

*Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
Asante Riverwind
Eastern Oregon Forest Organizer
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October 23, 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 HFRA Objection to the South Bend Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

In accord with the agreement below, modifying the decision for the South Bend Hazardous 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, representing as well HFRA objector Karen Coulter, Director of LOWD-Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, our organizations hereby conditionally withdraw our objection of this HFRA project. This agreement represents only some of our ecological concerns with this project, and is made in good faith by all parties towards cooperatively resolving conservation science and legal issues. The USFS-Deschutes NF letter of resolution, modifying the South Bend Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project EA decision is presented here in full:

File Code: 1570

Date:

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

Dear Mr. Riverwind,

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10, we met with you and others at the Hover home on October 16, 2008, with a subsequent meeting at the Deschutes National Forest headquarters office on October 21, 2008, to discuss resolution of your objection to the South Bend Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

As discussed with homeowners regarding Unit 411, I have decided that there will be no commercial harvest of trees or associated hauling through Deschutes River Woods. Unit 411 will be mowed and underburned to reduce surface fuels.

Based on discussion with you, I have decided to implement variable density thinning ranging from approximately 50 to 90 square feet of basal area in the commercial thinning stands, striving for an average

basal area of approximately 70 square feet across the entire stand, with more natural patchy-clumpy thinning patterns as much as possible across the landscape. Where possible, we will retain a higher basal area in and around lava rock outcrops and pressure ridges. Trees with old growth characteristics will be retained, regardless of size.

We will prioritize slash treatments based upon the proximity to private dwellings, with those units closest to private dwellings being treated first. Our top priority for slash disposal will be units 221, 222, and 411, within a year after treatment, and the removal of all slash from the treatment units as much as possible, within a couple of seasons/years. I have also decided that mowing will not occur between May 20 and July 5 to provide additional protection for nesting birds.

We will sample mark a couple of areas for public review, before marking the remainder of the project and proceeding with implementation.

Based on our discussions, and by making these changes to my decision, it is my understanding that your primary concerns have been met and you are willing to withdraw your objection to the South Bend Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

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


Sincerely,

A. SHANE JEFFRIES
District Ranger

cc: Susan Skakel, Beth Peer, John P Allen

Signed this 20th of October, 2008, conditionally withdrawing our HFRA objection as per the Deschutes National Forest's adoption of the above resolution agreement changing the decision for the HFRA South Bend Fuels Reduction Project.

For the Sierra Club and for LOWD-BMBP,



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

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