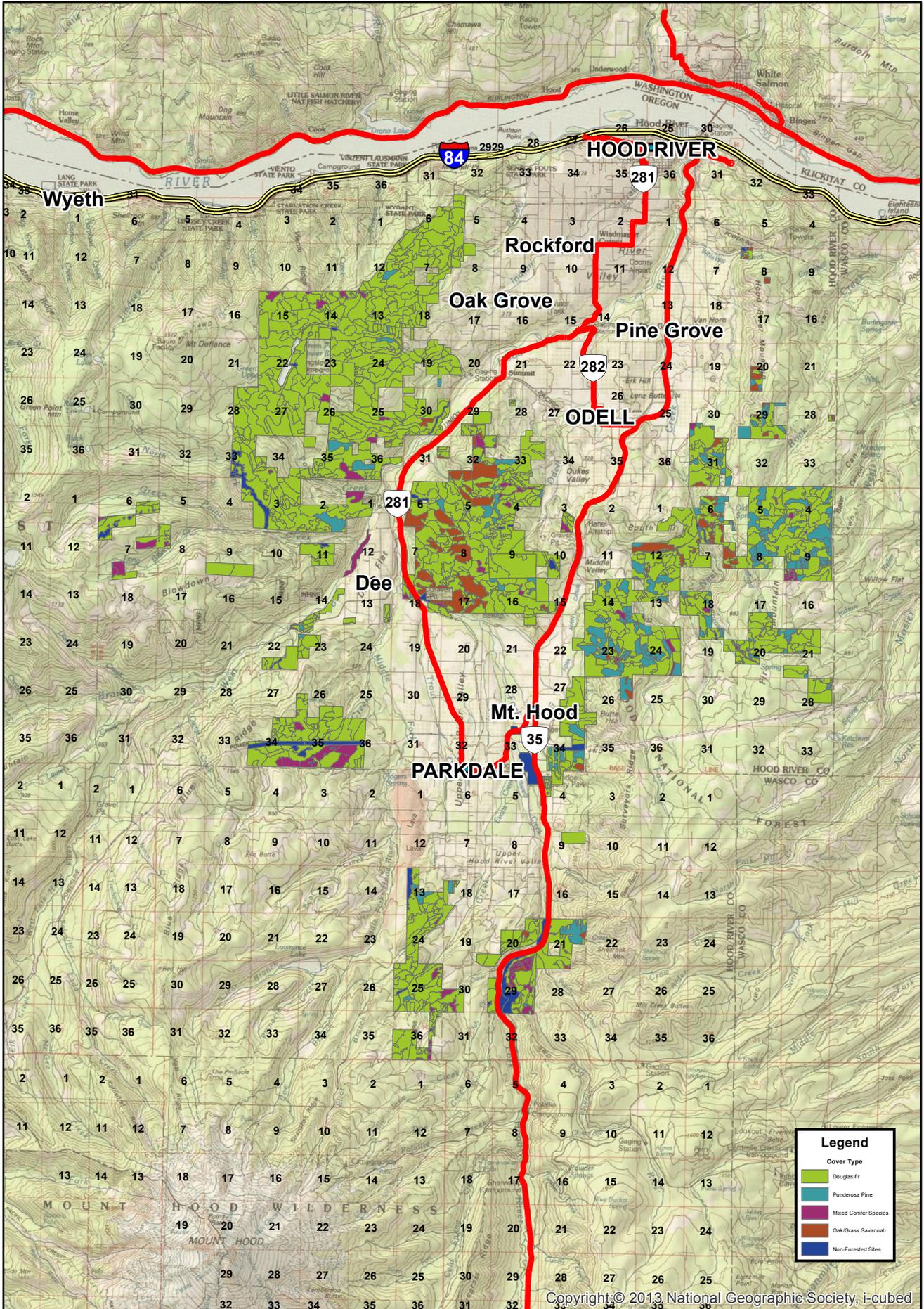
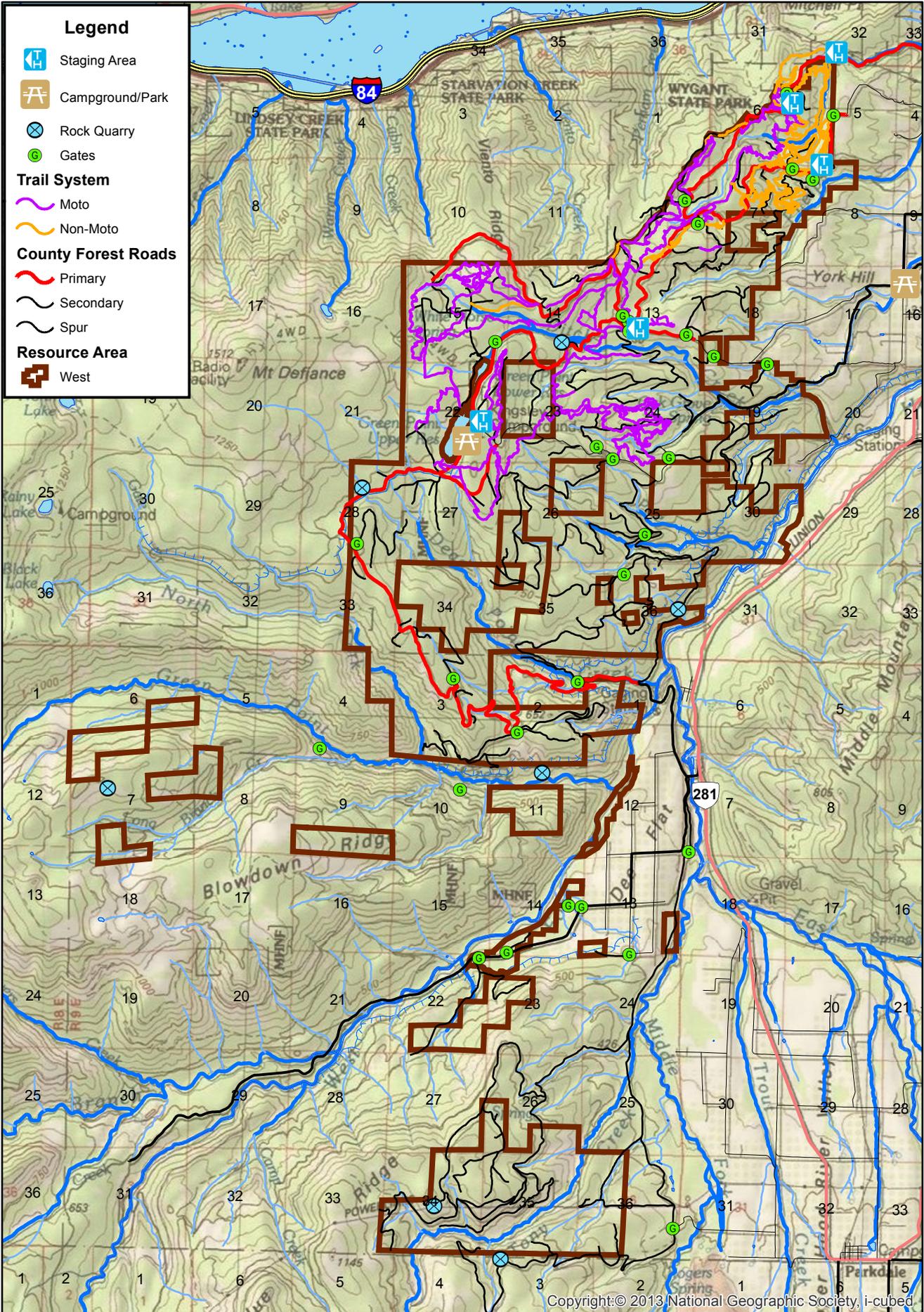


MAPS

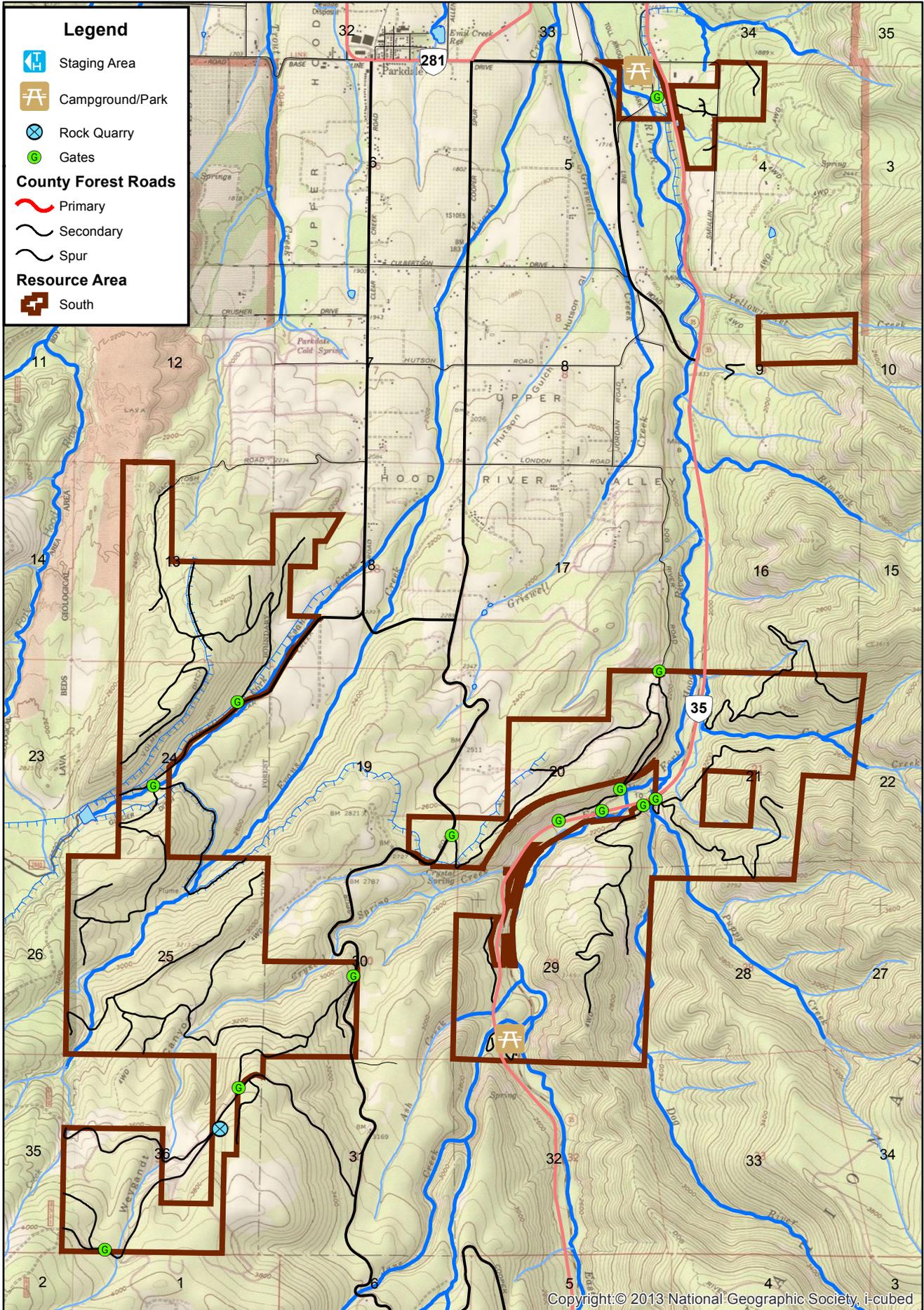
Hood River County Tree Farm Cover Type Map



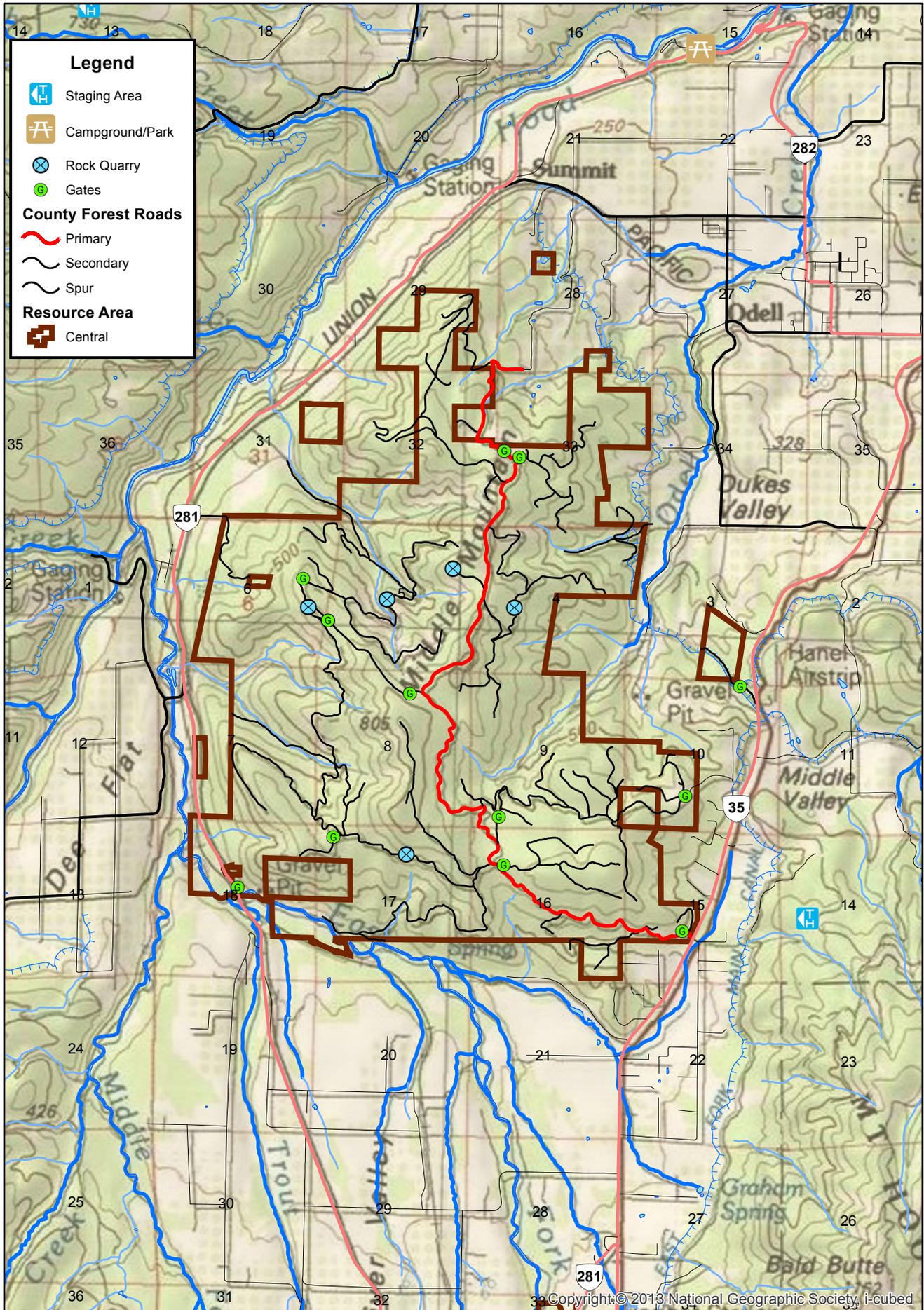
Hood River County Tree Farm Resource Map - West



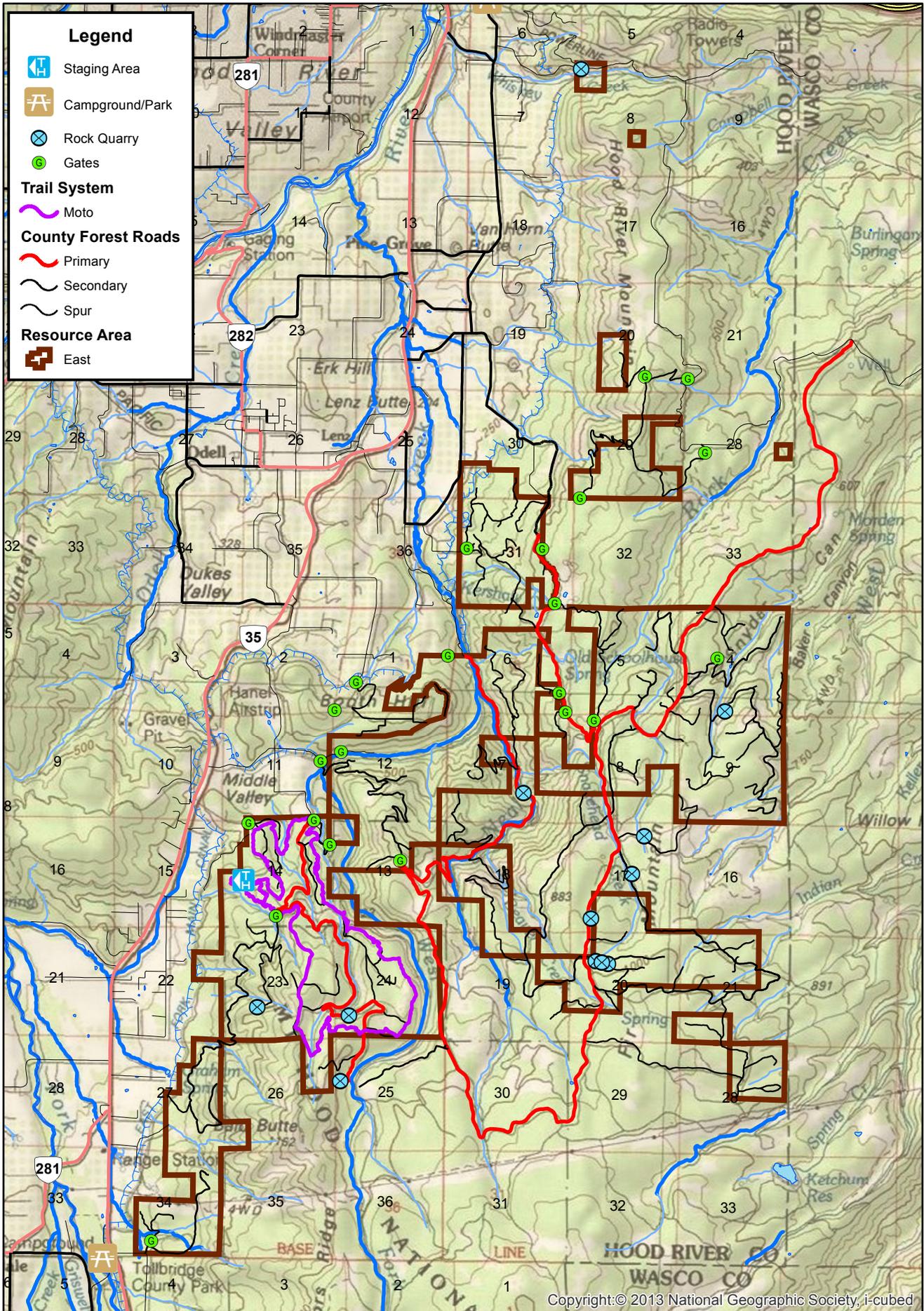
Hood River County Tree Farm Resource Map - South



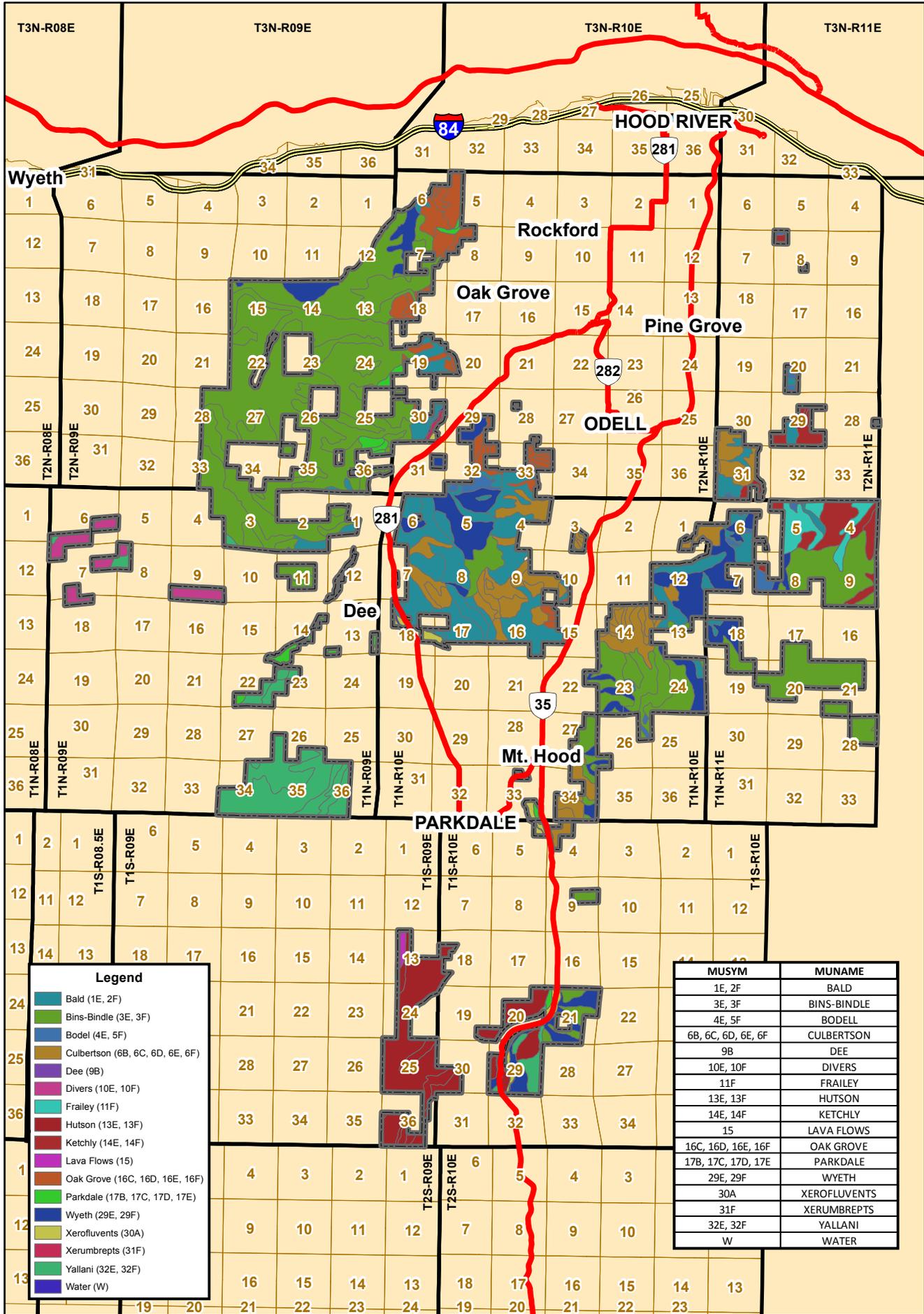
Hood River County Tree Farm Resource Map - Central



