Riverwind, Eastern Oregon Forest Organizer for the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, Tim Lillebo of Oregon Wild, with the Sierra Club representing as well appellant Karen Coulter, Director of LOWD-Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, appellant organizations hereby conditionally withdraw our appeal of this project. It must be noted this agreement represents only some of our many concerns with this project, and is made in good faith by all parties towards cooperatively resolving significant conservation science and legal issues. The USFS-Deschutes NF letter of resolution, modifying the Snow Fuels Reduction Project EA decision is presented here in full:

File Code: 1570

Date: October 21, 2008

Mr. Asante Riverwind
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, League of Wilderness Defenders-
Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
P.O. Box 5534
Bend, OR 97708

Dear Mr. Riverwind:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.17, we met in my office on October 2, 2008, to discuss resolution of your appeal of the Snow Fuels Reduction Project. Your appeal is dated September 19, 2008. On October 14, 2008, we went to the project area to discuss prescriptions for the Snow project, as well as the proposed Old Growth Area Forest Plan Amendment. We were accompanied by Tim Lillebo representing Oregon Wild, District Ranger Shane Jeffries, District Silviculturist Pete Powers (IDT Leader for the Snow project), and Forest Planner/Environmental Coordinator Susan Skakel.

We stopped at EA Units 64 and 77. We discussed trees to leave, and trees to mark for basal area reduction and thinning. While I believe we were in basic agreement with the prescription, I have decided to document my decision to retain trees with old characteristics, regardless of size, excluding lodgepole pine, within all treatment units. In addition, prescription 6, Variable Density Thinning in Mixed Conifer is modified to include an upper diameter limit of 16 inch dbh for ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Exceptions to the diameter limit may occur when thinning of a larger than 16 inch

diameter tree is necessary to promote the survival and growth of larger, older Douglas fir or ponderosa pine trees. The exception does not apply to trees with old characteristics regardless of size.

We agreed that the boundary change for the Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) outlined in my decision would be implemented as per the Decision Notice. As we discussed, the lower portion of Snow Creek is entirely within Riparian Reserve, having more protective Standards and Guidelines under the Northwest Forest Plan, than our underlying Land and Resource Management Plan OGMA Standards and Guides would provide. Therefore, there would be no additional benefit to designating this area as OGMA.

Based on our discussions on October 2 and 14th, and by making these changes to my decision, it is my understanding that your primary concerns have been met and you would be willing to withdraw your appeal of the Snow Fuels Reduction project.

Thank you, once again, for your willingness to meet with us, and for a successful appeal resolution.


Sincerely,

/s/ John Allen
JOHN ALLEN
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mr. Tim Lillebo
Oregon Wild

Signed this 20th of October, 2008, conditionally withdrawing our appeal as per the above resolution agreement changing the decision for the Snow Fuels Reduction Project.

For all Appellants,



Sierra Club
By: Asante Riverwind
Its: Eastern Oregon Forest Organizer

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