

Mt. Hood wilderness area considered for expansion, new status

GRESHAM — More than 200,000 acres of Mt. Hood National Forest land are now being considered for wilderness status.

The lands are cited in a draft of the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) study. U.S. Forest Service staff took more than a year to put together the draft, which was released the second week of June.

A nationwide undertaking, RARE II mentions nine areas in the Mt. Hood forest, adding up to 220,000 acres, that would be included in the nation's wilderness system if the most liberal of 10 alternatives are adopted.

Rob Hendricks, land management planner at the Mt. Hood National Forest headquarters in Gresham says that alternative is unrealistic and thinks its adoption is highly unlikely. With a draft plan in print,

the forest service's task now is to collect comments from citizens on which alternative they favor and which areas they would especially like to see protected or opened for commercial use.

"We want to see if people feel strongly about particular areas," Hendricks said.

Toward that end, the forest headquarters will hold an open house Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to noon, and all next week from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The office is located on Southeast Division Street at 195th Avenue.

In addition, forest service staff are planning field trips to the three roadless potential wilderness areas that have received the most public support. The public can visit the Badger Creek-Jordan area east of Mt. Hood on July 15, the Salmon River-Huckleberry area south-

west of Mt. Hood on Aug. 12, and the Bull of the Woods area on the upper Callawash River Aug. 26. All trip days are Saturday; persons interested in making these trips should call the forest service office at 667-0511.

Two other areas that could be classified wilderness are the Eagle area on the Columbia Gorge and the Wind Creek area on the southwest of Mt. Hood.

The five areas total more than 181,000 acres.

In addition, the forest service mentions four areas that also could merit wilderness status, but Hendricks gives them little chance of being included, as they are listed only on the "unrealistic" total-wilderness alternative. These areas are the Lake and Big Bend areas in the Bull Run watershed, additions to the Mt. Hood wilderness, and the Twin Lakes area south of Mt. Hood.

The 10 alternatives that the forest service developed range from committing all the identified roadless areas to wilderness to opening them all to non-wilderness uses, including timber, grazing, mining and recreational development.

Other alternatives in between would preserve areas of high wilderness value or open up areas of high resource value, and set up various trade-offs between the two. One alternative presented is to make no decision.

Since Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964, the forest service has generally created wilderness on a piecemeal basis. The first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, RARE I, was conducted during the early 1970's, Hendricks said, as part of "an attempt to look at an integrated planning process."

The goal of RARE I was to determine once and for all what areas would be classified wilderness and which would be open to timber cutting, mining, or other development. Unfortunately, Hendricks said, Congress meanwhile was voting to classify certain areas as wilderness that the forest service intended to leave open to development.

When the Carter Administration took over in 1977, Hendricks said, Undersecretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler ordered a second RARE

study, both to include the new wilderness areas passed by Congress and to involve the public in drawing up a final list of wilderness areas.

RARE II started during spring 1977, when forest service staff drew up a list of criteria that a roadless area would have to meet to be considered for wilderness classification, including "sense of solitude, apparent naturalness and natural integrity."

The Gresham office staff scored each roadless area on these criteria, coming up with a final "wilderness attribute rating." Besides the basic list of roadless areas mentioned in RARE I, the staff evaluated additional areas suggested by local citizens at workshops conducted last fall.

After the Oct. 1 deadline for public comment, Hendricks said, the information will be analyzed by the Washington, D.C., and regional offices, with a final recommendation of areas for wilderness status coming out at the end of the year.

In addition, Hendricks said, some areas will be designated for further study. Congress wants that list kept as short as possible, he said.



GETTING AROUND IN a wheelchair in a public building — or anywhere else, for that matter — can be cumbersome when things are in the way. That can be particularly true in schools where getting from one classroom to another can be quite a hassle. Officials at Sandy High School are getting ready to make it easier for handicapped students at the

school. Several students got into wheelchairs at the school earlier this week to see what kinds of improvements needed to be made. The improvements are mandated by federal guidelines. Pictured here is Coleen Flach who seems to be having no trouble at a drinking fountain.

(John Kline photo)

Weed control suggested for garden procedures

The notion that a weed is no more than a flower in disguise does not apply to the backyard garden.

"A garden can't survive if weeds are allowed to run rampant," says Gray Thompson, Oregon State University Extension agent. Weeds should be eliminated before they compete with garden crops for nutrients and light. The best way to destroy weeds is with a hoe. The use of herbicides on such a small scale is not practical.

There is no all-purpose weed spray for the many types of weeds that compete with vegetables. Moreover, most gardens have at least a dozen vegetable varieties, few of which will tolerate the same weed control spray. Shallow cultivation is the rule when removing weeds, especially then the garden plants are young. That means cutting the weed off just below ground level with a hoe. If using a roto-tiller, keep the blades as shallow as possible to avoid damaging

the root systems of garden crops.

Perennial weeds such as morning glory and quackgrass should be removed every week. A light scraping action with a hoe is best.

There is a widespread misconception that working the soil deeply saves moisture. Actually, the soil retains more moisture when not being disturbed.

"So plan on attacking the weeds regularly, preferably by hand, and don't dig too deep," says Thompson.

Windows smashed

Robert C. Rodden, 14434 SE Coalman Road, Sandy, reported to Clackamas County sheriff's deputies that all the windows of his car were smashed out as it was parked on Ten Eyck Road north of Sandy Friday evening.

Rock band to perform

"Wizard," a four piece rock band from the Sandy area, will open the first of a series of Monday night concerts to be performed at The Theatre this Monday at 7:30.

"Wizard" has played before audiences in the Sandy area at a number of concerts.

Theatre owner John Kent will be promoting Monday night concerts featuring a wide range of music from blue grass to country to rock. Tickets for the Monday night concert are available at The Theatre.

Club honors member

The Sandy TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) club surprised one of its members at the June 14 meeting.

Worma House was honored for her fourth year as a KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly). Mrs. House lost 30 pounds to reach her goal. She has not exceeded her goal weight at any time in the past four years.

Mrs. House won honors in 1974 as chapter Queen of Aloha, and has also served as president of the Washington County KOPS Society.

Mrs. House transferred to the Sandy TOPS chapter this spring bringing the total number of KOPS in the club to four.

Persons who would like information on TOPS should call 668-4802 or 668-4589.

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