Hood River County Tree Farm Resource Map - East



Hood River County Tree Farm Soil Map



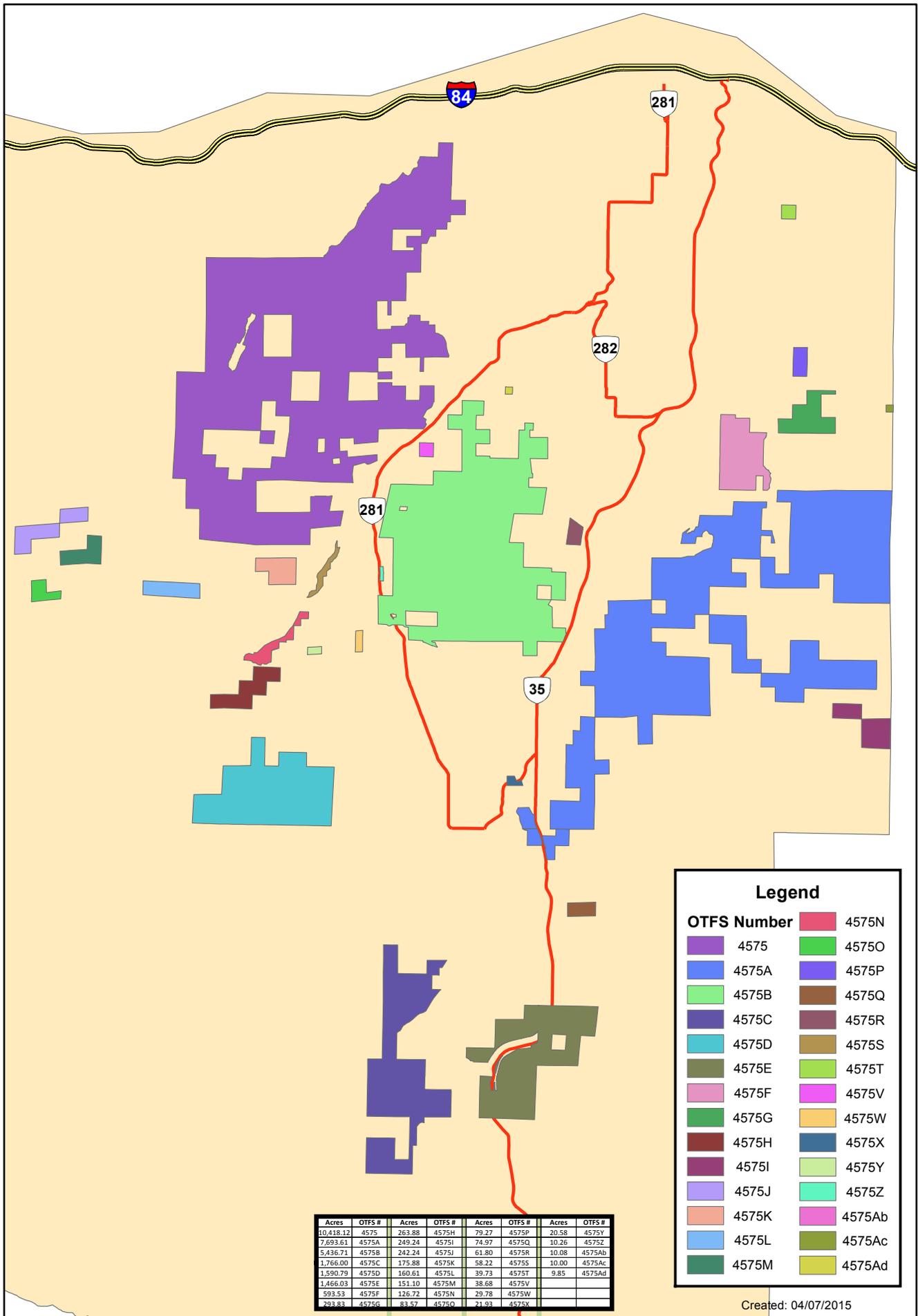
Legend

- Bald (1E, 2F)
- Bins-Bindle (3E, 3F)
- Bodell (4E, 5F)
- Culbertson (6B, 6C, 6D, 6E, 6F)
- Dee (9B)
- Divers (10E, 10F)
- Frailey (11F)
- Hutson (13E, 13F)
- Ketchly (14E, 14F)
- Lava Flows (15)
- Oak Grove (16C, 16D, 16E, 16F)
- Parkdale (17B, 17C, 17D, 17E)
- Wyeth (29E, 29F)
- Xerofluvents (30A)
- Xerumbrepts (31F)
- Yallani (32E, 32F)
- Water (W)

MUSYM	MUNAME
1E, 2F	BALD
3E, 3F	BINS-BINDLE
4E, 5F	BODELL
6B, 6C, 6D, 6E, 6F	CULBERTSON
9B	DEE
10E, 10F	DIVERS
11F	FRAILEY
13E, 13F	HUTSON
14E, 14F	KETCHLY
15	LAVA FLOWS
16C, 16D, 16E, 16F	OAK GROVE
17B, 17C, 17D, 17E	PARKDALE
29E, 29F	WYETH
30A	XEROFUVENTS
31F	XERUMBREPTS
32E, 32F	YALLANI
W	WATER



Hood River County Oregon Tree Farm System Map

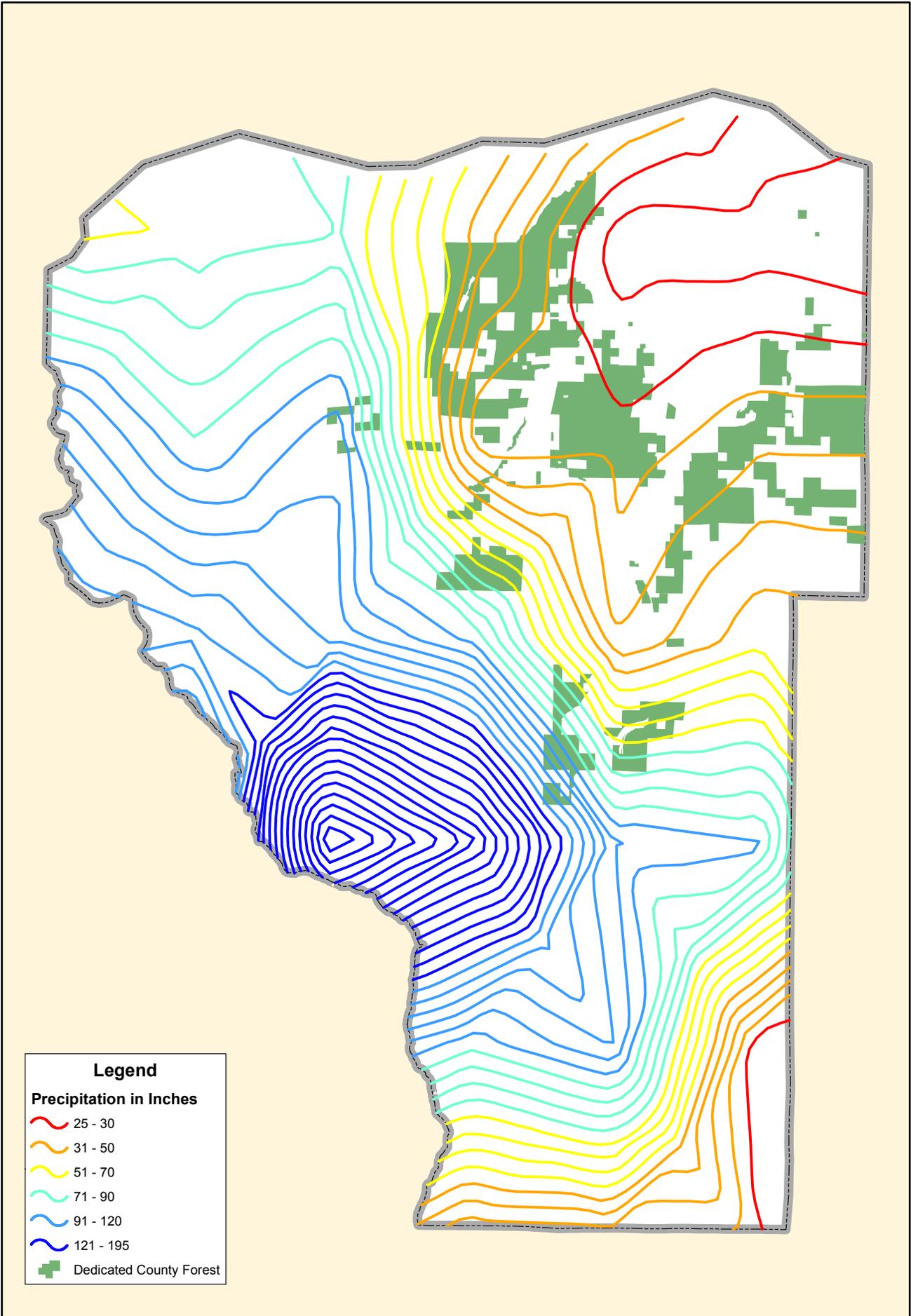


Legend

OTFS Number		Color	OTFS Number	Color
4575	4575A	4575B	4575C	4575D
4575E	4575F	4575G	4575H	4575I
4575J	4575K	4575L	4575M	4575N
4575O	4575P	4575Q	4575R	4575S
4575T	4575U	4575V	4575W	4575X
4575Y	4575Z	4575Ab	4575Ac	4575Ad

Acres	OTFS #	Acres	OTFS #	Acres	OTFS #	Acres	OTFS #
10,418.12	4575	263.88	4575H	79.27	4575P	20.58	4575V
7,693.61	4575A	249.24	4575I	74.97	4575Q	10.26	4575Z
5,436.71	4575B	242.24	4575J	61.80	4575R	10.08	4575Ab
1,766.00	4575C	175.88	4575K	58.22	4575S	10.00	4575Ac
1,590.79	4575D	160.61	4575L	39.73	4575T	9.85	4575Ad
1,466.03	4575E	151.10	4575M	38.68	4575U		
593.53	4575F	126.72	4575N	29.78	4575W		
293.83	4575G	83.57	4575O	21.93	4575X		

Hood River County Annual Precipitation Chart



COUNTY POLICY,
CODES &
DOCUMENTATION

COUNTY CODIFIED
FOREST MANAGEMENT
POLICY

SECTION 21-A
FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

(Revised 2/17/04)

A. POLICY

21A.0 Manage the county forest to benefit Hood River County citizens through revenue to County Government derived from the sale of forest products managed in a sustainable manner in compliance with applicable laws.

B. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE:

21A.1 The Forestry Department is created and shall be under the supervision and direction of a Forest Manager who shall be appointed and supervised by the County Administrator.

21A.2 The Department of Forestry shall have offices in the Forestry Building located in the Department of Public Works complex or other location as deemed appropriate by the Board of Commissioners.

21A.3 In addition to the Forest Manager, additional staff shall be provided as deemed necessary by the County Administrator, Budget Committee, and the Board of Commissioners to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Forestry Department.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES:

21.4 The Forestry department shall comply with provisions of Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), the Hood River County Charter, the Hood River County Administrative Code, the Hood River County Personnel Code, policies adopted by the Board of Commissioners, and administrative policies, the Oregon Forest Practices Act, procedures and related directives and the Oregon Administrative Rules.

21A.5 The primary responsibility of the Forestry Department shall be the management of approximately 49,000+ acres of land dedicated as County Forest. The management goal shall be to derive the most favorable sustained benefit from the sale of forest products in compliance with the Oregon Forest Practice Act and approved allowable cut. Revenues derived from sale of county forest products shall offset taxes in the County General Fund.

21A.5 The Forestry Department shall be operated within the following policy guidelines:

- a. The forest management activities of the county forest shall be in compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act, ORS 527 and other

forestry-related Oregon Revised Statutes i.e. ORS 477 (Protection of Forest & Vegetation from Fire); ORS 527 (insects & Disease; Forest Practices); ORS 532 (Branding of Forest Products); ORS 634 (Pesticide Control); applicable Oregon Administrative Rules in chapter 629.

- b. A County Forest Management Plan may be initiated and maintained for management activities. The County Forest Management Plan will be consistent with sustained yield forest management.
- c. The County Forest Management Plan and any amendments or revisions to the Management Plan shall be reviewed by the Forest Advisory Committee prior to being submitted to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval.
- d. Revenue derived from the sale of county forest products shall be a resource to the County General Fund.
- e. Sale of county forest products shall comply with established county bid procedures or the Oregon Revised Statutes. A request for a contract extension shall be in accordance with the contract or considered on the basis of guidelines set forth in the Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners.†

The Forestry Department may request and receive written and oral bids for county forest timber sales. The Board of Commissioners shall award all contracts for County Forest timber sales; except, the Forestry Department may negotiate and sell County Forest timber sales with a value of less than \$5,000 and waive bid requirements for County Forest timber sales with a value of less than \$5,000 (ORS 275.340).

Revenue derived from forest products, which are sold for future fiscal years, but which are removed prior to those fiscal years, shall be placed in the Timber Deposit Fund and used for budgeting purposes in the fiscal years that the forest products were scheduled for removal.

- f. Revenue from timber sales are placed in the Timber Deposit Fund. Interest earnings from the Timber Deposit Fund shall accumulate in a Timber Deposit Interest Fund, which is managed by the Budget & Finance Director, and each year the Budget Committee may transfer interest earnings from the Timber Deposit Interest Fund to the County General Fund. The amount of the transfer will depend upon average interest earnings.
 - g. Roads designated as county forest roads shall be kept open for use by the general public; except any closures necessary due to weather, hazardous road conditions or fire danger shall comply with provisions of the
-

Ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners. A use or maintenance fee may be assessed on non-dedicated county forest roads in accordance with provisions of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Roads and logging spurs built for removal of forest products may be closed in cooperation with adjacent landowners and compliance with Oregon Forest Practices Act.

- h. The Forestry Department may issue personal use permits for removal of firewood, plants, or other natural resources to the general public from County Forest land. The County Forest land on which removals of natural resources is allowed shall be as designated by the Forest Manager. The Forest Manager may impose rules and regulations that are deemed necessary. The Board of Commissioners shall establish the permit fee for removing natural resources.
- i. It is recognized that forest emergencies could develop as a result of fire, insects, wind and other natural or unplanned events. Therefore, effective July 1, 1985, five percent of the revenue derived in each fiscal year from the allowable cut and other forest revenues, up to \$75,000 (revised 2/20/96) per fiscal year, shall be placed into a Forest Emergency Fund and used only in the event of a forest emergency. When the Forest Emergency Fund exceeds \$1,000,000.00 the amount placed in the Forest Emergency Fund may be reduced to \$50,000 each fiscal year. Funds shall accrue until a maximum of \$2,000,000.00 is in the Forest Emergency Fund. Interest from the Forest Emergency Fund shall be credited to the County General Fund and may be used during any budget year for General Fund purposes.
- j. After receiving input from the Forestry Department, Forest Advisory Committee or other interested agencies the Board of Commissioners may declare a county forest emergency. When a forest emergency is declared, the funds accumulated in the Forest Emergency Fund shall be used at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners to offset the financial impact of the forest emergency.
- k. Land exchanges shall be in accordance with Hood River County Ordinance No. 271, or subsequent Ordinances prescribing exchanges of county forestland.
- l. Procedures and regulations for parties installing water lines that cross County Forest land shall be in accordance with provisions of the Ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
- m. The Forestry Department will review all federal and state laws and rules applicable to forestry and forest management and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

- n. It is recognized that conferences, meetings and schools will be held that pertain to established or reviewing regional natural resources policy that may require elected officials to attend. A member of the Board of Commissioners may attend these meetings as an advocate for local forestry practices.
- o. Requests from other county departments that may have an effect to forest management of the county forest or access to the county forest shall be submitted to the Forestry Department for comment.

TRAIL ORDINANCE

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF REPEALING)
ORDINANCE #251 AND ADOPTING A NEW) ORDINANCE NO. 277
ORDINANCE WHICH MODIFIES THE) (Repeals Ordinance #251)
GUIDELINES FOR FOREST RECREATION)
TRAILS ON COUNTY OWNED LANDS)

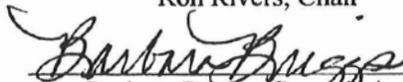
IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, that Hood River County Ordinance No. 251 is repealed and Ordinance # 277 Forest Recreation Trails is hereby adopted into Title 12 Parks & Other Public Places of the existing County Code, as attached.

Adopted this 5th day of March, 2007.

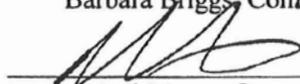
**HOOD RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



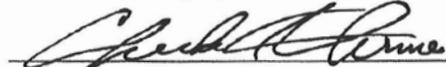
Ron Rivers, Chair



Barbara Briggs, Commissioner



Maui Meyer, Commissioner



Chuck Thomsen, Commissioner



Les Perkins, Commissioner

Title 12

PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES

Chapters:

- 12.04 County Parks Designated**
- 12.08 Park and Recreation Area Use Regulations**
- 12.10 Forest Recreation Trails**
- 12.12 Water Lines through Forest Areas**

Chapter 12.10
FOREST RECREATION TRAILS

- 12.10.010 Policy**
- 12.10.020 Composition of trails system**
- 12.10.030 Criteria for establishing trails**
- 12.10.040 Information to be considered**
- 12.10.050 Selection of locations for trails**
- 12.10.060 Hood River County Forestry Department duties and powers**
- 12.10.070 Recreation Trail Committee**
- 12.10.080 Injunctive relief for violation of HRC 12.10**
- 12.10.090 Civil penalties**

- 12.10.010 Policy**

A. Hood River County's primary purpose in owning and managing Hood River County forest lands is for the production and sale of timber. No provision in this Chapter shall be interpreted to the contrary, and no activity authorized by this Chapter shall be allowed to limit the County's ability to manage its forest. However, in order to provide for an ever-increasing public demand for outdoor recreation; and in order to manage public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of, the open-air, outdoor areas of Hood River County, trails should be established both near the populated areas of this County and within, adjacent to or connecting highly scenic areas more remotely located.

B. The purpose of this Chapter is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by:

- 1. Instituting a system of Forest Recreation Trails in this County,
- 2. Assigning to the trails within the system appropriate designations according to user

group, volume of traffic, or other appropriate classification,

3. Establishing management authority and processes, and

4. Prescribing the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

12.10.020 Composition of trails system; establishment of markers

The system of Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails shall be composed of trails established as provided in this Chapter. The Hood River County Board of Commissioners, in consultation with appropriate federal, state and local governmental agencies and public and private organizations shall adopt the trail marker system which conforms to the marker system established by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, under ORS 390.959.

12.10.030 Criteria for establishing trails; location; statutes authorizing trails for motorized vehicles unaffected

A. Upon finding that such trails will meet the criteria established in this Chapter the Board of Commissioners may establish and designate Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails:

1. Over lands owned by Hood River County, by the federal government, state government, municipality or other local governmental body, with the consent of the federal agency, state agency, municipality or other local governmental body having jurisdiction over the lands involved; or,

2. Over lands owned by private persons, in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in this Chapter.

B. In establishing such trails, the County shall designate the primary kind of trail it is to be, based upon the mode or modes of travel to be

permitted on such trail, including one or more of the following:

1. Footpaths
2. Horseback riding trails
3. Bicycle trails
4. Trails for off road vehicles, including motorcycles, 3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, ATVs and snowmobiles.
5. Ski trails.

12.10.040 Information to be considered

A. Hood River County Board of Commissioners may establish Forest Recreation Trails in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Emphasis shall be given to the development of trails across public lands.
2. No trails shall cross private land occupied by a residential dwelling, upon which a residential dwelling is under construction, or within 300 feet of such residential dwelling, without the written consent of the owner.
3. Trails shall be selected to minimize the adverse effects on adjacent landowners or users and their operations.
4. Development and management of trails shall be designed to harmonize with any established use plan that is compatible with the purposes of this Chapter, except to the extent that any such plan may conflict with the operations of the county forest.

B. Before establishing a trail, the County should consider the following information:

1. The proposed route of such trail (including maps and illustrations) and the recommended mode or modes of travel to be permitted thereon;

2. The characteristics that, in the judgment of the Forestry Department, make the proposed trail suitable as a County Forest Recreation Trail;

3. The current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;

4. The estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interest in lands, if any;

5. The plans for developing and maintaining the trail and the cost thereof;

6. Any anticipated problems of policing the use of such trail and any anticipated hazards to the use of any privately owned lands adjacent to such trail; and,

7. The extent to which the County or public and private organizations might reasonably be expected to participate in acquiring the necessary lands, trail construction and in the administration thereof.

12.10.050 Selection of locations for trails

A. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall select the locations for trails designated as County Forest Recreation Trails. Such trail locations and structures related thereto shall be designed and so located as to protect natural resource conditions, water, fish and wildlife, scenic and historic features, and any primitive character of the trail area; and to provide reasonable public access.

B. Notwithstanding subsection (A) of this section, it is recognized that in many instances (especially in areas near residences and for some types of trails across or near private land) it may be advisable to locate segments of trails in or near existing rights-of-way for roads, highways, public utilities or telecommunications utilities; and it is recognized that trails may on occasion be located, or from time to time relocated, through, or adjacent to, lands used for private or County timber management practices (including

logging), agriculture, commercial or industrial operations and that such location or relocation of a trail, of itself, shall not impose any limitation upon an otherwise lawful use of the adjacent private land except to the extent of the terms of any agreement with the private landowner as provided in this Chapter and except as may be provided by any zoning ordinance, law or regulation.

C. The location and width of a County Forest Recreation Trail across federal or state lands under the jurisdiction of a federal or state agency shall be by mutual agreement between that agency and the County.

