

*Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
Asante Riverwind
Eastern Oregon Forest Organizer
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Bend, Oregon 97708
(541) 322-4065 office
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September 9, 2009

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

**Notice of Conditional Withdrawal of the HFRA Objection to the West Tumbull Hazardous
Fuels Reduction Project**

In accord with the agreement below, modifying the decision for the West Tumbull Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project EA, reached by the Deschutes Forest Service 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 controversial conservation, science, community, recreation, and legal issues. The USFS-Deschutes NF letter of resolution, modifying the West Tumbull Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project EA decision is presented here in full:

File Code: 1950-1

Date: September 3, 2009

Asante Riverwind
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
PO Box 5534
Bend, OR 97708

Dear Mr. Riverwind

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10, we met with you and others at my office on August 28, 2009, to discuss resolution of your objection to the West Tumbull Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

We discussed several of the Sierra Club's main concerns listed in your objection. In response to specific concerns stated in your objection, the following changes to the project will be made:

- Retention of ponderosa pine > 18" DBH.
- Retention of fir trees > 20" DBH
Except in these cases: where the fir tree is within 100 feet of the private property boundary, or within 30 feet of a ponderosa pine that is > 18" DBH.
- Retention of all fir trees greater than 24" DBH
- All retention guidelines are subject to danger tree provisions.
- Activity slash will be cleaned up within two years following completion of thinning or harvest activities in all units. Our first priority will be treatment of slash adjacent to private property.
- We will provide an opportunity for the community to view a representative area that has been marked for thinning.

In addition to the above changes, and based on collaboration with the community, the West Tumbull project will also include the following provisions:

- Retention of trees exhibiting two or more old-tree characteristics as described by Keen.
- Within 50 feet of the trails in Units 8 and 16, we will retain 80 square feet of basal area, favoring pine, and retaining the largest trees of other species. Also within 50 feet of trails in Units 8 and 16, we will hand pile and burn activity fuels and slash. There will be no broadcast burning above the trail in Unit 8.
- To balance community concerns about retention of spruce with the need to reduce fuels adjacent to private property, there will be no removal of spruce within riparian reserves except where necessary to treat ladder fuels; and in no case will spruce greater 8 inches DBH be cut.

I have made hazardous fuels reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface a top priority. It is vital that objectives for fire risk reduction be met in this area. With the above provisions, I



feel that we will continue meet the objectives for individual stands and the area while addressing the concerns of the Sierra Club.

Based on our discussions, I believe that these changes will meet your primary concerns and you will be willing to withdraw your objection to the West Tumbull Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

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

Sincerely,

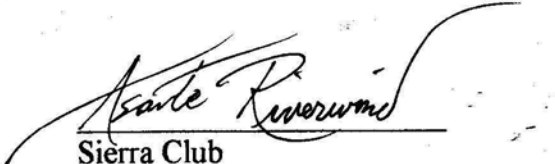


for A. SHANE JEFFRIES
District Ranger

cc: Susan Skakel

Signed this 9th day of September, 2009, conditionally withdrawing our HFRA objection as per the Deschutes National Forest's adoption of the above resolution agreement changing the decision for the HFRA West Tumbull Hazardous 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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