



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mt. Hood National Forest

Zigzag Ranger District  
70220 E. Hwy 26  
Zigzag, OR 97049  
(503) 622-3191  
FAX (503) 622-5622

---

File Code: 1950

Date: December 14, 2005

Dear Interested Party:

The Zigzag Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest has identified you as an individual, agency, or organization that might be interested in commenting on our proposed action for the decommissioning of unneeded roads within the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit (BRWMU) (see enclosed map). This proposal has previously appeared in quarterly publications of the 2004 and 2005 Mt. Hood National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions.

The Forest Service, in coordination with the City of Portland, is conducting an environmental assessment to decommission approximately 129 miles of roads within the BRWMU. Approximately 59 miles of road would be decommissioned by letting the roads grow in and close naturally, and approximately 70 miles would be decommissioned by mechanical methods.

This proposal would begin efforts to eventually close about 47% of the roads in the BRWMU as recommended in the Bull Run Watershed Analysis developed under direction of the Northwest Forest Plan and by the Zigzag Ranger District Access and Travel Management Plan.

The objectives of this project include:

- 1) Decommission unneeded roads to reduce risks to water quality caused by landslides, gullyng, surface erosion, and cumulative watershed effects.
- 2) Update the management of the BRWMU to respond to recent Congressional actions and substantially changed administrative direction and regulatory requirements. This new direction emphasizes reducing risks to water quality from roads to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.
- 3) Reduce road maintenance costs by decommissioning roads that are no longer needed.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please bring them to our attention by January 20, 2006. Send comments to Mike Malone, 70220 E. Highway 26, Zigzag, OR 97049. He can also be reached at (503) 622-3191; comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood-zigzag@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Colleen Pelles Madrid*  
COLLEEN PELLE MADRID  
District Ranger