D. In selecting locations for new trails, and rerouting or closing existing trails, the Hood River County Forestry Department shall seek the input of local governments, private organizations and landowners impacted thereby, as well as concerned trail users through the County Forest Recreation Trail Committee. Approval for the construction of any structure, such as a restroom or other building must be obtained through the County Planning Department under current law. Planning Department approval will be sought as well for the construction of a new trail, or the relocation of an existing trail, as well as the construction of trail amenities such as parking areas, and information kiosks. Planning Department approval will not be necessary in connection with the decommissioning of a trail or with trail signage.

12.10.060 Hood River County Forestry Department duties and powers

A. Within the exterior boundaries of areas designated as locations for a County Forest Recreation Trail, the Forestry Department may:

1. Enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, federal agencies, other state agencies, local governments, private organizations and individuals, in order to

provide for the development, operation, maintenance, location and relocation of the forest trail; where the forest trail crosses commercial forest land, such agreement shall make reasonable provision for temporary relocation reasonably required for commercial forest management; and

2. Subject to limitations set forth in this Chapter, acquire lands or interests in lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds or exchange, or with funds obtained from grants.

B. Subject to the limitations set forth in ORS 275.320 - 370, the County, in the exercise of its exchange authority, may accept title to any non-County-owned property upon which a trail is located, and in exchange therefore it may convey to the grantor of such property any County-owned property under its jurisdiction and which it classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal, or if they are not approximately equal the values shall be to the advantage of the County as the circumstances require.

C. If lands upon which a County Forest Recreation Trail is located are outside the exterior boundaries of state or federally administered areas, the County shall attempt, and any local governments involved shall be encouraged, to enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, local government, private organizations, and individuals in order to develop, administer, and maintain the trails, and to acquire, develop, and administer such lands or interests therein. However:

1. If the County or local governments fail or are unable to enter into such agreements or to acquire such lands or interests therein within one year after the selection of the location, the County may acquire private lands or interests therein by donation, exchange, or purchase with

donated or appropriated funds, and may develop and administer such lands or interests therein.

2. Exchanges shall be governed by the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

D. County Forest Recreation Trails shall be administered, protected, developed and maintained by the Hood River County Forestry Department, or as provided under subsection (1)(a) of this section, to retain their natural, scenic and historic features, and so as to minimize adverse impacts on water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources. The County Forest Manager shall make the determination as to whether such criteria are met. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, the use of motorized vehicles by the general public along any such County Forest Recreation Trail is prohibited. However, the County shall authorize the use of motorized vehicles when, in its judgment, such vehicles are necessary to meet emergencies, trail construction and maintenance needs or to enable adjacent landowners or land users to have reasonable access to their lands or timber rights. The fact that private lands are included in a County Forest Recreation Trail by cooperative agreement of a landowner does not preclude the owner of such lands or agents of the owner from using motorized vehicles on or across such trails or adjacent lands from time to time in accordance with such agreement. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, the state laws, rules and regulations applicable to lands or areas included in any County Forest Recreation Trail shall continue to apply. Nothing in this Chapter prohibits the use of public roads existing on private lands, which may cross or traverse portions of the trail, nor shall this Chapter prevent trails from crossing such roads.

E. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall endeavor to induce agreements with appropriate state and federal agencies to provide for youth work and

correction crew projects to assist in the construction and maintenance of trails that are part of the County Forest Recreation Trails system.

F. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall endeavor, when it considers such to be appropriate, to develop and enhance the educational values and opportunities of County Forest Recreation Trails; and in this connection it shall cooperate with schools, educators and other interested persons or groups in developing and utilizing techniques and materials to demonstrate to and inform the trail-using public of various scenic, forest resource and natural features visible along or from such trails (including geological, botanical, historical, zoological and similar features).

G. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall place and endeavor to maintain signs at such places as it considers appropriate along County Forest Recreation Trails advising users of the Oregon laws of criminal trespass and encouraging users to protect the trails and the rights and property of adjacent landowners.

H. The County, with the concurrence of any federal or state agency administering lands through which a County Forest Recreation Trail passes, and after consultation with the local governments, private organizations and landowners which the County knows or believes to be concerned, and the County Forest Recreational Trail Committee, may adopt rules that may be revised from time to time governing protection, management, use, development and administration of a County Forest Recreation Trail.

I. The County shall have the authority to close trails during periods of high fire danger. The County shall also have the authority to close, relocate or redesign trails or trail structures such as bridges and culverts, as it

deems necessary to protect the safety of the public and other natural resources.

J. Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS chapter 477, forest land on which a fire exists that was caused by a person using, for recreational purposes, a trail established pursuant to this Chapter, shall not be considered an operation area as defined by ORS 477.001, if the fire did not start within an operation.

12.10.070 County Forest Recreation Trail Committee

There shall be established, pursuant to guidelines established within the County Administrative Code, a County Forest Recreation Trail Committee. Said committee shall consist of a representative cross section of user groups, one or more members of the public at large, and one member from the County Forest Advisory Committee. The committee shall be involved in the creation, review and amendment of a Forest Recreation Trail management plan, and development of trail system plans; the creation, review and amendment of a Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan, and the creation of a Trail System Master Plan. The committee shall serve generally as liaison between the public and the Forestry Department.

12.10.080 Injunctive relief for violation of HRC 12.10

Hood River County has power to obtain injunctions against violations of any provision of, any rules and regulations adopted, or agreements made under this Chapter.

12.10.090 Civil penalties

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter or any rule, order or permit adopted or issued hereunder shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount to be determined by the County Forest Manager of not more than \$1,000 per day of violation.

TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Hood River County – Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan

1.	Introduction	p.2
2.	Definitions	p.2
3.	Existing Trail Inventory Procedure	p.3
4.	Construction and Adoption Procedure for New and Existing Trails	p.4
5.	Trail Management Issues	p.5
6.	Trail Numbering, Naming and Signage	p.6
7.	Standards for Trail Construction	p.6
8.	Memorandums of Understanding	p.6
9.	Amendments to Plan	p.7

1. Introduction

This Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan is created pursuant to Hood River County Ordinance, Chapter 12.10 and recognizes that the primary purpose for the Hood River County Forest is the production and sale of timber. No activity authorized by this Plan, which limits the County's ability to manage its forest, shall be allowed. This Plan encourages ongoing cooperation between recreation user groups and the Forest Manager to create a symbiotic relationship whereby timber production and forest recreation can co-exist with a safe and positive result for everyone involved.

In order to minimize adverse impacts to water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources, to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding resident and tourist population and in order to promote and manage public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas of Hood River County, trails should be established both near the urban areas of Hood River County and within, adjacent to or connecting highly scenic areas more remotely located. Once these trails are established, recognized by the Hood River County Forest Manager and adopted by the Hood River County Board of Commissioners, this Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan will govern the procedures for 1) establishment of new trails and decommissioning of unwanted trails within the Hood River County Forest, 2) maintenance of approved trails within the Hood River County Forest, 3) the development of signage and user group designations for approved trails within the Hood River County Forest, and 4) procurement of third-party Memorandums of Understanding as necessary for the establishment of such trails.

2. Definitions

"AMA" refers to the American Motorcycle Association;

"Board" refers to the Hood River County Board of Commissioners;

"Committee" refers to the Forest Recreation Trails Committee;

"Forest" refers to the Hood River County Forest;

"Forest Manager" refers to the Hood River County Forest Manager and/or his/her designee;

"IMBA" refers to the International Mountain Bicycling Association;

"Memorandum of Understanding" refers to written cooperative agreements between Hood River County and landowners, federal agencies, other state agencies, local governments, private organizations and individuals, in order to provide for the development, operation, maintenance, location and relocation of forest trails;

"MMTF" refers to man made technical trail features;

"Plan" refers to the Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan;

"Proposal" refers to a New Trail Proposal;

"Trail" refers to a recognized Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail;

"Trail Adopter" refers to the person and/or user group responsible for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of a particular trail and/or system of trails;

"Trail Maintenance Agreement" refers to a written agreement between a Trail Adopter and the Forest Manager whereby a Trail Adopter agrees to take responsibility for the maintenance of a particular Trail(s);

“**Trail Network**” refers to a group of Trails within an identified area such as Post Canyon, Middle Mountain or Fir Mountain;

“**Walk-Thru**” refers to an on site trail analysis by the Forest Manager and the potential adopter(s) as they walk the trail being considered for adoption/construction to discuss construction and maintenance issues, and adoption responsibilities.

3. Existing Trail Inventory Procedure

A. GPS Points, MMTF Photographs and Trail Mapping: The Forest Manager shall collect GPS points for each trail and for every MMTF within every Trail Network in the Forest. Those GPS points shall be recorded on a Forest map indicating the location of each existing trail within the Trail Network. All MMTFs will be photographed and each photograph will be placed in a Trail System Documentation Notebook. Every MMTF location will have a number corresponding to its photograph and will be recorded on a Forest map.

B. Trail Network Walk-Thru: Once the Forest Manager is satisfied that the trail mapping is complete for a particular Trail Network, the Forest Manager shall conduct a Trail Network walk-thru for the purpose of identifying trail maintenance needs, identifying trails that, in the opinion of the Forest Manager, need to be decommissioned and designation of trails or trail sections that need to be re-routed. The Forest Manager shall, within his discretion, consult with agencies affected by the Trail Network including, but not limited to, agencies governing the impact on water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources.

C. Consideration by Committee: The Forest Manager shall present the findings from his walk-thru(s) at a scheduled committee meeting. The Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Forest Manager regarding the execution of trail maintenance, the designation of Trail Adopters, trail user group designations, potential trail re-routes and the decommissioning of trails.

D. Designation of Trail Adopter(s): The Forest Manager shall require that each trail identified on the Trail Network Map be assigned a Trail Adopter who will execute a Trail Maintenance Agreement with the Forest Manager. The Trail Maintenance Agreement shall identify existing trail maintenance needs, trail re-routing needs and a plan for future maintenance of the Trail.

E. Decommissioning by Forestry Department: If the Forest Manger determine that a particular trail/MMTF within an existing Trail Network needs to be decommissioned, the Forest Manager shall be responsible for decommissioning said trail. The Forest Manager may elicit the help of volunteers from recreational user groups to assist in the decommissioning of Trails.

F. Trail Network Adoption by Board and Annual Reporting: The Forest Manager, on an annual basis, shall present amended maps and related documents of the existing Trail System to the Board for formal adoption.

4. Construction and Adoption Procedure for New and Existing Trails (The specific procedures for New and Existing Trail Proposals are found in the 'HRC Forest Recreation Trails Construction and Adoption Procedure for New Trails' flow chart and the 'HRC Forest Recreation Trails Adoption Procedure for Existing Trails' flow chart.)

- A. Submission of New Trail Proposal: Any person or group that wishes to establish a new trail must first submit a trail proposal to the Forest Manager.
- B. Review of New Trail Proposal: New Trail Proposals submitted to the Forest Manager, shall be presented at a Trails Committee meeting by the proponent. The Committee shall determine whether or not the proposal is complete and whether or not it should proceed to the next step. Determinations shall be made by vote of committee members present at the meeting. The next step is for the Forestry Department to submit a letter and copy of the proposal to the HRC Planning Department. Planning will conduct a Land Use Permit review within a reasonable period of time.
- C. Walk-Thru of New Trail: Once the HRC Planning Department completes its review of the proposed new trail location, the Forest Manager will schedule a walk-thru of the trail with the trail proponent. The Committee will be encouraged to attend. The purpose of the walk-thru is so the Forest Manager and other interested parties can see the actual proposed trail and have an opportunity to ask questions, identify issues, and discuss related responsibilities. A yes or no recommendation to proceed will be given to the proponent at the walk-thru.
- D. Approval of New Trail Construction: Trail and/or MMTF construction can proceed if the walk-thru recommendation was yes. The Forestry Department will be notified when construction begins and given an estimate of the completion date.
- E. Final Walk-Thru of New Trail: Trail proponent(s) shall notify the Forest Manager when construction is complete. The Forest Manager shall do a final walk-thru to assure that the trail meets with Proposal specifications. If problems are found to exist, the trail proponent shall make the necessary modifications. New trails will be GPSed and added to the system map. New MMTFs will be photographed and GPSed and added to the system map.
- F. Adoption of New Trails: If after a final walk-thru the Forest Manager is satisfied that the trail meets with the specifications outlined in the Proposal, the Trail Maintenance Agreement will be signed, the Documentation Notebook presented to the Adopter, and an update provided to the Committee.
- G. Final Update on New Trail Progress: The Forestry Department will give an update on the trails construction and adoption progress at the first scheduled Committee meeting after the Trail Maintenance Agreement has been signed.
- H. Adoption of Existing Trails: The procedures for trail adoption for established trails are specified in the 'HRC Forest Recreation Trails Adoption Procedure for Existing Trails'

flowchart. Every trail in existence prior to the adoption of this plan, recognized as a Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail, shall be assigned to a particular person, user group, club or entity to act as Trail Adopter. Each Trail Adopter shall be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of said trail(s) and shall enter into a Trail Maintenance Agreement with the Forest Manager. Trails that fail to become adopted may be decommissioned by the Forest Manager.

5. Trail Management Issues

- A. Unauthorized Trail/MMTF Construction: If it comes to the attention of the Forest Manager that a trail or MMTF is being built without proper approval, the Forest Manager shall make every effort to contact the builder and introduce him to the Trail Construction and Adoption process. If the builder cannot be identified or if the builder refuses to go through the formal process, the Forest Manager may decommission said trail pursuant to Section 5(B) of this Plan. Unauthorized trail/MMTF builders are subject to civil penalties pursuant to Hood River County Ordinance 12.10.080 and 12.10.090.
- B. Decommissioning: If the Forest Manager determines that a trail or MMTF poses an unacceptable environmental threat, is not constructed to acceptable standards, is not being maintained, is incapable of being maintained, or has been constructed illegally, the Forest Manager has the right to decommission that trail by ordering its closure and/or to deconstruct and remove any MMTF that may be present. The Forest Manager may perform the task of deconstructing MMTFs if no one else is to do so. Prior to determining that a trail should be decommissioned, and/or if an MMTF should be deconstructed and removed, the Forest Manager may seek a recommendation from the Committee.
- C. Maintenance, Modification and Alteration: Trail maintenance shall include any work necessary to maintain a trail to specifications outlined in the Trail Maintenance Agreement. In addition, modifications and/or alterations necessary to correct issues that may arise once the trail is adopted and in use shall be considered maintenance for purposes of this section. Modifications/Alterations beyond those which are necessary to maintain the trail to specifications outlined in the Trail Maintenance Agreement shall be considered a New Trail and shall be submitted via Proposal through the New Trail Procedure outlined in Section 4 above unless approved by the Forestry Department. MMTFs may be modified or constructed if approved by the Forestry Department and in certain cases at Forestry's discretion will require approval by the Committee.
- D. Trails Through Harvest Units: The Forest Manager will temporarily close trails that lie within areas designated as Timber Sales one week before harvest operations begin. Some of these trails may be temporarily or permanently rerouted, and in certain cases permanently closed at the discretion of the Forest Manager. These trails may be reopened after harvest operations are complete. Some of these trails may require significant post-harvest maintenance by the Trail Adopter before they are reopened to the public.

- E. General Forest Clean-ups: The Committee shall promote the organization of two general Forest clean-ups each year. The Committee can delegate organization details to user groups, clubs and other available volunteer groups that are interested in taking part in general Forest clean-ups.

6. Trail Numbering, Naming and Signage

- A. Trail Numbering: All trails in the Forest shall adhere to a numbering system designated by the Forest Manager. As new trails are adopted, they shall be numbered sequentially as they are added to the existing Trail network.
- B. Trail Naming: If a trail has a recognized name and/or the Proponent of a new trail would like to assign a name to that trail, such name can be approved by the Forest Manager. The trail Adopter shall be responsible for procuring trail name signs and affixing them at trail-heads according to the specifications of the Forest Manager.
- C. Signage: The Forest Manager shall establish and maintain a sign at each entrance to a Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Network encouraging users to respect the trails, other user groups and the rights of adjacent landowners. Signage shall include information such as trail user group designations and trail difficulty ratings and shall conform to the marker system established by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, under ORS 390.959.

7. Standards for Trail Construction

- A. Trails: All trails will be constructed and maintained according to the standards outlined in IMBA's 'Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack', or AMA's 'Off-Highway Motorcycle & ATV Trails Guidelines for Design, Construction, Maintenance and User Satisfaction' or any other standards that may be adopted by the Forest Manager.
- B. MMTF's: All MMTF's will be built according to the Resort Municipality of Whistler's 'Whistler Trail Standards: Environmental and Technical Trail Features'.
- C. Standards: Copies of all standards adopted by the Forest Manager will be maintained at the County Forestry Department and are available for review by the general public.

8. Memorandums of Understanding

- A. Trails in existence prior to adoption of this Plan: The Forest Manager shall be responsible for notifying private landowners of any trails that encroach upon or cross their land. The Forestry Department may negotiate with private landowners pursuant to Hood River County Ordinance 12.10.060. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Forest Manager shall notify the Committee and the Committee shall make a recommendation regarding decommissioning and/or re-routing of any trail encroachment.

- B. New Trail Proposals: If a New Trail Proposal includes the use of private lands, the trail proponent shall include in his Proposal a plan for a Memorandum of Understanding with the landowner. The Forest Manager may, at his discretion, choose to pursue such an agreement or may deny the Proposal based on the fact that it involves non-County land.

9. Amendments to Plan

Amendments to this Plan may be made through recommendation by the Committee, approval by the Forest Manager and adoption by the Board. All suggested amendments shall be voted on by the Committee and then presented to the Forest Manager for approval. If the amendment is approved by the Forest Manager, it shall be submitted to the Board for formal adoption into the Plan.

TRAIL MASTER PLAN

**Hood River County
Forestry Department**

**Recreation Trail System
Master Plan**



December 2010

*Prepared with technical assistance from the
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
of the National Park Service*

*Adopted by the Hood River County Board of Commissioners on
February 21, 2011*



Hood River County
Forestry Department

Recreation Trail System Master Plan

December 2010



Prepared with technical assistance from:

National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program



The Rivers and Trails mission is to advocate and assist community based conservation action. We build and support partnerships that conserve natural and cultural resources, provide recreational opportunities, and contribute to economic and social well being.

HRC Forestry Department
918 18th Street
Hood River, Oregon 97031
(541) 387-6888

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Hood River County Forestry Department would like to thank the numerous volunteers from our community who have donated hundreds of hours to construct and maintain the trails on Hood River County lands. Without their hard work, the wonderful opportunities on these lands to hike, run and ride would not be possible.

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This planning process would not have been realized without dedicated input from federal, state, local business, private industry, club, and citizen stakeholders including: Hood River County Forestry, Public Works and Planning Departments, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District, Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District, SDS Lumber Company, Longview Timber Company, Hood River County Master Planning Subcommittee, Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Committee, Columbia Gorge Off-Road Association, Back Country Horsemen, Columbia Area Mountain Biking Advocates, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Mountain View Cycles, Discover Bicycles, local businesses, various user group representatives, and citizens.

The Recreation Trail System Master Planning Subcommittee included Jennifer Bisset, Jeff Blackman, Henry Buckalew, Ian Caldwell, Ruth Chausse, Alex Dixon, Brent Gleason, Ken Hansen, Rick Higgins, Douglas Johnson, Jordan Kim, Karl Mikkelson, Dan Miller, Randy Peterson, Jim Skakel, Kevin Slagle, Tim Snyder, Lori Stirn, and Shane Wilson.

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Table of Contents

Abbreviations	1
Executive Summary.....	2
Master Plan Development.....	2
Existing Trail System.....	2
Trail Management Zones.....	2
Trail Recommendations.....	2
Vision Statement.....	4
Background	5
Ordinance Number 251	5
Trail System Development Order.....	5
Trail Management Plan	5
Planning Department Involvement.....	6
Master Plan Development.....	6
General Area Description.....	8
Elevation & Climate.....	8
Soils & Geology	8
Botany	8
Hydrology	9
Water Quality	9
Fish & Wildlife	9
The Trail System.....	10
Hood River County Location Map	11
Trail Areas in Hood River County Map	12
Works Cited	13
Trail User Types.....	14
Trail Survey.....	17
Issues	20
Regulations Governing Use.....	20
Primary Use of the Forest.....	20
Trail Design.....	21
Trail Density.....	21
Annual Trail Closures.....	22
Law Enforcement	23
Camping.....	23
Adjoining Landowners.....	24
Volunteer Efforts.....	25
Funding and Assistance.....	25
Soils	26
Invasive Weeds	27

Table of Contents Continued

Oak Woodland Habitat	28
Works Cited	28
General Trail Area Considerations	30
General Objectives	30
General Management Practices for Fish and Wildlife	31
Trail Management Zones	33
Management Zones Map	35
Northwest Trail Area	36
Trail Area Description	36
Recommendations.....	38
Wildlife Considerations.....	40
Northwest Area Recommendations Map.....	42
Middle Mountain Trail Area	43
Trail Area Description	43
Recommendations.....	43
Wildlife Considerations.....	44
Middle Mountain Area Recommendations Map	46
East Trail Area	47
Trail Area Description	47
Recommendations.....	47
Wildlife Considerations.....	48
East Area Recommendations Map.....	50
South Trail Area	51
Trail Area Description	51
Recommendations.....	51
Wildlife Considerations.....	51
Works Cited	52
South Area Recommendations Map.....	53
Appendices.....	54
A; Ordinance No. 251	54
B; HRC - Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan	61
C; Kingsley Reservoir Trail Concepts Map	68
D; Recreation Trail Survey	69

Abbreviations

ATV – All Terrain Vehicle

BPA – Bonneville Power Administration

Class I ATV – Quads - Vehicles that are 50 inches wide or less, 800 pounds or less, have a saddle or seat, and travel on three or four tires

Class II ATV – Four wheel drives (4x4's) – Vehicles that are more than 50 inches wide, or more than 800 pounds

Class III ATV – Motorcycles – Vehicles that travel on two tires, and have a dry weight of less than 600 pounds

FRTC – Forest Recreation Trail Committee

HRC – Hood River County

HRCFD – Hood River County Forestry Department

HRCPD – Hood River County Planning Department

HRCSD – Hood River County Sheriff's Department

LOA – Landowner Agreement

NPS – National Park Service

ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

OPRD – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

RTCAP – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

Executive Summary

Master Plan Development

This document is meant to accompany the Hood River County Trail Management Plan. The Trail System Master Plan is intended to set a vision and direction for recreation trails on County Forest lands. The Plan was developed over the course of three years through a collaborative effort of user groups and land management agencies and was led by the Hood River County Forestry Department (HRCFD). The planning effort received help through a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCAP).

