

Chapter 4

Forest Plan Amendments/ Interpretation Process

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As we continue to implement the Forest Plan as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan, it is apparent that amendments and clarification of direction is continually needed if we are to meet the expectation and desires of the public.

New information identified through various monitoring programs will continue to be evaluated. The need to change the Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan will be reviewed in accordance with the National Forest Management Act regulations and the Northwest Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

Amendments

An important aspect of keeping our Plan an up-to-date living document is the preparation of amendments. Based on analysis of objectives, standards, monitoring, and changing conditions, the Forest Plan will need to be amended from time to time. Some of these amendments may involve significant changes and will require an Environmental Impact Statement to be completed. Other changes, however, will require only minor adjustments and an Environmental Assessment may be adequate.

As of September 30, 2004, twelve amendments have been made to the Forest Plan. A thirteenth amendment had been proposed, but the implementing decision was recalled during the appeal process and has not yet been reissued. A fourteenth amendment has been proposed, but the implementing decision has not been finalized; the decision is expected in September 2005. Five amendments reflect changes made during Wild and Scenic River planning, one concerned noxious weed management, one adjusted a Research Natural Area Boundary, one responded to Elk Habitat Enhancement needs, one dealt with standards and guidelines relating to management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, one expanded Mt. Hood Meadows ski area permit boundary, one Congressional Act modified activities within the Bull Run watershed, and one designated Timberline Lodge and its immediate environs (approximately 5 acres) as a Historical Special Interest Area – A-4. Number thirteen would modify Standards, Guidelines and Management actions related to the use and management of the Mt. Hood, Salmon-Huckleberry, and Hatfield Wildernesses. Number fourteen would change the visual quality objective for roads near Timberline Lodge.

The fourteen amendments are:

1. *Big Bend Mountain Research Natural Area*. This amendment changes the boundary within the Bull Run Watershed. 10/3/91
2. *Clackamas Wild and Scenic River EA and Management Plan*. This amendment delineates final river boundary and removes all National Forest land within the river corridor from “regulated” timber harvest. 4/19/93
3. *Salmon Wild and Scenic River EA and Management Plan*. This amendment delineates final river boundary and eliminates “regulated” timber harvest within the corridor. 3/10/93
4. *Lemiti Elk Habitat Enhancement Project*. This amendment exchanges an existing Roded Recreational Management Area at Lemiti Creek with an adjacent Deer and Elk Summer Range Management Area. 5/17/93
5. *Roaring National Wild and Scenic River EA and Management Plan*. This amendment delineates final river boundary and modifies management direction within the corridor relating to recreational developments, timber harvest and commercial livestock grazing. 9/13/93
6. *Upper Sandy National Wild and Scenic River EA and Management Plan*. This amendment delineates final river boundary and eliminates “regulated” harvest within the corridor. It provides replacement management direction for the new A-1 allocation. 2/24/94
7. *White River National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan*. This amendment delineates final river boundary which included the adjustment of the river corridor termini to include White River Falls. It also modified management direction in relation to recreational use, timber harvest, and road construction among other site specific management activities. 11/3/94

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8. *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management planning documents within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* This decision amends current land and resource management plans with additional allocations and standards and guidelines. 5/13/94
9. *Environmental Assessment for Management of Noxious Weeds, Mt. Hood National Forest.* This amendment clarifies noxious weed management objectives by adding missing statements pertaining to noxious weed management under Goals, Desired Future Condition and Resource Summary sections of the Mt. Hood Forest Plan. 12/8/93
10. *The Environmental Impact Statement for the new long term conceptual master plan for Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area.* This amendment expands the ski area permit boundary by 96 acres to include an area which was being used by the ski area. It changes the land allocation for this area from a Wildlife/Visual classification to Winter Recreation classification. It also changes the Northwest Forest Plan allocation from Matrix to Administratively withdrawn. 1/24/97
11. *The Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 changed the allocation for the Bull Run Area from Administratively withdrawn to Congressionally withdrawn.* This amendment prohibits harvesting of trees for timber management within the Bull Run drainage and prohibits the authorization of salvage sales.
12. *The Timberline Lodge Master Development Plan Amendment.* This amendment adopts the Historic Building Preservation plan to provide the long-term management strategy for Timberline Lodge as a National Historic Landmark. The amendment also designates Timberline Lodge and immediate environs as a (Historic) Special Interest Area (A-4 Land Allocation). 11/4/98
13. *Wilderness Recreation Spectrum allocations and Forest Plan standards.* This amendment makes revisions to the Wilderness Recreation Spectrum allocations and Forest Plan standards dealing with “Limits” as related to Limits of Acceptable Change process. Standards relating to visitor use, restoration of impacted sites and public involvement are adjusted. Some standards are tightened and some are modified to be more realistically achievable. 12/11/2000

Note: This decision was recalled based on information identified during the appeal process. A new decision has not yet been issued and the amendment has not been implemented.
14. *The Timberline Express Amendment.* This amendment revises the Visual Quality Objective (A11-017 and A11-020) from “Partial Retention” to “Modification” in the foreground, as viewed from, Timberline Hwy (Hwy 173), West Leg Road (Rd 2645), Timberline Road, and riparian areas within the Timberline Special Use Permit area. This changes increases the percent of the seen area visually disturbed at any one time.

Note: The implementing decision has not been made; the decision is expected in September 2005.

Monitoring has disclosed significant disparity between our amended 1994 Forest Plan projections and existing Forest conditions that would currently warrant a revision at this time. We will continue to make non-significant amendments to our Forest Plan as needed as we look forward to a full Forest Plan revision. The Mt. Hood National Forest is currently scheduled to begin a Forest Plan revision in 2009 with preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement due in 2012.

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