Existing Trail System

Over 160 miles of recreation trails have been inventoried on Hood River County (HRC) lands. Some of these routes run onto adjacent property that is privately owned or owned by other agencies. Until 2003, these trails were unofficial, user-made routes with little or no management from the County. With the formation of the Forest Recreation Trail Committee (FRTC) and the creation of the Trail Management Plan, HRC has begun to take an active interest in the development and management of trails on County land. The trails are primarily used by equestrians, hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, motorcyclers, and all-terrain vehicle riders. Because of the lack of past management, many of the inherited trails were poorly aligned, poorly constructed, and in an unsustainable condition. However, the majority of trails offer excellent recreation opportunities for local residents as well as being a draw for people from the Portland Metro Area and far beyond.

Trail Management Zones

The Trail System Master Planning Subcommittee has recommended the creation of thirteen distinct trail management zones that will help guide the development and management of trails throughout the County's ownership. These zones provide a framework to trail managers and volunteers when making decisions about trail work and trail management. Some zones seek to create equestrian-friendly trails (open to all non-motorized users), others look to create mountain bike opportunities, and some provide for motorized use. Trail management zones are meant to provide guidelines for decision making and are generally not exclusionary to specific users. Overall, the Subcommittee was very clear about their desire to make trails open to as many users as possible. For the detailed list of zones and their descriptions, see the "Trail Management Zones" section on page 33.

Trail Recommendations

For the entire list of trail recommendations, see the "Recommendations" sections on pages 38, 43, 47, and 51. The following lists highlight a few key recommendations but are not meant to be comprehensive or prioritized in any way:

Trail Management

- Expand collaboration with adjacent landowners, including United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and private landowners.
- Acquire voluntary landowner agreements (LOA) for the management of trails and/or purchase of trail easements (from willing sellers) where needed.
 - Establish maximum trail densities in all of the trail areas throughout the County's system.
 - Inventory and analyze (for flow, sustainability, density, etc.) all trails on County lands.
 - Analyze the need for staging/parking areas throughout the trail system.
 - Delineate equestrian-friendly trails.
 - Install signage throughout the trail system.
 - Create and distribute maps of the trail system.
 - Minimize impacts on natural resources and fish and wildlife.

Trail Development

- Explore the feasibility of constructing the Valley Loop Trail (necklace) that would connect the City of Hood River, the Northwest Area, Middle Mountain, and the East Area.
- Create beginner level cross-country routes in Zone 1 that would accommodate non-motorized users such as equestrians, cross-country bicyclers, runners, and hikers.
- Focus free-riding (stunts) in Zone 1 for free-ride bicycle users.
- Create an equestrian-friendly trail system in the north half of Middle Mountain.

Vision Statement

Provide a sustainable system of recreation trails within the HRC Forest Lands that is managed cooperatively by the HRC Forestry Department, all recreation user groups, and trail partners, for the benefit and enjoyment of HRC residents and visitors.

Background

The HRC Forestry Department manages 31,064 acres of land in HRC, primarily for commercial timber production. Four unorganized and previously unmanaged systems of recreational trails were created by users and exist in separate areas of County ownership. They are the Northwest, Middle Mountain, East, and South Areas.

The majority of trails in these areas have been designated for multiple-use. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, the overwhelming majority still remains as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation. Within these areas it is estimated there are 429 miles of these multiple-use routes that include 149 miles of multiple-use trails and 280 miles of forest roads.

Ordinance Number 251

In October 2003, the HRC Board of Commissioners (BOC) adopted Ordinance No. 251; Forest Recreation Trails (Appendix A), incorporated into Title 12, Parks and Other Places, of the existing County Code. The Ordinance stated that the primary purpose in owning and managing the forest lands was for the production and sale of timber and that no provision in the Chapter would be allowed to limit the County's ability to manage its forest. The HRCFD was mandated to develop and manage the system of recreation trails. The Ordinance called for the creation of a Forest Recreation Trail Committee. The Committee is comprised of individuals appointed by the BOC to represent the various user groups that utilize the trail system, one citizen at large, and one member from the Forest Advisory Committee. The FRTC holds monthly meetings at the HRCFD and the meetings are open to the public.

The Ordinance called for the FRTC to develop an HRC Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan which would govern the operations of the trail system. The Ordinance also mandated that a TSMP be created by the FRTC.

Trail System Development Order

Ideally, for efficient trail system development, a Master Plan would have been created first, then a Trail Management Plan, and then construction of a trails network. Because HRC trails already existed when the County passed Ordinance No. 251, this process was not possible. Once the Ordinance was passed in 2003, the FRTC was formed. The Committee had an immediate need for a plan to manage the existing trails, so they worked with HRCFD to develop the Trail Management Plan and finally the TSMP.

Trail Management Plan

The HRC Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan, as adopted by the BOC on October 20, 2003, governs the operations of the trail system within the HRC

Forest. The Management Plan encourages ongoing cooperation between recreation user groups and the Forest Manager to create a relationship whereby timber production and forest recreation can co-exist with a safe and positive result for everyone involved.

The Management Plan (Appendix B) provides specific procedures for taking inventory of existing trails, establishing and adopting new trails, adopting existing trails, performing trail maintenance, creating trail numbering, naming, and signage. It outlines standards for trail construction, establishes a process for obtaining LOAs with private property owners and allows for future amendments to the Plan itself.

Planning Department Involvement

The Hood River County Planning Department (HRCPD) is involved in the approval process for trails infrastructure development. The HRCFD and FRTC approve locations for new trail construction or major reroutes. Ordinance No. 251 states that, "Approval for the construction of any structure, such as a restroom or other building must be obtained through the County Planning Department under current law."

Master Plan Development

The TSMP was developed to assess the existing trail system and make recommendations for its future needs. The Plan reviews the existing conditions, identifies system needs, and how those needs can be satisfied, while protecting natural resources and not adversely affecting HRC's timber harvest program. The Plan addresses the system's history, its present condition, and outlines a vision for the future.

In January of 2007 the NPS partnered with HRCFD through a technical assistance grant from the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program to produce the Master Plan. The Plan is designed to identify needs, and to set objectives and management priorities in order to facilitate the continued co-existence between timber production and forest recreation. A Trail System Master Plan Subcommittee was formed and crafted the Plan over a three-year period. Once a rough draft was completed a Public Open House was held to provide an opportunity for public comment on stipulations of the Master Plan. Changes were made based on those comments and then the final draft of the Plan was adopted by the FRTC.

The NPS worked with HRCFD and the TSMPS to create a non-statistically significant survey that was conducted on the internet. The survey was directed at users of the trail system and the questions addressed; frequency of trail system use, type of use, experience while recreating, and needed improvements. The survey was designed to give the TSMPS general ideas about the trail system's current and future needs. Because the survey was not statistically significant, no decisions were made based on survey results. Actual survey results are in Appendix D. A summary of survey results can be found on pages 17-19.

Each of the four trail areas were divided into Trail Management Zones. A list of the Trail Management Zones and a description of each are listed on page 33. Specific recommendations were made for each area. These recommendations can be found on pages 38, 43, 47, and 51.

General Area Description

Elevation and Climate

Despite it being one of the smallest counties in the state, HRC's elevation and climate vary widely. With the Columbia River forming its northern boundary, the County rises from a low of 51 feet above sea level on the river, to its southern tip on the top of Mt. Hood, at 11,245 feet. Its western boundary lies in the Cascade Range and its eastern boundary is roughly marked by Fir Mountain, Bald Butte and Surveyor's Ridge (Scholl-Erdmann, 2007).

HRC is in a transition area between the temperate marine zone and the semi-arid continental zones. Precipitation ranges from an average of 130 inches per year along the crest of the Cascade Mountains to less than 30 inches along the eastern ridgelines, with most precipitation falling November through March. Snowfall is heavy at high elevations and can reach 30 feet deep at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. The mean annual temperature near the City of Hood River at 510 feet is 52 °F (Coccoli, 2004). Some HRC Forest Land exists in each of these ecoregions.

Soils & Geology

HRC has about 30 different types of soil (US Department of Agriculture, 1981). The County's geology is dominated by the strato-volcanic cone of Mt. Hood formed of lava and pyroclastic flow deposits. Volcanic rock forms ridges and drainages beyond the base of Mt. Hood, and Columbia River basalt is the most widespread rock formation. Pleistocene-era glaciers and Holocene floods have shaped the landscape into steep narrow valleys and terraces of clay, silt, sand, gravel and boulders (PacifiCorp, 1998). The Hood River Valley is separated into an upper and lower valley by the 2,642-foot elevation Middle Mountain. The lower valley is a broad north-sloping bench (Coccoli, 2004). These river valleys are quite fertile with the dominant soil type being sandy loam. The characteristics of each soil type have major implications (erodability, compaction, etc.) for trail construction and maintenance.

Botany

The greatest proportion of land cover in HRC is by conifer forest. Vegetation cover types are variable depending on elevation, longitude, and aspect. Douglas fir dominates the western half of the County, interspersed with western hemlock, red cedar, Pacific silver fir, noble fir, grand fir, and Engelmann spruce. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir stands dominate the eastern half of the valley, interspersed with white pine, tamarack, and hemlock. At lower elevations, Oregon White oak and pine-oak stands are common, especially to the east and on south-facing slopes, with deciduous stands and grasslands on the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

Vegetation and wildlife habitats that once existed in the Hood River Valley have been substantially altered in the last 150 years by human development. The most obvious change from historic conditions is the replacement of conifer

forests with orchards. Although trees are still the dominant vegetation in the valley, trees covering lower elevation lands and the valley floor today are deciduous, uniformly spaced, and planted in single-species monotypes. Timber management and fire suppression have altered the age, species composition, and structure of native forest stands in lower and mid-elevation forests while higher-elevation forest areas remain less altered (Coccoli, 1999).

Hydrology

HRC's hydrology is dominated by the Hood River and its tributaries. The Hood River watershed covers about 340 square miles between Mt. Hood and the Columbia River. The Hood River has 3 main branches - the East Fork, Middle Fork and West Fork. These forks converge on the west side of the Hood River Valley to form the mainstem Hood River, which joins the Columbia River just east of the City of Hood River. The Hood River is a dynamic, glacially-influenced system with steep terrain (Coccoli, 1999).

The South, Middle Mountain and East Areas of HRC encompass many miles of waterways that feed into the Hood River. The Northwest Area largely includes waterways that feed into the Columbia River. In all, there are over 200 miles of mapped waterways crossing land owned by HRC.

Water Quality

Waterways in the Hood River Valley are naturally high gradient streams mostly confined by narrow valleys with seasonal turbidity, frequent landslides, and debris flows caused by glacial melting and other factors. These characteristics create a river system that is very dynamic. Human disturbance throughout the Hood River basin has contributed to fish passage barriers, low in-stream flows, lack of habitat complexity and impaired water quality. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has found many streams in the Hood River watershed to be exceeding state standards for temperature. Others are currently being monitored for concerns related to high temperatures, sediment loading, nutrients, bacteria and toxics (Stampfli, 2008 Update). There are many efforts currently underway both locally and regionally to reduce the input of these pollutants into HRC waterways.

Fish & Wildlife

The Hood River watershed is home to resident and anadromous (ocean-going) fish populations including cutthroat trout, bull trout, rainbow trout, and mountain whitefish. Sea-run cutthroat trout are still present in low numbers. Many of these fish species have dwindled to very low numbers, and several Endangered Species Act listings were made affecting five of the six anadromous populations (spring and fall Chinook, summer and winter Steelhead, and Coho) and one resident species (Bull Trout) (USDA Forest Service, 2006).

Terrestrial wildlife of all sizes are common in HRC including black bears, cougars, bobcats, coyotes, elk, deer, beavers, raccoons, weasels, gophers, squirrels, skunks and turkeys to name just a few. A major ecological

consequence of the conversion of low-elevation conifer forest to orchard and residential environments is the loss of winter range and key structural habitats for wildlife. The construction of utility corridors and human travel corridors (roads, highways, railroads and trails) has resulted in additional fragmentation and disturbance of wildlife habitats. According to the Hood River Watershed Assessment, the combined human travel corridor density is 4.3 miles per square mile, excluding utility lines and unmapped trails (Coccoli, 2004).

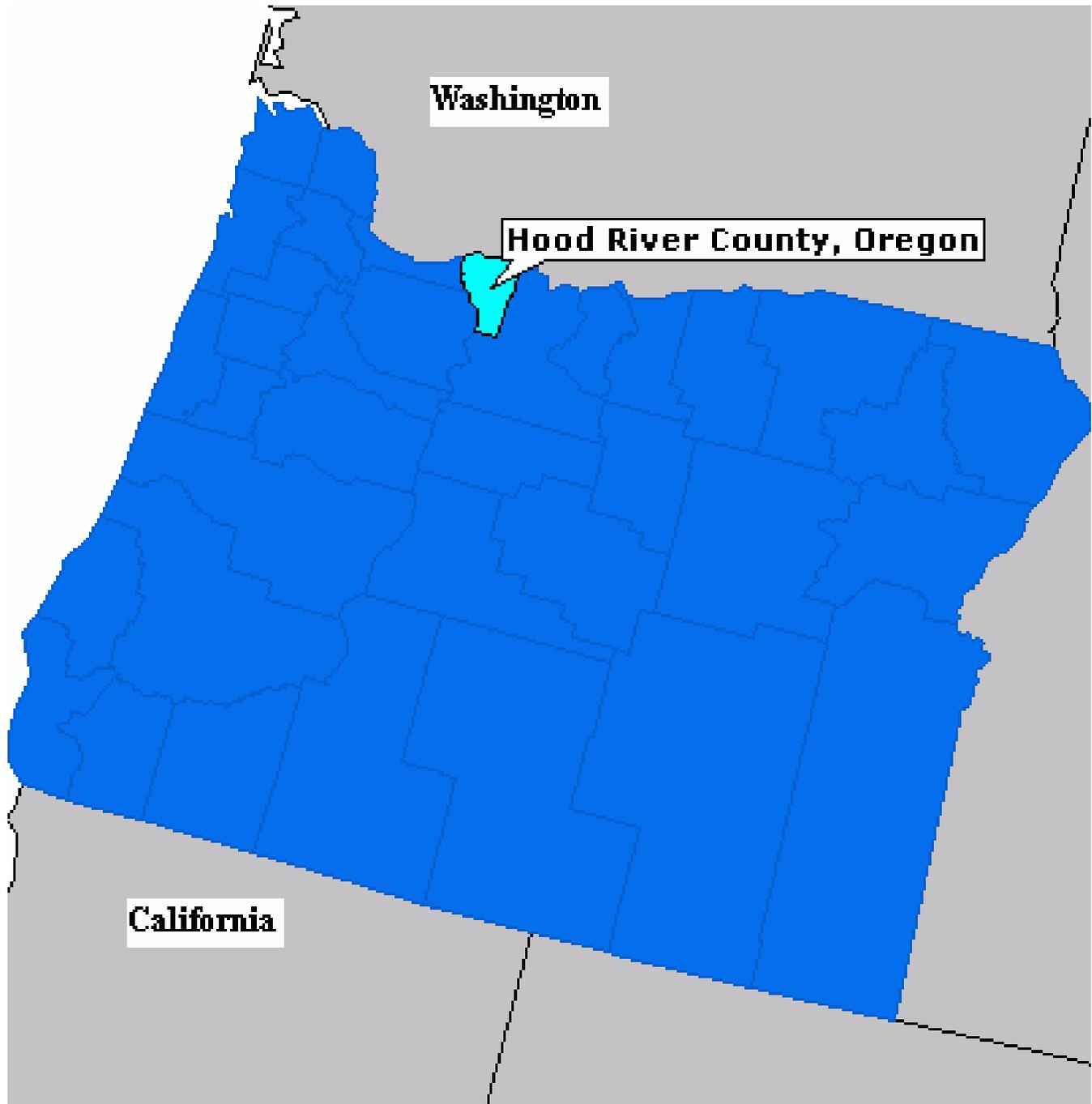
As a result of this loss of habitat in the valley, many species of wildlife have migrated to the conifer forests along the east and west ridges of the valley and on Middle Mountain. Stream corridors with riparian vegetation also provide important wildlife refuge. Remnant forest patches in the lower and upper valley are often fragmented. Vehicle traffic and year-round trail and backcountry recreation has likely affected wildlife species that are intolerant of human activity (Coccoli, 1999).

Timber harvest has increased forage and edge habitat preferred by deer and elk, and in turn has probably increased these populations relative to pre-European settlement, along with cougar, their main predator (Coccoli, 2004). The winter range of large migratory animals like deer and elk in the Hood River Valley is now largely limited to these forested parcels owned by the USDA Forest Service, HRC and private timber companies.

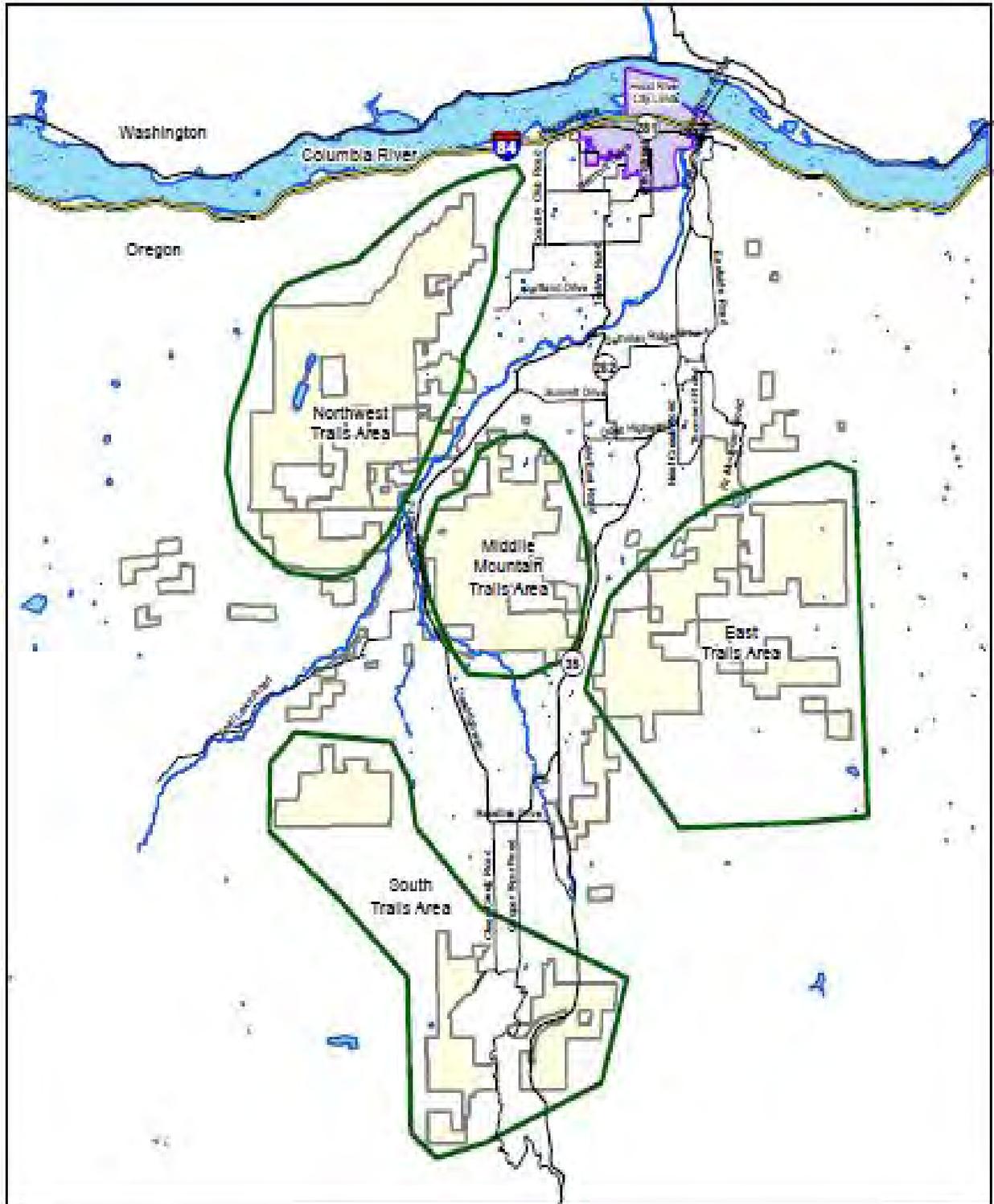
The Trail System

The HRC Forestry Department manages 31,064 acres of land in HRC primarily for commercial timber production. These lands are also managed for recreation. Four systems of recreation trails exist in separate areas of County ownership. They are the Northwest, Middle Mountain, East, and South Areas. The majority of trails in these areas are designated for multiple-use. This provides opportunities for various user groups to co-exist on many of the trails at the same time. Within these areas it is estimated that there are 429 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle routes which include 149 miles of multiple-use motorized trails (open to all users) and 280 miles of forest roads.

Hood River County Location Map



Trail Areas in Hood River County



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Trail User Types

There are currently 149 miles of multiple-use trails in HRC. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, most still remain as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation.

Equestrian

Equestrians have been using the local system of trails for decades and were the original developers of many of the routes. Numerous equestrian users currently recreate throughout the County on sanctioned as well as unsanctioned trails and frequently use state and federal lands on both sides of the Columbia Gorge. It is essential that equestrian users continue to have the opportunity to enjoy these various areas to ride. HRC provides a rural setting that is well-suited for the large numbers of horses that exist in the area. This suitability is facilitated by the concentrations of commercial riding establishments found in the Northwest and Middle Mountain Areas. Many equestrian owners have the luxury of accessing public trails from their property while the majority have to trailer to trailhead locations.

Equestrians have a few special requirements: parking areas need to provide large turn-arounds that are capable of accommodating horse trailers; trail corridors need to be brushed back to elevated heights and widths; hitching posts are necessary at strategic locations; and drinking water should be available for horses. In addition, the size and weight of horse and rider require bridges to be engineered to equestrian standards and trails need to be wide enough, firm enough and smooth enough to allow horses to use without injury or danger.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and motorcycles are only allowed on designated roads, during fire season, (except under waiver in the Northwest Area). Fire season is generally from the beginning of July until the end of September. The most appropriate and accessible trails for equestrians may be the ATV and motorcycle designated trails during this time.

Presently, there is only one trail on County property that has been primarily designed for equestrian use. Equestrians are typically comfortable on the same types of trails as those constructed for hikers, trail runners, and cross-country mountain bikers. A system of trails has been planned for the north half of the Middle Mountain Area that will be specifically designed for equestrian use, though open to all non-motorized users. The policies and management of the HRC Trails System will strive to provide access for equestrians as well as other users, while offering each user group opportunities to enjoy diverse, scenic and safe riding experiences.

Mountain Bike

Mountain biking arrived on the Hood River trails in the 1980s and has grown in popularity ever since. Today, it is the most popular trail use in the HRC system. (Over 60% of survey respondents stated their primary mode of use was some type of mountain biking). With its increase in popularity, mountain biking has become more diverse. This Plan uses three classifications of mountain biking: cross-country, free-riding, and down-hill/shuttle riding. It should be noted that the lines between the three types of riding are often blurred with many riders doing more than one type in any given ride.

Cross-Country Riding

Cross-country is a riding type that involves equal amounts of climbing and descending with challenges on the trail but not nearly to the extent of free-riding. Challenges are usually not man-made. Cross-country riding is the most popular of the three types of mountain biking on HRC lands (just over 44% of survey respondents). However, there are less than 15 miles of trails that are “geared” towards this type of trail use. In both the survey and through the planning process, there was a clearly demonstrated need for more cross-country trails (especially easier routes) particularly in Zone 1. This is based on the number of survey respondents who stated they were cross-country mountain bikers and who primarily rode in Zone 1.

Down-hill/Shuttle Riding

Down-hill/shuttle riding usually involves cars or trucks shuttling bicycles and riders up to trails at higher elevations. This allows riders to minimize the amount of climbing and maximize the amount of descending. Down-hillers often have heavy bikes that handle well at high speeds and that are designed to absorb large drops. Because of the terrain, there are not many places on County lands where riders can be shuttled. The few places that exist are heavily used. Based on survey responses, down-hill/shuttle riding accounts for 31.5% of mountain bikers in the HRC trail system.

Free-Riding

Free-riding is the newest of the three types of mountain biking. Free-riders enjoy stunts and challenges of various levels, many of which are man-made such as ladders, teeter-tots, and tight bridges. The tread of a trail may be entirely fabricated and elevated off the ground. For most free-riders, the challenges and accompanying adrenalin rushes are the most important parts of a ride.

Official, sanctioned free-riding areas are rare and besides Black Rock (Falls City, OR), there are no larger formalized places for this type of mountain biking in the region. It should be noted that free-riding is becoming increasingly popular. Through the planning process and online survey, users expressed a desire for more free-riding trails in the

Northwest Area. Twenty-four percent of respondents said they free-ride more than any other type of mountain biking on HRC trails.

Motorcycle (Class III)

A large number of the trails throughout the County are appropriate for motorcycle trail riding. Motorcyclists are fortunate in that many of the routes are single track. These highly valued trails are rare in many OHV areas in Oregon and HRC is fortunate in this regard. Over the years, the total number of trails nationwide that are open to motorcyclists has been reduced. This is particularly true on federal as well as private lands. HRC lands help fill the need for regional motorcycle trail access. About 26% of survey respondents listed motorcycles as their primary means of recreating on trails. Motorcyclists are riding throughout the trail system with the heaviest of concentrations in Zone 2 of the Northwest Area. Many more are also riding in the Middle Mountain and East Areas.

All Terrain Vehicle (Class I)

ATVs are three and four-wheeled motorized vehicles that work well for trail riding. ATVs that are 50 inches wide or less are allowed on ATV designated trails in HRC's trail system. ATV riding takes place predominantly in Zone 2 of the Northwest Area. Some riding is also taking place in the Middle Mountain and East Areas. ATVs require a wider trail surface than the other modes of trail travel. Less than 2% of survey respondents stated their primary use was ATVs. This number seems a bit low and could be due to the lack of an organized ATV club in the area.

4x4 (Class II)

Vehicles greater than 50 inches wide fall into this category. At the present time, the only routes that allow 4x4 use on HRC property are roads that appear on the NW Area OHV Map Guide. HRC is currently working with OPRD and 4x4 users to establish additional routes for their use.

Hiker

While there is no formal hiking group in the area, many people still enjoy walking on trails in the HRC system. Hikers typically use the same trails that equestrians and cross-country mountain bikers do. Unlike many of the other trail user types, hikers do not care as much about the quality of the tread. Many are concerned about the aesthetics of a trail and often walk to a particular destination (waterfall, lake, peak, view, etc.). As a result, most local hikers go to more scenic areas such as those in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and USDA Forest Service trails on or near Mount Hood.

Trail Runner

Unlike hiking, trail runners place a greater emphasis on the trail tread than aesthetics. As a result, the HRC trails are a popular place to trail run. Just under 3% of respondents stated trail running was their primary use of HRC trails. This number seems a bit on the low side which is probably due to the lack of an organized trail running club in the area. Trail runners typically enjoy loop trails and, like cross-country mountain bikers and equestrians, want a smoother tread than down-hill bicyclers or free-riders.

Trail Survey

The HRC Forestry Department administered an online survey to gather input from local, regional and national users of the HRC trail system. The survey was developed with significant assistance from the RTCAP of the NPS. The survey allowed HRCFD an inexpensive way to reach a large number of trail users. Local, regional and national trail clubs were contacted and made aware of the trail survey. From the spring to the fall of 2008, over 900 responses were collected. Although a great effort was made to advertise the survey, it is understood that many trail system users either never received notice that the survey was taking place or did not bother to take the survey. It should also be noted that even though the results from this survey are not statistically significant, the results do provide valuable insights into use of the trails. No planning decisions were made based on survey results. A complete list of questions and results can be found in Appendix D. Below are some highlights from the survey results:

- Roughly 75% of survey respondents had been to the trail system.
- Of those that had been to the trails, 48% were from the Columbia Gorge.
- Nearly half of the survey respondents from outside of the Columbia Gorge were from the Portland/Vancouver Metro Area.
- Trail use is primarily from March through November with the heaviest use from May to July. 23% of the respondents use the trails for winter recreation (cross-country skiing and snowshoeing).
- The overwhelming majority (71%) of trail use was in the Northwest Area (Zones 1 and 2). East Area use was at 18% and the other areas were 6% or less.

Of those survey respondents that had not been to the trail system:

- 91% were from outside of the Columbia Gorge.
- 81.8% said it was important to have trail maps readily available.
- 59.8% stated trailheads should be easy to find.
- 56.5% said that well marked trails were important.
- 70.3% said trails should allow for a variety of skill levels.
- 69.4% stated camping near trails was important.

Of those respondents from outside of the Columbia Gorge who had used the HRC trails:

- Nearly two-thirds found out about the trails by word-of-mouth.
- 87% said their reason for coming to Hood River was for the trails.
- 63% said they stayed for at least one night.
- 27% stated they stayed for four or more nights.

Trail-tourism related expenditures (non-local respondents):

- 53% said they spent \$100 or more while on their last visit to the HRC trail system.
- 16.5% responded that they spent more than \$500 on their most recent visit.
- Nearly 95% of respondents said they spent money on gas and food.

- 29% reported spending money on lodging.
- Nearly half spent money on trail-related goods.
- 40% also went shopping while in Hood River.

Types of trail users who responded to the survey:

- 61.1% were mountain bikers (44% cross-country, 32% down-hill/ shuttle riders, 24% free-riders)
- 26.4% motorcyclists
- 4.4% hikers
- 2.3% trail runners
- 2.1% equestrians
- 1.8% ATV riders

Trail preferences:

- Respondents were evenly split between preferring trail lengths of less than and greater than 15 miles.
- 61% of respondents stated they preferred loop trails while 16% said they liked to car shuttle.
- When asked what amenity or single most important thing about their trail experience was, the majority of survey respondents stated it was the quality of the tread/trail surface.

Trail user's experience:

- 91% of the respondents stated they had a good or excellent time on the trail system. Only 1% stated they had a poor time.
- Only 15% of respondents stated that they had a conflict with another trail user recently. In terms of which user type they had the conflict with, it mirrored the overall trail system usage (outlined above) with the exception of ATVs which accounted for 32% of the conflicts (compared to 1.8% of the use).

Most important future developments:

- 24% of respondents stated that they wanted more free-ride trails in Zone 1 (Notably the majority of these respondents were free-riders).
- 24% requested the development of a loop trail ("Valley Loop Trail") connecting all of the Trail Areas and closed to ATVs.
- 16% said to develop more cross-country trails in Zone 1.

Improvements to the trail system:

- 58% of the responses said to create more long-distance routes.
- 44% requested improved trail signage and maps.
- 28% requested an increase in the number of stunts (Most of these respondents were free-riders).
- 26% requested better maintenance of trails.

Management of the trail system:

- 85% of survey respondents said they were aware that the trails were located on lands primarily used for timber production.

- 94% stated that trail recreation and timber production can co-exist to provide a quality trail experience.
- 78% of survey respondents were willing to support a seasonal closure of the trails in the wet season (November-March).
- 81% of respondents were willing to do volunteer work on the trail system with 26% stating that they were already volunteering on the trails.
- When users were asked what they would be willing to purchase (if the monies went back into the trail system), respondents listed trail maps (88%) and t-shirts (59%) as the most supported items.
- 60% of the survey respondents would be willing to buy a trail pass to use the trail system. 75.2% of people preferred an annual pass over a day pass. 93% of respondents who were willing to buy an annual pass said they would pay at least \$10 for the year. 91% of people who would buy a day pass said they would pay at least \$3 for one.

Issues

Regulations Governing Use

The land owned by HRC and managed by the HRCFD is primarily designated for the production and sale of timber. As such, the HRC Forestry Department's use of this land is regulated under HRC Ordinances and the Oregon Forest Practices Act. To manage a successful and legal timber operation, the HRCFD must remain in compliance with the Administrative Rules imposed by the OFPA. The rules apply to all forest operations and activities including harvest, reforestation, road construction and repair, slash disposal, chemical use and stream, lake and wetland protection. Scenic resources along visually sensitive corridors and sensitive resource sites, such as bird nesting and roosting locations, and threatened and endangered species sites are also protected under the rules. The HRC Forestry Department is required to remain in compliance with these rules, and shall not be hindered by recreational use on these lands.

Despite the fact that commercial timber production is the designated land use on this property, recreational trail use and development are regulated under a different set of County rules. The HRC Board of Commissioners adopted the Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan (Appendix B) as the document which governs the day-to-day operations of the trails system within the HRC Forest. In addition to the guidelines established in the Management Plan, trails must also abide by rules governing activities in certain sensitive areas such as riparian corridors of fish-bearing streams (as regulated by HRC Ordinance No. 253, Article 42), the Floodplain zone as designated on the County zoning maps, wetlands (as delineated by the Department of State Lands), the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and within the County road right-of-ways. The HRC Planning and Building Services Department is responsible for enforcement of these regulations unless otherwise noted. County Zoning Ordinances are available for review at www.co.hood-river.or.us.

Primary Use of the Forest

As previously stated, HRC Ordinance No. 251 'Forest Recreation Trails' states, "Hood River County's primary purpose in owning and managing Hood River County forest lands is for the production and sale of timber." The proceeds from these sales are an important source of funding for County services.

One benefit of HRC officially recognizing the recreation trail system is that recreation trail activities are now being coordinated with timber harvest activities. It is now easier to avoid potential conflicts and dangerous situations than in the past. For example, the FRTC is notified once a timber sale is planned for an area. The FRTC is updated on a regular basis until the sale is complete. Trails are temporarily closed while timber sales and other forest management activities are in progress. HRCFD also notifies logging contractors of recreation trails that are close to or within sale boundaries.

Trail Design

The majority of HRC trails were user-created and therefore many were not properly designed or constructed to sustainable standards. The goal of HRC and the FRTC is to have a system of recreation trails that are largely multiple-use, sustainable, and properly designed for the primary user group. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, most still remain as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation. The County strives for a trail system design that disperses users throughout the trail system as opposed to recreating close to staging areas or being concentrated in a minimum number of locations. A properly designed trail system will persuade users to recreate on trails as opposed to roads, thereby increasing safety, maximizing carrying capacity, and increasing enjoyment. Trail numbering, naming, signage, and construction standards and procedures are found in the Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan (Appendix B).

Trail Density

It is common for land management agencies to adopt trail density standards as a means for minimizing adverse impacts on water, fish, wildlife, soils, and other natural resources caused by unregulated trail development. In the late 1990's HRC Forestry Department realized there was an unauthorized proliferation of new trails on County Forest Land. In 2005, once the FRTC had created the Trail Management Plan, an approved procedure was developed that allowed for the construction of additional trails on County property. It was apparent that a trail density standard was needed.

Beginning in 2006 the HRCFD conducted an internet search on trail density and entered into density discussions with land management agencies, the FRTC, and local citizens. During this assessment period, the HRCFD proposed a County-wide trail density standard of 5.5 miles per square mile (quadrangle map section).

In later discussions, the HRCFD was advised by the ODFW to adopt a cumulative trail/road density of 2.0 miles per square mile, similar to that of the USDA Forest Service. HRC Forestry Department realized that if road density was included into a density standard of this type, there would not be room for very many, if any, recreation trails. It was also apparent that including forest roads into the density standard had the potential to cause a reduction in the amount of forest roads currently found on County property, and could adversely inhibit the County's primary priority, its ability to harvest timber. This would be in direct conflict with provisions of Ordinance No. 251. In order to compromise somewhat with ODFW, HRCFD voluntarily reduced their original County-wide trail density proposal of 5.5 miles per square mile, down to 4.5 miles per square mile for the Northwest Area, and down to 4.0 miles of trails per square mile for the Middle Mountain, East, and South Areas.

Additionally, the 4.5 and 4.0 trail miles per square mile will be used as an average over each of the four Trail Areas. This will allow for individual sections to exceed the allowable density as long as the average trail density of all the sections within that Area falls at or below the allowable trail density. For example, there may be individual sections in the Northwest Area that exceed 4.5 miles of trails per section. This is acceptable as long as the average density over the entire Northwest Area falls at or below 4.5 miles per section.

One question that arose while investigating density standards was, "What can be done to reduce trail density if the area already exceeds density standards?" To resolve this issue, HRCFD decided to impose a stipulation for approval of new trail construction proposals. If density in an area is above the allowable standard, then the trail proponent will be required to decommission additional trails at a minimum of 1.5 times the length of the of the proposed trail. This makes it theoretically possible for Areas that are too dense to eventually reach their target density.

Annual Trail Closures

In a typical year, the trail system is used for non-snow related activities during the months of April through November, with the exception of closure due to fire danger. HRCFD typically allows users to utilize the system until they voluntarily stop due to inclement weather. The FRTC is continuing a discussion concerning the temporary closure of weather-sensitive trails during the wet months of the year. Certain weather sensitive trails will experience seasonal closures beginning in the fall of 2010.

Annually during the summer months Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) imposes a 'Regulated Use Closure' on non-federal publicly or privately owned land due to extreme fire danger. During this time all motorized use of trails is prohibited. Motorized use is still allowed on 'improved roads' (those designed for passenger car travel) within the designated Trail Areas as long as fire protection equipment is carried by users. Some OHV trail systems in Oregon receive waivers from ODF which allow motorized use during 'Regulated Use Closure'. In 2009 HRCFD received a waiver for the Northwest Area to remain open to motorized use during Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1 and 2 days in Regulated Use Zone MH-4 (Northwest Area). Users were allowed to utilize the trail system an additional three weeks during 2009 (July through September) because of the waiver. In 2008, the 'Regulated Use Closure' due to extreme fire danger was from July 1st to October 3rd.

Some OHV routes are closed to recreational use during certain times of the year. Many of HRC's forest roads are inaccessible to public use because they are isolated behind locked gates. There are some trails that junction with roads which are behind locked gates and they allow access to a few of the closed road systems. A number of gates are locked for most of each year while some are opened seasonally. Gates are locked for various reasons such as; to protect sensitive wildlife habitat, to protect road surfaces during periods of wet weather,

during some timber sales, and to facilitate certain Forestry Department field operations.

Law Enforcement

OHV recreation areas cannot be successfully managed without effective enforcement of rules and regulations and protection of trail system infrastructure. To accomplish these priorities Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) administers the ATV Law Enforcement Grant Program. The program provides annual funding for law enforcement agencies to conduct recreation trail patrols. Funds are also provided for the purchase of motorcycles, ATVs, trucks, and other equipment that help satisfy law enforcement needs.

The HRCFD and the HRC Sheriff's Department (HRCSD) are working together to ensure that development, management, and protection of the trail system infrastructure is successful. This cooperation has presented new opportunities. It is now easy for HRCSD personnel to notify the HRCFD of maintenance needs for the trails or staging areas. The Sheriff's Department also provides a Trails Law Enforcement Update at many of the monthly meetings of the FRTC. Shortly after the first ATV Development Grant funding period began the Forestry Department produced a Search and Rescue Map for the HRCSD. This search and rescue emphasis has enabled the HRCSD to coordinate closely with other local search and rescue organizations. The new map is being distributed to these agencies and all are working with the HRCFD to develop a map that works to better streamline future search and rescue efforts.

Camping

A large majority of trail users enjoy camping in close proximity to the areas they use for recreation. The demand for places to camp on HRC land is on the rise. The HRCFD is investigating ways to provide more camping opportunities without interfering with day-use at staging area locations. HRC staging areas have been designated for day-use only. Visitors with camping needs have three options: 1) Camping is available at Tollbridge Park. It is located off of Highway 35 and is 5.0 miles from the East Area. 2) Camping is available at Tucker Park off of the Dee Highway (Highway 281) about 5 miles from the Northwest Area. 3) Additional camping opportunities exist in the Northwest Area, adjacent to the Kingsley Reservoir Staging Area at Kingsley Reservoir. All three of these camping locations are managed by HRC Parks & Buildings Department.

In order to satisfy this increased need for camping in the future, the HRCFD has long-range plans to submit an ATV grant that will request funding to develop a world-class OHV camping/staging facility at Kingsley Reservoir (Zone 2). It will be available for all users but will be designed with OHV use in mind. The area currently suffers from a lack of funding and poor design. HRC has never had a budget that would adequately fund operations at this location. Preliminary discussions are currently underway with OPRD personnel and all agree that this area has great potential. Plans are to have the camping/staging area professionally redesigned, acquire grant funding, and then proceed with construction. Needs for the area include: camp hosts at both ends of the

reservoir, a minimum of two bathrooms, additional camping sites, and access to potable water. The camping area will have properly posted rules and regulations, camping will be through pay-sites only, trails and roads will be adequately signed, and law enforcement will patrol the area on a regular basis.

Adjoining Landowners

Numerous trails on HRC property run onto adjacent properties not owned by the County. HRC has contacted many of these landowners and discussed recreation trail issues. Many public agency representatives and private landowners meet routinely with HRC during FRTC meetings and have participated in the Trail System Master Planning Subcommittee meetings. It was evident to HRC that many of the adjacent landowners had experienced a proliferation of unauthorized trail building similar to HRC.

The HRCFD has begun working with federal, state, and private landowners to assess existing trail routes and future trail needs in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. In 2008 and 2009 a NPS grant allowed the HRCFD to GPS all recreation routes within the Scenic Area. This initial gathering of data allowed the USDA Forest Service, State of Oregon, and HRC to begin the trails assessment process.

The majority of lands adjacent to HRC land in the East Area are used for timber production with some acreage being leased by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for power line right-of-ways. Historically, private landowners viewed the area as a problem due to unauthorized recreation trail use. The landowners knew that HRC had begun to recognize recreation trails on HRC land and they were not convinced that it was a prudent thing to do. Three years ago the landowners had plans to visit an HRC Board of Commissioners meeting to request closure of all trails on HRC property in the East Area. Since that time the landowners have recognized that management efforts by HRCFD in the Northwest Area have had positive effects. In late 2006 the County began negotiating with these private landowners in order to increase future recreation opportunities in and around the East Area. Discussions with SDS Lumber Company, Longview Timber Company, USDA Forest Service, OPRD, and BPA concerning a multiple-ownership trail system are facilitating the development of LOAs that could allow HRCFD to manage a system of motorized trails that connect with and cross the lands adjacent to HRC's. It is likely that agreement with adjacent landowners will result in many unauthorized trails being decommissioned. The parties recognize that acquisition of grant funding is essential for the success of the project. The cooperative trail system across land owned by various owners will allow future access to all user groups but will be designed and managed for motorized use.

One problem with the proliferation of unauthorized trails is that there is a lack of signage. Most trail users do not know who owns the lands that are being used for recreation. With ATV grant funding and landowner permission, HRC has purchased property boundary markers and is marking boundaries where trails cross onto adjacent lands. User group designation stickers are also to be placed

on the markers. Although this is just an initial effort, most landowners agree that some type of active trail system management should continue into the future.

Volunteer Efforts

Until recently, the entire recreational trail system had been built, supported and maintained by numerous volunteers. Without volunteer participation, the system would not exist nor would it be able to continue. Volunteers have been responsible for building new trails, maintaining existing trails, installing signage and doing seasonal trash clean-ups. Most of the grant funding that the County has received in the past and will receive in the future will require some level of in-kind service match. A large portion of the match will be fulfilled through volunteer efforts. The system cannot survive without the continued participation and support of volunteers.

Funding and Assistance

It is not possible to build a trail system infrastructure, carry out a trail system maintenance program, or be assured of essential law enforcement patrols unless annual funding sources can be secured. At the present time HRC cannot provide funding for recreation trails. Fortunately, the County has been able to acquire monies to satisfy needs for the first four years of system development, management and law enforcement. It is necessary to continually investigate future grant funding sources.

The OPRD administers the ATV Grant Program. The program provides annual funding for motorized trail projects. A percentage of grant funds come from taxes generated from the sale of gasoline in Oregon and a percentage comes from the sale of ATV permits. Grant applications can be submitted once per year for operations and maintenance, and law enforcement, and four times per year for development. The HRCFD administered an ATV Development Grant during 2007-2008 to create a trails system infrastructure for the Northwest Area. A second Development Grant was administered in 2008-2009 to create a motorized staging area and a 10 mile loop trail system in the East Area.

The HRCSD began administering their third ATV Law Enforcement grant on July 1, 2009. These grants provide for law enforcement trail patrols on HRC property and on adjacent lands as long as permission is granted by landowners. This is an effective way to educate users of rules and regulations associated with OHV recreation while protecting the physical components of the trail system.

The NPS has been a valuable source of assistance for trail system development. HRCFD submitted a technical assistance grant through the NPS RTCAP. NPS guided HRC in the development of its TSMP. HRC was able to qualify for NPS end-of-year funds in late 2007. The funds were used to purchase signage for a portion of HRC's non-motorized trails. Because HRC was being assisted through the RTCAP they were allowed to submit a grant application through the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program. The grant was approved and

Provided funds to HRC to make improvements in safety, natural resource protection, and visitor services primarily on non-motorized trails. The grant was administered during 2008-2010.

Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District acquired grant funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for natural resource protection and recreation trail related improvements along a section of Post Canyon Road. HRC and OPRD worked with HRSWCD to administer this grant during 2008 and 2009. Improvements were made to a parking area on OPRD property and to a portion of Post Canyon Road that runs through the middle of the area. Barriers were placed to protect a fish-bearing stream, and reduce erosion on adjacent road-side cut-banks. Drainage improvements were made to the road and parking area and an informational kiosk was installed. The Seven Streams Trail runs adjacent to the staging area, is one of the most heavily used recreation trails in the Northwest Area, and runs onto adjacent HRC property.

OPRD administers the Recreation Trail Program. The program provides funds for non-motorized and motorized trail projects. In 2006 approval was granted to fund the rerouting of a large portion of the Seven Streams Trail on HRC property. This protected the stream environment by placing the trail farther from Post Canyon Creek (fish-bearing) and by reducing the number of creek crossings. The grant also provided for the construction of two new equestrian-friendly bridges. OWEB also contributed grant monies for this project.

In the future, the County plans to add a line item to the HRCFD Budget that specifically addresses the needs of the growing recreation community. Since outdoor recreation has a certain value and is potentially a source of revenue, there is a need for HRC dollars to be available to assist in its support.

Soils

HRC has about 30 different kinds of soil. These soils occur on a wide range of slopes, many of which are quite steep. Knowledge of soils is needed in planning, developing, and maintaining areas used for recreation. Soil types and slopes have been analyzed for their erodability and potential for various uses, including recreation in the *Soil Survey of Hood River County Area*. The risk of soil loss is enhanced with increased slope and lack of vegetation. Additionally, some soil types are more prone to compaction than others. Generally, trails should not be constructed in areas that have limitations such as steep slopes, flood hazard, a seasonal high water table, or low bearing strength. These limitations generally require major soil reclamation, special design, or intensive maintenance.

Design and layout of paths and trails should require little or no cutting or filling. Soil features affecting this use are wetness, flooding during season of use, slope, surface texture, dust, rock outcrop, and number of pebbles, cobbles, or stones on the surface (US Department of Agriculture, 1981).

In keeping with the guidelines for trail construction and maintenance outlined in the HRC Recreation Trail Management Plan (Appendix B), efforts will be made to

minimize development of trails on slopes greater than 20%. Additionally, soil type, soil texture, seasonal flooding and proximity to waterways will be taken into consideration with each new trail developed. These characteristics will also be considered when maintaining, restoring or decommissioning existing trails.

Invasive Weeds

Roads and trails are known to harbor disproportionately more invasive plant species than surrounding habitats (Trombulak, 2000). While vegetation and soil damage can often be reversed after several years, invasive plants are difficult to eradicate once established. Also, while damage to soils and vegetation is often localized, invasive species often spread beyond points of colonization (Rooney, 2005). An additional reason for concern is that the trails addressed in this Master Plan are on HRC land which is actively managed timberland. An outbreak of invasive weeds could be devastating for the growth and establishment of commercial timber. Therefore, the spread of invasive plant species deserves attention as a potential environmental impact associated with trails.

Reducing the threat of invasive species requires identification and understanding of the ways humans facilitate their transport to and establishment in new areas. Many invasive weeds are able to reproduce and spread via seeds and vegetative fragments. Both seeds and plant parts can easily be transported from one area to another via horses, horse feed, bicycles, ATVs, OHVs, shoes, wildlife, wind and water. Trails offer the perfect conditions for weed spread because many, if not all, of these transport vectors use the trails and often visit other areas before traveling on these corridors. In this way, new plants are introduced from outside areas and then quickly spread along recreational trails (USDA Forest Service, 2004).

To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants in the HRC Forest, the following best management practices will be employed in the management of recreational trails.

- An effort will be made to educate trail users on identification of potentially invasive weeds. If a weed is spotted, the HRC Weed and Pest Division will be notified of the weed's location. Detection and eradication of small patches of weeds will be the first approach to preventing infestations.
- The disturbance of desirable native plants along trails, roads, and waterways will be minimized. When trails are built or decommissioned, reestablishing native vegetation will be a part of the Management Plan. Where possible, these sites will be monitored and native plants will be cared for to ensure survival.
- Equestrians will be encouraged to use pellet feeds or certified weed-free hay on the trails in lieu of hay which could contain weed seed.
- Machinery and imported materials used in construction and maintenance of trails should be free of weed seeds. This requires washing of machinery prior to entry and if moved from one site to another. Any imported materials (rock, soil, mulch, etc.) should come from approved weed-free sources.

Oak Woodland Habitat

Oak woodlands are characterized by an open canopy dominated by Oregon white oak. Oak woodlands may also have Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. In general, the under story is relatively open with shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. Oak habitats are maintained through fire, which removes small conifers and maintains a low to moderate shrub cover. In the Hood River Valley, oak woodlands are located at the transition between Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests in the mountains, and the shrub lands or grasslands to the east. Oak habitats are very important to a variety of wildlife and rare plants (Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 2006).

As a result of conifer plantings and changes in fire frequency and intensity, Douglas fir now dominates in many areas once inhabited by oaks. Oregon white oaks are slow-growing and intolerant of shade. Open-canopy, large-diameter trees continue to be lost due to over-shading by conifers, natural causes, intentional removal, and absence of replanting.

The loss of oaks is particularly concerning because oaks provide food and shelter for a great variety of wildlife. Acorn woodpeckers and western gray squirrels feed on the acorns. Birds forage for insects among the variety of lichens and mosses that grow on the large limbs. Mistletoe parasitizes its branches, providing fruit as important winter food for western bluebirds and is a host plant for Nelson's hairstreak (butterfly). Probably the most valuable habitat features of white oak are its dead branches and cavities, which provide safe places for wildlife to rest and raise young. For these reasons, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has identified the Oregon oak woodland as a priority habitat for conservation (Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 2006).

Due to the sensitive nature of wildlife that inhabit oak woodlands, recreational activities in oak woodlands should be restricted to non-motorized use, and in some cases, new trail construction will not be allowed in these habitats. Areas known to have oak woodland habitat include the west side of Middle Mountain and many southeast slopes in the East Area of HRC land. Please see the Area maps and recommendations sections of this Master Plan for more details on specific use restrictions.

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General Trail Area Considerations

General Objectives

The following objectives apply to all trails on HRC land. The primary purpose for the HRC Forest is the production and sale of timber. No activity authorized by this Master Plan shall be allowed to limit the County's ability to manage its forest. Recreation trail development activities will not be allowed to cause a reduction in the number of tree seedlings per acre in units being reforested or a reduction in the merchantable value of trees. All HRC trail system development and management proponents should

- Work with the USDA Forest Service, OPRD and private landowners to use lands that are adjacent to and within the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area for staging, official recognition of trail routes, and installation of signage. Acquire LOAs for the management of trails or purchase of trail easements on private lands. If LOAs are not possible an attempt will be made to re-route trails onto HRC land.
- Establish a maximum trail density of 4.5 miles per square mile in the Northwest Area and 4.0 miles per square mile in the Middle Mountain, East and South Areas (trail density calculations do not include forest road mileage). Work to reduce the amount of trails in sections that currently exceed the maximum. Future trail construction will not be allowed in Areas exceeding the maximum density unless the development proponents propose to decommission a trail or trails in that Area equal to one and a half times the length of the proposed trail or unless the proposed routes are deemed absolutely necessary for the functioning of the trail system. Decommissioning will take place prior to construction.
- Generate a Harvest Plan Report. The report will be a prediction of when certain locations will be logged and can aid in making decisions regarding the most appropriate areas for new trail construction and re-routes. Where possible, new trail construction will be targeted for areas that will not be logged for many years.
- Analyze the need for staging/parking areas and the extent of development required. There will be two levels of development:
 - 1) Primary Level will consist of some or all of the following: a kiosk, graveled parking area, a loading/unloading ramp, perimeter barriers consisting of either fencing or barriers constructed of rocks, and a vault toilet.
 - 2) Secondary Level will consist of some or all of the following: a kiosk, and native surfaced parking area.
- Inventory and analyze routes for flow, sustainability, dead-ends, trail density, and need for loops. Decommission and/or re-route or construct trails where appropriate. Do not exceed the trail density standard established for each Area unless deemed absolutely necessary for the proper functioning of the system.

- Explore the feasibility of constructing a loop trail (“Valley Loop Trail”), connecting the City of Hood River, the Northwest Area, Middle Mountain, and the East Areas of HRC land.
- Install trail signage throughout the system to help users determine their location and trail use designations, and facilitate emergency services operations.
- Create separate motorized and non-motorized maps for the trail system. The maps will show identical ground based features but will be geared towards different types of users. Maps should clearly delineate appropriate use designations, show trailheads, and provide important rules, regulations, and emergency contact information.
- Delineate trails that are appropriate for equestrian use.

General Management Practices for Fish & Wildlife

Generally speaking, certain management practices should be employed in those areas identified as important fish and/or wildlife habitat.

If not constructed properly, roads and trails can become conduits for water and sediment to be carried into natural waterways. In areas where fish-bearing waterways (including intermittent or seasonal drainages) are present, an effort will be made to:

- Eliminate all existing stream fords (crossings without bridges). These crossings will be replaced with alternate routes (not requiring stream crossings) or bridges where the crossing is deemed necessary by the FRTC.
- Avoid constructing new stream crossings.
- Avoid new trail construction within 100 feet of streams.
- Design appropriate drainage structures on approaches to stream crossings to minimize sedimentation.
- Use grade changes of trails to facilitate proper drainage and minimize rutting.

Trail maintenance is a very important component of minimizing impacts to fish and wildlife. As outlined in the Forest Recreation Trails Management Plan (see Appendix B) each trail will be assigned a trail adopter who will maintain the trail in such a way as to “minimize adverse impacts to water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources.” Problem areas will be repaired or decommissioned and restored to natural conditions.

Where sensitive wildlife species and/or habitat exist, an effort will be made to minimize motorized use and keep trails to areas of existing disturbance (i.e. roads or existing trail corridors). Studies have shown that motorized users have a more profound effect on disturbing sensitive species than non-motorized users (Wisdon, Preisler, Cimon, & Johnson, 2004). For this reason, motorized use is especially restricted in areas where sensitive species exist.

Several local and regional agencies and organizations are working to conserve remaining fish and wildlife populations through habitat protection and

restoration projects. In keeping with this effort, this Master Plan sets forth measures for fish and wildlife protection with regards to trail development, use and management on HRC Forest lands. See the trail Area maps and recommendations in this plan for information on specific use restrictions in each Area.

Trail Management Zones

HRC has been divided into 13 separate Trail Management Zones. The majority of trails in each zone are designed and managed for a specific user group. This does not exclude other user groups from recreating on existing trails designated for their use in a Zone and/or possibly building new routes within a zone.

Zone 1:

Open to all non-motorized users with limited opportunities for motorized use on existing motorized routes. The Zone is primarily managed for bicycles.

Zone 2:

Open to all users. The Zone is primarily managed for ATVs.

Zone 3:

Open to all users except ATVs and 4x4's. Minimize trail development due to highly sensitive wildlife habitat. Develop a single track route that will be primarily managed for motorcycles.

Zone 4:

Open to all non-motorized users. Highly sensitive wildlife habitat. The Zone is primarily managed for equestrian use.

Zone 5:

Open to all users. Attempt to limit use to existing roads and trails to protect wildlife habitat. The Zone is primarily managed for motorcycles and ATVs.

Zone 6

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Contains lands owned by various public and private landowners. Work with landowners to investigate future non-motorized opportunities (due to existing Scenic Area management guidelines).

Zone 7:

Open to all users. Multiple private ownerships. The Zone is primarily managed for motorcycles with limited opportunities for ATV use on designated routes.

Zone 8:

Open to all users. Minimize new development. Limit majority of use to existing roads and trails to protect wildlife habitat. The Zone is primarily managed for motorcycles.

Zone 9:

Open to all non-motorized users. The Zone is primarily managed for equestrian and bicycle use.

Zone 10:

Open to all non-motorized users. The Zone is primarily managed for equestrian and bicycle use.

Zone 11:

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Work with OPRD, USDA Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and private landowners to investigate for non-motorized use.

Zone 12:

USDA Forest Service Mount Hood National Forest District ownership. Most routes are open for non-motorized use. Work with USDA Forest Service to investigate future opportunities.

Zone 13:

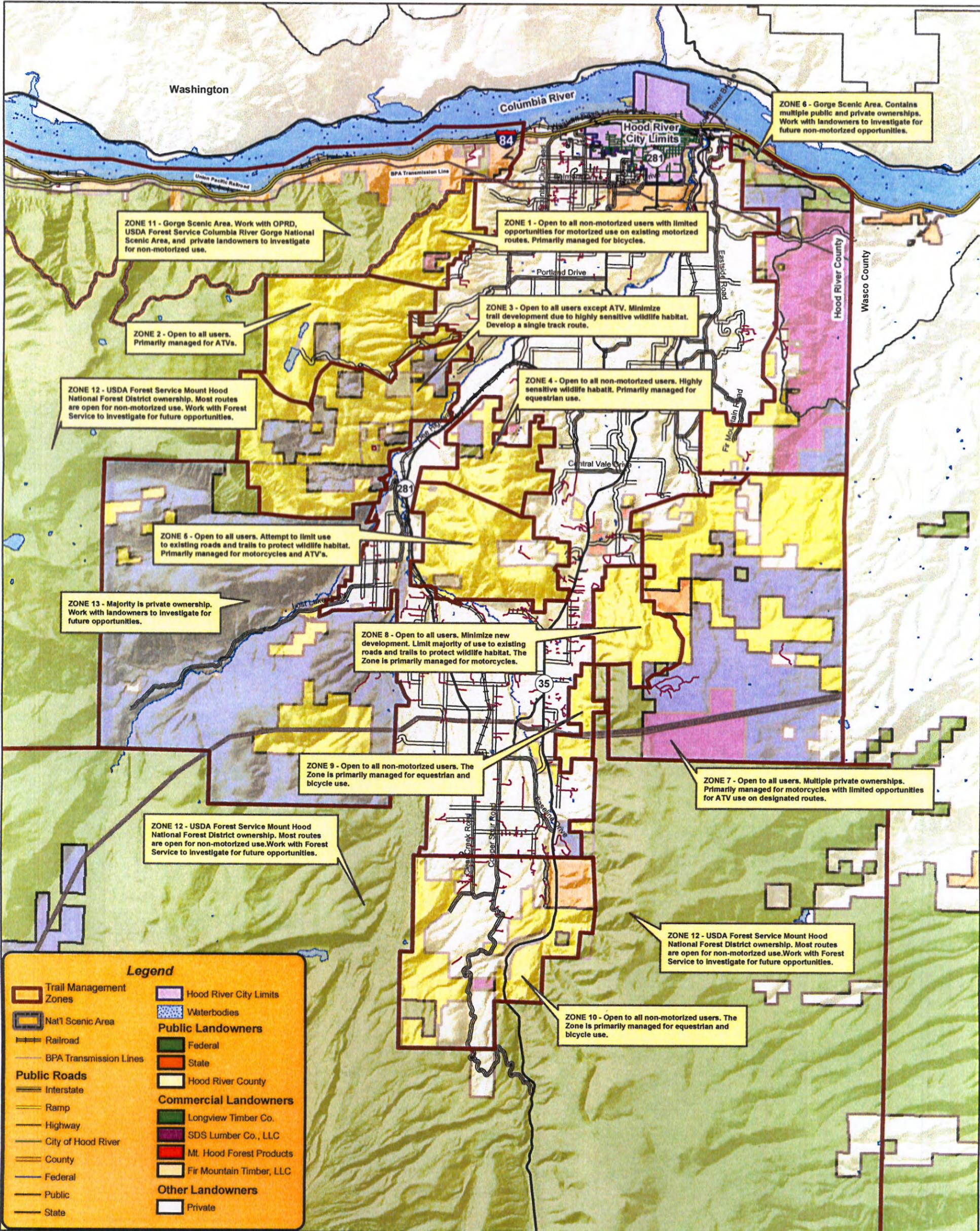
Majority is privately owned land. Work with landowners to investigate future recreation opportunities.

Trails exist on lands adjacent to HRC ownership. These routes are not shown because many have not received authorization for public use. Please do not use trails on other ownerships unless permission is granted by landowners.

The term motorized refers to motorcycles and ATV's (quads). The potential for 4x4 use is being investigated.

Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails Master Plan Trail Management Zones

Trail Management Zones - The majority of trails in each zone are designed and managed for a specific user. This does not exclude other users from using existing trails designated for their use and/or possibly building new routes within the zone.



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Northwest Trail Area

Trail Area Description

The Northwest Area is the most heavily used trail Area in the system. This is mainly due to its close proximity to the City of Hood River. The Area is approximately 10,800 acres in size and contains a system of recreational trails with some running onto adjacent land not owned by the County. Because of its global reputation, its close proximity to the City of Hood River and accessibility to the Portland Metropolitan Area, this trail network is popular with locals and tourists alike. Usage has steadily increased in recent years. The trail system is multiple-use, which includes motorized and non-motorized use. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, most still remain as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation.

Trail Areas have been divided into Trail Management Zones. The Northwest Trail Area is divided into three Zones, (1, 2, and 3). Zone 2 is further divided into Binns Hill, and Kingsley Reservoir.

Zone 1

Zone 1 is primarily used by mountain bikers, although trail runners, hikers and equestrians recreate there as well. Most of the trails are non-motorized though there are a few open to motorcycles and some to ATVs. Many trails originating along lower Post Canyon Road are on private property, have man-made structures on them, and are unofficially maintained by free-riders. Many of these lower Post Canyon trails run across adjacent lands owned by HRC, USDA Forest Service or the State of Oregon. Because formal trails with stunts are hard to find in other parts of the state, free-riders drive from the Portland Metro Area and beyond to ride here. Most of the free-ride trails are very technical and not appropriate for other user groups. Zone 1 is in need of easier to moderate trails for cross-country mountain bikers and equestrians.

Users park and stage at three locations along Post Canyon Road. Parking is available within HRC's right-of-way on Post Canyon Road where the pavement turns into gravel. Volunteers have constructed a kiosk at the location. Trails begin at the west end of the parking area but are on privately owned lands. Official permission has not been granted for public use of these trails. HRC requests that users ride up the gravel road for 1.2 miles until they reach the Seven Streams Trailhead where another parking opportunity exists. This area was improved with OWEB grant funds in late 2008 and early 2009. The road has been widened within the right-of-way and provides room for a small number of vehicles to park. Barriers have been placed along both sides of the road to keep users out of a fish-bearing stream and off of roadside vegetation. A kiosk and trail signage has been installed at this location. Another mile up Post Canyon Road is the Post Flats Staging Area. This facility was developed with OPRD ATV grant funds. A parking area has been constructed on both sides of the road and

a kiosk and trail signage has been installed. Two trailheads are located at the parking area. This location was primarily designed for motorized users but accommodates all user groups. The staging area is big enough for trucks with trailers. It is also a good area for horses during fire season when motorized trail use is prohibited.

Zone 2

This Zone is divided into two parts.

Binns Hill

The east half of Zone 2 is referred to as Binns Hill. This area is primarily used by motorized user groups but has also become popular with down-hill mountain bicyclers because of the existence of a couple of challenging down-hill runs. Area trails are multiple-use and many are utilized for all non-motorized forms of recreation. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, most still remain as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation. The heavily-used Binns Hill Staging Area is located within this region and is accessible by Binns Hill Road. One vault toilet, a kiosk, a loading/unloading ramp, two trailheads, and a beginner riding/training area are situated at this staging area. A practice loop is also located close by. The staging area is big enough for trucks with trailers.

Kingsley Reservoir

The west half of Zone 2 is referred to as Kingsley Reservoir. There is an upper and a lower reservoir in the vicinity. The Kingsley Reservoir Staging Area consists of a large graveled lot for parking and staging with a kiosk, loading/unloading ramp, fenced trailhead access, and one vault toilet. The staging area is located on the northeast side of the upper reservoir. Twenty developed camping sites are situated along the east side of the upper reservoir. These sites are currently managed by the HRC Parks and Recreation Department.

This locale sees the highest concentration of ATV use in all of the Northwest Area. These trails are open to all users but have been primarily designed for ATV use. The majority of trails around the reservoir were user-created and many were never properly connected. This area has the potential to concentrate ATV usage and provide high levels of user satisfaction. Plans for redesigning trail routes in the area to create loop opportunities and construct logical connections are currently underway. The staging area is big enough for trucks with trailers.

Zone 3

Zone 3 has been designated as sensitive wildlife habitat. There are plans to develop one single track route through the area that will begin and end in the Kingsley Reservoir region and have a tangent connection that will link to the Dee/Middle Mountain area. Some of this route may form a portion of the Valley Loop Trail. The route will allow all users except ATVs and 4x4s. Further development in Zone 3 will not be allowed for the protection of wildlife.

Recommendations have been provided for each Trail Area and many are specific to Trail Management Zones.

Recommendations

- **NW1:** Search for additional, existing routes in the Northwest Area that need to be GPSed.
- **NW2:** Develop an ATV route linking the Post Flats Staging Area with the Binns Hill Staging Area separate from the non-motorized arterial. Develop a second route if one does not presently exist, that will link the Binns Hill Staging Area with the Kingsley Reservoir Staging Area.
- **NW3:** HRC Forestry Department will generate a future Harvest Plan Report. It is recommended that new trail construction and re-routes be placed in areas that avoid future harvest operations.
- **NW4:** Work with OPRD to develop trailheads on their property.
- **NW5:** Develop a down-hill bicycle route from the Kingsley Reservoir region to the bottom of Binns Hill Road
- **NW6:** Re-design Kingsley Reservoir into an OHV camping/staging area with grant funding. Include: additional camping sites, design special sites for Camp Hosts, add vault toilets, and add a youth riding/skills training area. Develop vicinity trail loops and additional connections that will accommodate the area's high concentration of OHV use.
- **NW7:** Develop a single-track trail loop in Zone 3 for all users except ATVs and 4x4s that begins and ends in the Kingsley Reservoir region with a tangent connection that links to Dee/Middle Mountain and forms a portion of the Valley Loop Trail. Exclude further development of Zone 3 for the protection of wildlife.
- **NW8:** Develop a stunt-free beginner/intermediate arterial trail from the bottom of Post Canyon Road, through Binns Hill, and into the Kingsley Reservoir region. The route will be designated non-motorized until reaching the east/west section line north of Binns Hill and then open to motorized use toward Kingsley Reservoir.
- **NW9:** Work with the USDA Forest Service, OPRD and private landowners to use lands adjacent to HRC lands (including those within the National Scenic Area), for staging, official recognition of trail routes, installation of signage, and LOAs.
- **NW10:** Delineate free-ride trails that are not appropriate or recommended for other users.
- **NW11:** Develop equestrian parking on HRC and private lands with LOAs.

- **NW12:** Develop an interconnected cross-country bicycle loop system, 8-12 miles long, primarily for beginners but with options for intermediate/advanced riders.
- **NW13:** Construct the Cycle Slot Staging Area (SE of NW 2N-9E-14) at the secondary level of development when the future need arises.
- **NW14:** Install a kiosk along Kingsley Road near the entrance to Kingsley Woods if a need is demonstrated.
- **NW15:** Install picnic tables at Staging Area locations when needed.
- **NW16:** Install perimeter fencing and a loading/unloading ramp at the Post Flats Staging Area with an ATV Development grant during 2010-2011. Install top rock over the pit run rock with future grant funds.
- **NW17:** Construct the 8 Track Staging Area (SE of NW 2N-10E-7) at a secondary level of development if a future need arises.
- **NW18:** Develop a free-ride trail beginning in the Viento Ridge region that would be routed close to the Binns Hill Staging Area and that would end at lower Post Canyon Road. Investigate the need for creating a connecting secondary route that would descend close to the Kingsley Reservoir Staging Area and reconnect into the main motorized trail that links to the Binns Hill Staging Area.
- **NW19:** Explore the feasibility of having a small 'trials' motorcycle play area located near the Binns Hill Staging Area. Attempt to find another suitable spot for this use if the area is not developed.
- **NW20:** Construct the lower Post Canyon Road Staging Area (SW of SW 3N-10E-33) within the existing right-of-way at the primary (restroom, fencing, rocked, etc.) level of development.
- **NW21:** Acquire LOAs for the management of trails or purchase trail easements for the management of trails on private lands.
- **NW22:** Improve existing staging areas around Family Man Skills Complex by creating graveled parking and by installing one to two kiosks. Designate for the secondary level of development. Leave the option open for the installation of vault toilets if a need is demonstrated.
- **NW23:** Develop and expand the Family Man Complex into a 'Skills Training Complex' for all ages.
- **NW24:** Study the area south of Family Man for the development of an 8-12 mile equestrian trail network. Connect to nearby private stables. Designate most of the trails for non-motorized use but design and

manage them for equestrian use. Make 4-6 miles of the network for equestrian and hiker/runner only.

Wildlife Considerations

Zone 1

Zone 1 is the most heavily impacted by recreational use of all HRC Forest land. In spite of the impacts to wildlife habitat, Zone 1 still has some limited use by blacktail deer and other wildlife that are more tolerant of regular, heavy human disturbance (Thompson, 2007). However, those wildlife species that are not able to cope with regular human disturbance such as elk and numerous raptor species are seldom found in this area.

All of the streams in this region are known to support resident rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and sculpin. The following fish-bearing waterways are found in this region:

- Post Canyon Creek: (tributary to the Columbia)
- Phelps Creek: (tributary to the Columbia)
- Ditch Creek: (tributary to the Hood River)
- Headwaters of Indian Creek: (tributary to the Hood River): included on the 303(d) list for exceeding temperature standards and listed for impairments relating to nutrients, bacteria, turbidity and toxics (Coccoli, 1999).

Recommendations

To mitigate for impacts to the streams and habitat in this heavy-use region, trail work will prioritize reducing trail density to 4.5 miles per square mile and decommissioning unsustainable trails.

Zones 2 and 3

Zone 3 and parts of Zone 2 are known to be inhabited by deer, elk, bear, spotted owl and other sensitive species (Thompson, 2007). This area is used for deer fawning and elk calving and is important winter range habitat for big game. Additionally, some stands of Oregon white oak exist in the area to the south of Kingsley Road and are highly valued for the habitat that they provide for sensitive and unique wildlife and plant communities.

The following waterways are found in this region:

- Ditch Creek (tributary to the Hood River)
- Pine Creek: (tributary to the Hood River)
- Dead Point Creek: (tributary to the West Fork Hood River)
- Green Point Creek: (tributary to the West Fork Hood River)

All of these streams are inhabited by resident cutthroat trout, rainbow trout and sculpin. Green Point Creek has been identified as “especially significant” rainbow trout and winter steelhead spawning and rearing grounds (Coccoli, 1999).

Recommendations

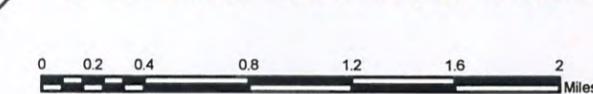
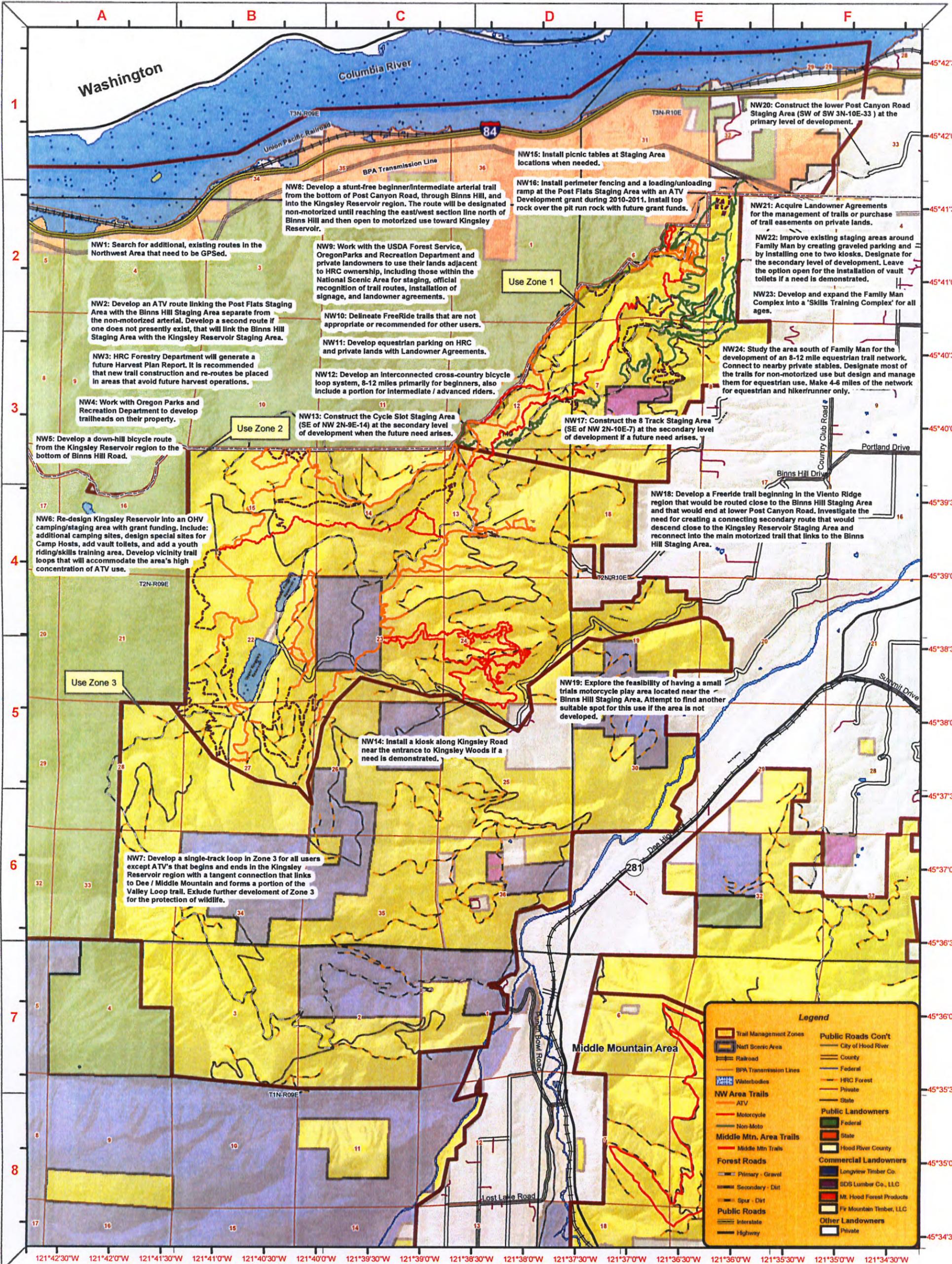
To accommodate the sensitive wildlife habitat in Trail Management Zone 3, only one single-track trail loop will be developed for all users except ATVs and 4x4s. This loop will begin and end in the Kingsley Reservoir region with a tangent connection that links to Dee/Middle Mountain and forms a portion of the Valley Loop Trail. Further development of Zone 3 will be limited for the protection of wildlife.

A maximum trail density of 4.5 miles per square mile will be established in the Northwest Area. Efforts will be made to reduce the amount of trails in sections that currently exceed the maximum. Future trail construction will not be allowed in areas exceeding the maximum density unless the development proponents propose to decommission existing trails that equal to a minimum of one and one half times the length of the new trail or unless the construction of new trails is deemed absolutely necessary for the proper functioning of the system. Decommissioning will take place prior to construction.

Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails Northwest Area Master Plan Recommendations

Trails exist on lands adjacent to HRC ownership. These routes are not shown because many have not received authorization for public use. Please do not use trails on other ownerships unless permission is granted by landowners.

The term motorized refers to motorcycles and ATV's (quads). The potential for 4x4 use is being investigated.



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Middle Mountain Trail Area

Trail Area Description

This Area is the second most heavily used of the four Trail Areas in HRC. It is located in the middle of the Hood River Valley and is accessible by Highway 35 and Dee Highway. It is comprised of 5,319 acres of contiguous HRC land. The majority of these trails were user created and not officially sanctioned. The trails are most popular with motorized users but also receive heavy use by equestrians. An ATV grant-funded project to GPS all trails in the Middle Mountain Area was completed in the summer of 2009.

Trail Areas have been divided into Trail Management Zones. The Middle Mountain Trail Area is divided into two Zones. The majority of trails in each zone are designed and managed for a specific user. This does not exclude other users from using existing trails designated for their use and/or possibly building new routes within the zone. The northern half of Middle Mountain (Zone 4) will be non-motorized and primarily managed for equestrians and wildlife. The southern half (Zone 5) will be multiple-use and primarily managed for motorcycles with ATV use on designated routes. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, most still remain as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation. Middle Mountain is a good location for horses during fire season when motorized trail use is prohibited.

Recommendations have been provided for each Trail Area and many are specific to Trail Management Zones.

Recommendations

- **MM1:** Search for additional, existing routes in the Middle Mountain Area that need to be GPSed. (Zone 4 & 5)
- **MM2:** Explore routes that will form parts of the Valley Loop Trail. One will drop down from the Middle Mountain Area to Dee Highway and connect to trails in the Northwest Area; the other will drop down to Highway 35 from the Middle Mountain Area and connect to the East Area. (Zone 5)
- **MM3:** Sections 6, 7, and 18; limit majority of use to existing roads and trails to protect sensitive wildlife habitat. (Zone 4 & 5)
- **MM4:** Create one non-motorized loop route to go from Zone 4 through Zone 5 and back up to its origin. Design it to equestrian standards. It could be partially used for the Valley Loop Trail and if so, that portion will allow motorized use. Connect to staging areas in Zone 5. (Zone 4 & 5)

- **MM5:** Investigate the Sand Shed for the development of a potential multiple-use staging area. If appropriate, engineer it to better accommodate equestrians. (Zone 5)
- **MM6:** Explore the feasibility of having a 'trial's motorcycle play area located at the Sand Shed Staging Area. (Zone 5)
- **MM7:** Create new equestrian-friendly non-motorized trails in Use Zone 4 that do not exceed density standards. (Zone 4)
- **MM8:** Construct up to a two-acre equestrian staging area at the end of Central Vale Road. Allow room for a turn-around or construct as pull-through parking. Ideally the location should have a water source for horses. (Zone 4)
- **MM9:** Protect existing, sustainable single track trails. Allow user group designations that are appropriate for single track. (Zone 4 & 5)
- **MM10:** Explore the feasibility for the construction of a separate, sustainable free-ride/down-hill trail that will be routed along the tops of ridges and down to one of the staging area locations. (Zone 4 & 5)
- **MM11:** Investigate the "Truck Turn Around" (S½ of NW 1N-10E-16) and adjacent to the "Truck Turn Around" for the potential development of two multiple-use staging area locations. (Zone 5)
- **MM12:** Show the landfill as closed on all maps. Do not allow trails close to the area unless a barrier is erected around the landfill perimeter. If trails are allowed, design them so they don't encourage activity on or adjacent to the landfill. (Zone 5)
- **MM13:** Investigate the Gilhouley Road/Highway 35 junction for the development of a multiple-use staging area primarily designed for motorized users. (Zone 5)

Wildlife Considerations

Most notably, Middle Mountain is the key wildlife corridor between the east and west sides of the Hood River Valley. A wide variety of wildlife including elk, bear, deer, raptors, turkey and bobcat inhabit this area. Many Oregon white oak stands exist on the northwest side of the mountain. Oak woodlands are highly valued for the habitat that they provide for sensitive and unique wildlife and plant communities.

The water resource concern in this area is moderate due to a general lack of streams. However, all of the streams in this area are inhabited by resident cutthroat trout, rainbow trout and sculpin. These streams are flanked by steep and highly erodable land, causing an increased risk of rapid runoff and soil

erosion. Additionally, Middle Mountain is flanked on its south side by the East Fork of the Hood River and by the mainstem Hood River on its west side, both anadromous fish-bearing streams.

The following waterways are found in this region:

- Collins Creek (tributary to the Hood River)
- Birdie Creek (tributary to the Hood River)
- Odell Creek (tributary to the Hood River) Listed for temperature, nutrient, bacteria and turbidity impairments (Coccoli, 1999).

Recommendations

To preserve the use of this area as a wildlife corridor, no motorized use will be permitted in Management Zone 4. This area will be limited to non-motorized users, and will be designed for equestrian use.

Because of the steep terrain, waterways and oak woodland habitat that exists on the north and west sides of Middle Mountain, measures will be taken in sections 6, 7, and 18 to prevent trail development. Attempt to minimize new disturbances by keeping users on existing trails and roads if possible.

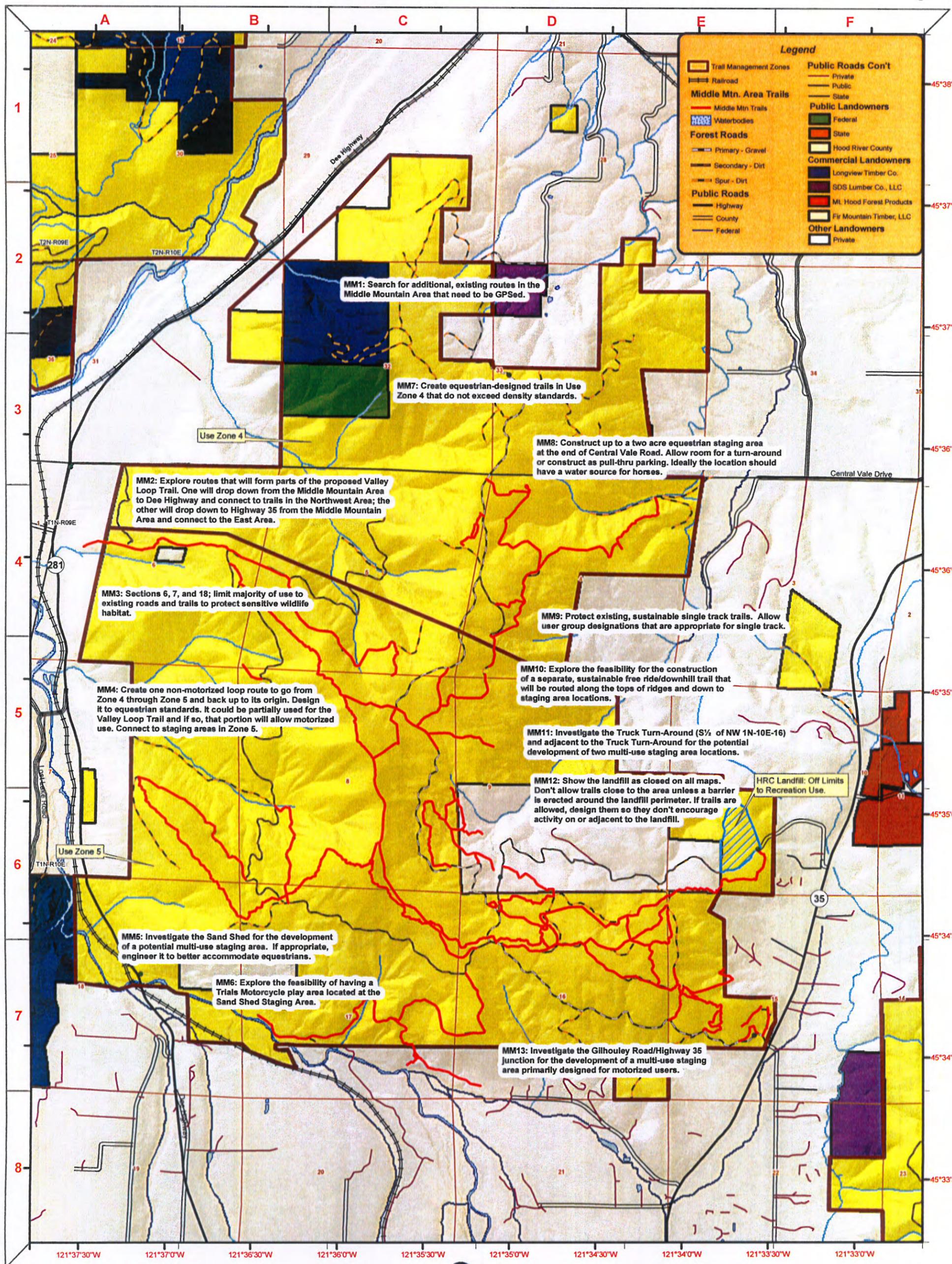
Unsustainable trails will be identified and then restored, relocated or decommissioned.

A maximum trail density of 4.0 miles per square mile will be established. Efforts will be made to reduce the amount of trails in sections that currently exceed the maximum. Future trail construction will not be allowed in areas exceeding the maximum density unless the development proponents propose to decommission existing trails that equal to a minimum of one and one half times the length of the new trail or unless the construction of new trails is deemed absolutely necessary for the proper functioning of the system. Decommissioning will take place prior to construction.

Trails exist on lands adjacent to HRC ownership. These routes are not shown because many have not received authorization for public use. Please do not use trails on other ownerships unless permission is granted by landowners.

The term motorized refers to motorcycles and ATV's (quads). The potential for 4x4 use is being investigated.

Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails Middle Mountain Area Master Plan Recommendations



MM1: Search for additional, existing routes in the Middle Mountain Area that need to be GPSed.

MM7: Create equestrian-designed trails in Use Zone 4 that do not exceed density standards.

MM8: Construct up to a two acre equestrian staging area at the end of Central Vale Road. Allow room for a turn-around or construct as pull-thru parking. Ideally the location should have a water source for horses.

MM2: Explore routes that will form parts of the proposed Valley Loop Trail. One will drop down from the Middle Mountain Area to Dee Highway and connect to trails in the Northwest Area; the other will drop down to Highway 35 from the Middle Mountain Area and connect to the East Area.

MM3: Sections 6, 7, and 18; limit majority of use to existing roads and trails to protect sensitive wildlife habitat.

MM9: Protect existing, sustainable single track trails. Allow user group designations that are appropriate for single track.

MM4: Create one non-motorized loop route to go from Zone 4 through Zone 5 and back up to its origin. Design it to equestrian standards. It could be partially used for the Valley Loop Trail and if so, that portion will allow motorized use. Connect to staging areas in Zone 5.

MM10: Explore the feasibility for the construction of a separate, sustainable free ride/downhill trail that will be routed along the tops of ridges and down to staging area locations.

MM11: Investigate the Truck Turn-Around (S½ of NW 1N-10E-16) and adjacent to the Truck Turn-Around for the potential development of two multi-use staging area locations.

MM12: Show the landfill as closed on all maps. Don't allow trails close to the area unless a barrier is erected around the landfill perimeter. If trails are allowed, design them so they don't encourage activity on or adjacent to the landfill.

HRC Landfill: Off Limits to Recreation Use.

MM5: Investigate the Sand Shed for the development of a potential multi-use staging area. If appropriate, engineer it to better accommodate equestrians.

MM6: Explore the feasibility of having a Trials Motorcycle play area located at the Sand Shed Staging Area.

MM13: Investigate the Gilhouley Road/Highway 35 junction for the development of a multi-use staging area primarily designed for motorized users.

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East Trail Area

Trail Area Description

HRC owns 8,910 acres of property in the East Trail Area. Two ATV grant-funded projects were completed in this Area in 2009; 1) construction of the 10 mile Pinemont Loop trail system and staging area, and 2) completion of a GPS inventory of all existing trails in the East Area, including routes on privately owned parcels.

Additional large tracts of land in the vicinity belong to privately owned, commercial timber companies such as SDS Lumber Company, and Longview Timber Company. A network of unauthorized user-built trails exists on these private ownerships. These trails are most popular with motorized users but are also frequently used by equestrians. At the present time, only trails on HRC property are officially approved for use by the public. The HRCFD is working with the private landowners to create a managed trail system that will allow motorized use through the entire area. These lands have the potential to relieve some of the pressure seen from increasing recreation trail use in the Northwest and Middle Mountain Areas.

Trails in this Area will be primarily designed for motorized users but will be designated as multiple-use. Multiple-use trails allow many of the various user groups to share trails at the same time. Even though the majority of HRC's trails are primarily designed for a specific user group, most still remain as multiple-use and are appropriate for motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation. The East Area is a good area for horses during fire season when motorized trail use is prohibited.

Trail Areas have been divided into Trail Management Zones. The East Trail Area is divided into five Zones. The majority of trails in each zone are designed and managed for a specific user. This does not exclude other users from using existing trails designated for their use and/or possibly building new routes within the zone.

Recommendations have been provided for each Trail Area and many are specific to Trail Management Zones.

Recommendations

- **E1:** Search for additional, existing routes in the East Area that need to be GPSed.
- **E2:** Develop a multiple-use staging area on the 6400 Road where it junctions with the 6000 Road (Husky Road) (S ½ of 1N-11E-5) with grant funding. The staging area will be graveled; will have a wooden fence along part of the boundary, a kiosk, and a loading/unloading ramp. The area will be evaluated for future restroom development.

- **E3:** Evaluate the Pinemont Staging Area for future restroom development and the need for picnic tables.
- **E4:** Continue negotiations to develop a motorized trail system that links property owned by HRC, SDS, Longview Timber Company, and USDA Forest Service. Continue working with BPA to develop a portion of the route along their power line right-of-way. Create loops to connect existing routes on HRC property in 1N-11E-4, 5, 8, 9, and 21. Decommission existing routes on private property (some in Wasco County) that will not be used as part of the completed trail system. Acquire grant funding for system development, annual trail maintenance, and annual law enforcement patrols.
- **E5:** Limit majority of use to existing roads and trails to protect sensitive wildlife habitat.

Wildlife Considerations

Much of the East Area is big game winter range, as well as important summer and transition habitat. The northern end of Fir Mountain is known to be home to a wide variety of wildlife including elk, bear, deer, raptors, and bobcat. Connectivity to Middle Mountain from this area is very important as a corridor for terrestrial wildlife.

There are several noteworthy streams in this Area. All of these streams are inhabited by resident cutthroat trout, rainbow trout and sculpin.

The following waterways are found in this region:

- Baldwin Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River) listed for impairments relating to nutrients, bacteria and turbidity (Coccoli, 1999).
- Graham Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Neal Creek (tributary to the Hood River) included on the 303(d) list for exceeding temperature standards and listed for impairments relating to nutrients, bacteria, turbidity and toxics (Coccoli, 1999).

Neal Creek is known as “especially significant” spawning and rearing grounds for winter steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout (Coccoli, 1999). These fish populations are known to be affected by the creek’s compromised water quality. There is a large, multiple-agency effort to restore fish populations in this stream. No trail development, use or maintenance will interfere with these efforts. Additionally, Coho juveniles have been found in Baldwin Creek indicating that salmonid spawning and rearing may be occurring in this drainage (Coccoli, 1999).

Recommendations

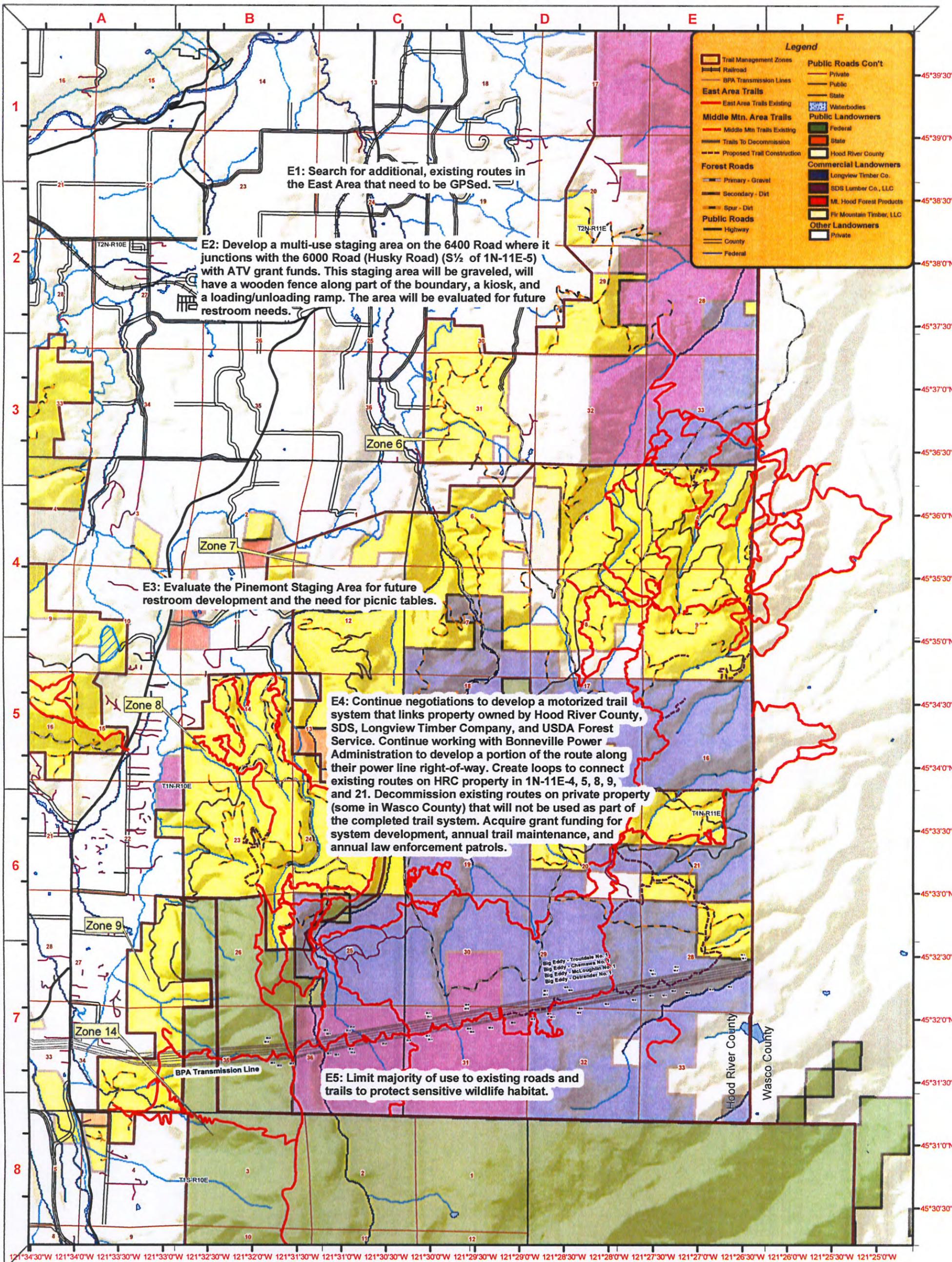
A maximum trail density of 4.0 miles per square mile will be established. Unsustainable trails will be identified and then restored, relocated or decommissioned. Efforts will be made to reduce the amount of trails in sections that currently exceed the maximum. Future trail construction will not be allowed

in Areas exceeding the maximum density unless the development proponents propose to decommission existing trails that equal to a minimum of one and one half times the length of the new trail or unless the construction of new trails is deemed absolutely necessary for the proper functioning of the system. Decommissioning will take place prior to construction.

Trails exist on lands adjacent to HRC ownership. These routes are not shown because many have not received authorization for public use. Please do not use trails on other ownerships unless permission is granted by landowners.

The term motorized refers to motorcycles and ATV's (quads). The potential for 4x4 use is being investigated.

Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails East Area Master Plan Recommendations



E1: Search for additional, existing routes in the East Area that need to be GPSed.

E2: Develop a multi-use staging area on the 6400 Road where it junctions with the 6000 Road (Husky Road) (S½ of 1N-11E-5) with ATV grant funds. This staging area will be graveled, will have a wooden fence along part of the boundary, a kiosk, and a loading/unloading ramp. The area will be evaluated for future restroom needs.

E3: Evaluate the Pinemont Staging Area for future restroom development and the need for picnic tables.

E4: Continue negotiations to develop a motorized trail system that links property owned by Hood River County, SDS, Longview Timber Company, and USDA Forest Service. Continue working with Bonneville Power Administration to develop a portion of the route along their power line right-of-way. Create loops to connect existing routes on HRC property in 1N-11E-4, 5, 8, 9, and 21. Decommission existing routes on private property (some in Wasco County) that will not be used as part of the completed trail system. Acquire grant funding for system development, annual trail maintenance, and annual law enforcement patrols.

E5: Limit majority of use to existing roads and trails to protect sensitive wildlife habitat.

Legend

Trail Management Zones	Public Roads Con't
Railroad	Private
BPA Transmission Lines	Public
East Area Trails	State
East Area Trails Existing	Waterbodies
Middle Mtn. Area Trails	Public Landowners
Middle Mtn Trails Existing	Federal
Trails To Decommission	State
Proposed Trail Construction	Hood River County
Forest Roads	Commercial Landowners
Primary - Gravel	Longview Timber Co.
Secondary - Dirt	SDS Lumber Co., LLC
Spur - Dirt	M. Hood Forest Products
Public Roads	Fir Mountain Timber, LLC
Highway	Other Landowners
County	Private
Federal	

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South Trail Area

Trail Area Description

The HRCFD manages 3,542 acres of land in this Area. HRC land in the South Area is comprised of multiple non-contiguous parcels. In 2009 a grant-funded GPS Trail Inventory project determined that there were not any significant recreation trail routes in the locale. If routes are constructed or discovered in the future, they will be designated for non-motorized use.

Trail Areas have been divided into Trail Management Zones. The majority of trails in each zone are designed and managed for a specific user. This does not exclude other users from using existing trails designated for their use and/or possibly building new routes within the zone.

Recommendations have been provided for each Trail Area and many are specific to Trail Management Zones.

Recommendations

- **S1:** Explore the development of equestrian friendly trails in 1S-9E-13, 18, 24, 25, 36, and in 1S-10E-30.
- **S2:** Explore the feasibility of developing a trailhead/staging area off of Laurence Lake Road in 1S-9E-24.
- **S3:** Designate the South Area for non-motorized use.
- **S4:** Search for additional, existing trail routes in the South Area that can be GPSed.
- **S5:** Explore the possibility of constructing a trail that would come off of the Surveyors Ridge Trail south of Oak Ridge Trail and connect to Highway 35.
- **S6:** Investigate the potential for connecting the Dog River Trail with the end of the secondary dirt road in the SE of 1S-10E-29.

Wildlife Considerations

The South Area is known to be inhabited by a wide range of wildlife including deer, elk, bear, cougar, raptors, bobcat and other sensitive species. Like Middle Mountain, this Area is an important corridor between the east and west sides of the valley for these and other terrestrial wildlife. This corridor and the adjacent Mt. Hood National Forest lands are also utilized for summer range habitat.

There are several noteworthy streams in this Area. All of these streams are inhabited by resident cutthroat trout, rainbow trout and sculpin. This Area is also likely to encompass some of the recharge zone for the Parkdale municipal water supply.

The following waterways are found in this region:

- West Fork Evans Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Evans Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Headwaters to Trout Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River) listed for impairments related to nutrients (Coccoli, 1999).
- Headwaters to Crystal Springs Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Ash Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Tilly Jane Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Dog River (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Puppy Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)
- Cat Creek (tributary to the East Fork Hood River)

Due to the proximity to their headwaters and relative lack of human disturbance in this Area, many of these streams are in very good condition. The Hood River Watershed Action Plan prioritizes the protection of “high quality and productive habitats...that are functioning properly”; most of the streams in this Area fall under this category. Therefore no trail development, use or maintenance will interfere with the condition of these highly functional streams.

Recommendations

No motorized use will be allowed in this Area. A maximum trail density of 4.0 miles per square mile will be established. Unsustainable trails will be identified and then restored, relocated or decommissioned. Efforts will be made to reduce the amount of trails in sections that currently exceed the maximum. Future trail construction will not be allowed in Areas exceeding the maximum density unless the development proponents propose to decommission existing trails that equal to a minimum of one and one half times the length of the new trail or unless the construction of new trails is deemed absolutely necessary for the proper functioning of the system. Decommissioning will take place prior to construction.

Works Cited

Coccoli, H. (1999). Hood River Watershed Assessment. Hood River: Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District.

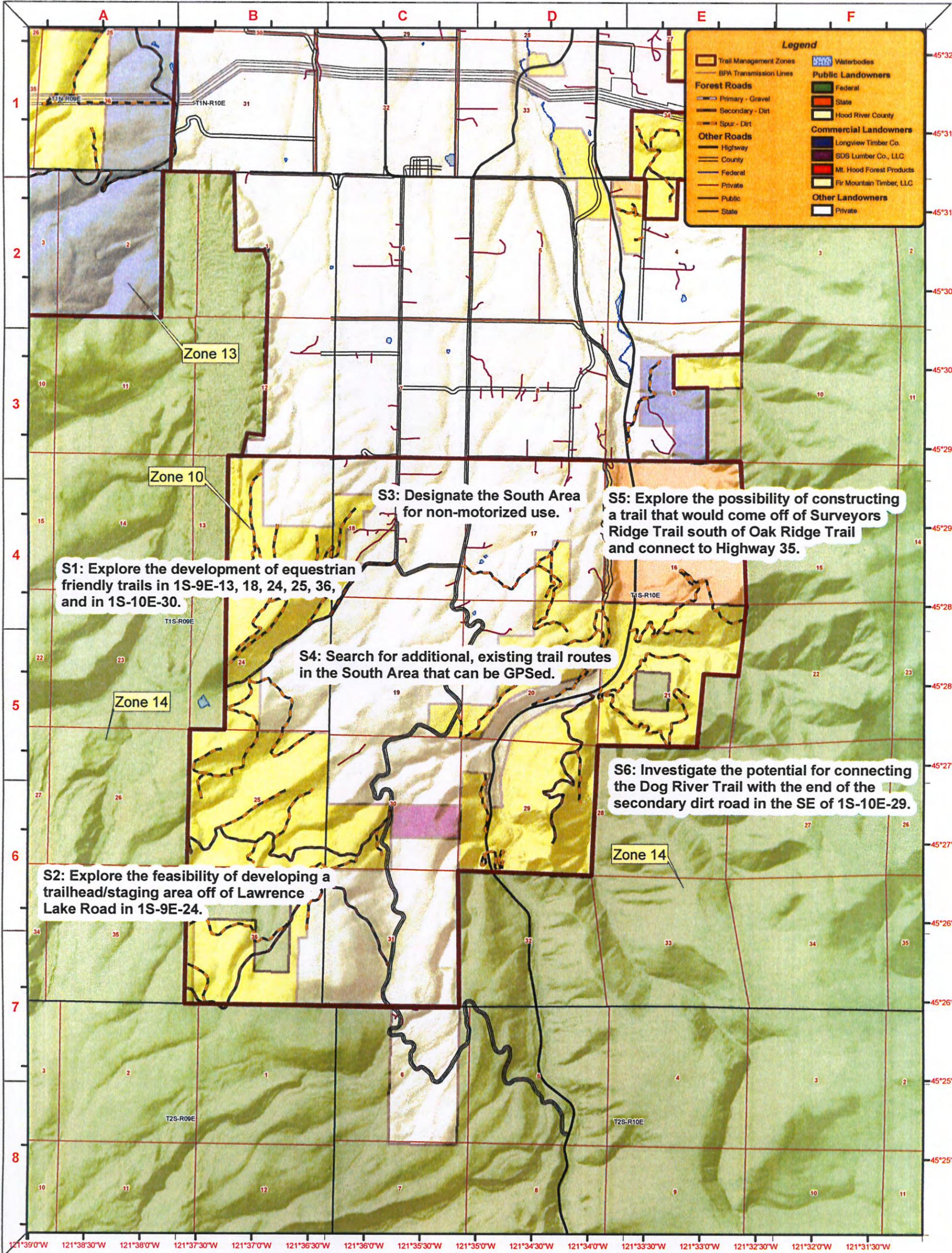
Thompson, J. (2007, May). Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. (J. Kim, Interviewer)

Wisdon, M. J., Preisler, H. K., Cimon, N. J., & Johnson, B. K. (2004). Effects of Off-Road Recreation on Mule Deer and Elk. Transactions of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference 69. in press.

Trails exist on lands adjacent to HRC ownership. These routes are not shown because many have not received authorization for public use. Please do not use trails on other ownerships unless permission is granted by landowners.

The term motorized refers to motorcycles and ATV's (quads). The potential for 4x4 use is being investigated.

Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails South Area Master Plan Recommendations



Legend

Trail Management Zones	Waterbodies
BPA Transmission Lines	Public Landowners
Forest Roads	Federal
Primary - Gravel	State
Secondary - Dirt	Hood River County
Spur - Dirt	Commercial Landowners
Other Roads	Longview Timber Co.
Highway	SDS Lumber Co., LLC
County	Mt. Hood Forest Products
Federal	Fir Mountain Timber, LLC
Private	Other Landowners
Public	Private
State	

S1: Explore the development of equestrian friendly trails in 1S-9E-13, 18, 24, 25, 36, and in 1S-10E-30.

S3: Designate the South Area for non-motorized use.

S5: Explore the possibility of constructing a trail that would come off of Surveyors Ridge Trail south of Oak Ridge Trail and connect to Highway 35.

S4: Search for additional, existing trail routes in the South Area that can be GPSed.

S2: Explore the feasibility of developing a trailhead/staging area off of Lawrence Lake Road in 1S-9E-24.

S6: Investigate the potential for connecting the Dog River Trail with the end of the secondary dirt road in the SE of 1S-10E-29.



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Appendix A

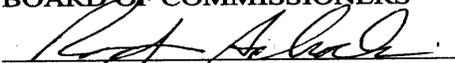
**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION)
OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING) ORDINANCE NO. 251
GUIDELINES FOR FOREST RECREATION)
TRAILS ON COUNTY OWNED LANDS)

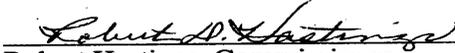
IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED that Hood River County Ordinance No. 251, Forest Recreation Trails is hereby adopted into Title 12 Parks & Other Public Places of the existing County Code, as attached.

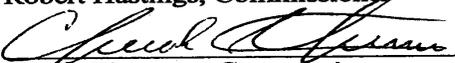
ADOPTED this 20th day of October 2003.

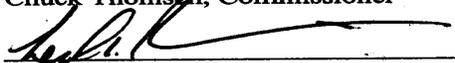
HOOD RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Rodger Schock, Chair

Carol York, Commissioner


Robert Hastings, Commissioner


Chuck Thomsen, Commissioner


Les Perkins, Commissioner

Title 12

PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES

Chapters:

- 12.04 County Parks Designated**
- 12.08 Park and Recreation Area Use Regulations**
- 12.10 Forest Recreation Trails**
- 12.12 Water Lines through Forest Areas**

Chapter 12.10
FOREST RECREATION TRAILS

- 12.10.010 Policy**
- 12.10.020 Composition of trails system**
- 12.10.030 Criteria for establishing trails**
- 12.10.040 Information to be considered**
- 12.10.050 Selection of locations for trails**
- 12.10.060 Hood River County Forestry Department duties and powers**
- 12.10.070 Recreation Trail Committee**
- 12.10.080 Injunctive relief for violation of HRC 12.10**
- 12.10.090 Civil penalties**
- 12.10.010 Policy**

A. Hood River County's primary purpose in owning and managing Hood River County forest lands is for the production and sale of timber. No provision in this Chapter shall be interpreted to the contrary, and no activity authorized by this Chapter shall be allowed to limit the County's ability to manage its forest. However, in order to provide for an ever-increasing public demand for outdoor recreation; and in order to manage public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of, the open-air, outdoor areas of Hood River County, trails should be established both near the populated areas of this County and within, adjacent to or connecting highly scenic areas more remotely located.

B. The purpose of this Chapter is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by:

1. Instituting a system of Forest Recreation Trails in this County,

2. Assigning to the trails within the system appropriate designations according to user group, volume of traffic, or other appropriate classification,

3. Establishing management authority and processes, and

4. Prescribing the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

12.10.020 Composition of trails system; establishment of markers

The system of Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails shall be composed of trails established as provided in this Chapter. The Hood River County Board of Commissioners, in consultation with appropriate federal, state and local governmental agencies and public and private organizations shall adopt the trail marker system which conforms to the marker system established by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, under ORS 390.959.

12.10.030 Criteria for establishing trails; location; statutes authorizing trails for motorized vehicles unaffected

A. Upon finding that such trails will meet the criteria established in this Chapter the Board of Commissioners may establish and designate Hood River County Forest Recreation Trails:

1. Over lands owned by Hood River County, by the federal government, state government, municipality or other local governmental body, with the consent of the federal agency, state agency, municipality or other local governmental body having jurisdiction over the lands involved; or,

2. Over lands owned by private persons, in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in this Chapter.

B. In establishing such trails, the County shall designate the primary kind of trail it is to be, based upon the mode or modes of travel to be

permitted on such trail, including one or more of the following:

1. Footpaths
2. Horseback riding trails
3. Bicycle trails
4. Trails for off road vehicles, including motorcycles, 3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, ATVs and snowmobiles.
5. Ski trails.

12.10.040 Information to be considered

A. Hood River County Board of Commissioners may establish Forest Recreation Trails in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Emphasis shall be given to the development of trails across public lands.
2. No trails shall cross private land occupied by a residential dwelling, upon which a residential dwelling is under construction, or within 300 feet of such residential dwelling, without the written consent of the owner.
3. Trails shall be selected to minimize the adverse effects on adjacent landowners or users and their operations.
4. Development and management of trails shall be designed to harmonize with any established use plan that is compatible with the purposes of this Chapter, except to the extent that any such plan may conflict with the operations of the county forest.

B. Before establishing a trail, the County should consider the following information:

1. The proposed route of such trail (including maps and illustrations) and the recommended mode or modes of travel to be permitted thereon;

2. The characteristics that, in the judgment of the Forestry Department, make the proposed trail suitable as a County Forest Recreation Trail;

3. The current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;

4. The estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interest in lands, if any;

5. The plans for developing and maintaining the trail and the cost thereof;

6. Any anticipated problems of policing the use of such trail and any anticipated hazards to the use of any privately owned lands adjacent to such trail; and,

7. The extent to which the County or public and private organizations might reasonably be expected to participate in acquiring the necessary lands, trail construction and in the administration thereof.

12.10.050 Selection of locations for trails

A. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall select the locations for trails designated as County Forest Recreation Trails. Such trail locations and structures related thereto shall be designed and so located as to protect natural resource conditions, water, fish and wildlife, scenic and historic features, and any primitive character of the trail area; and to provide reasonable public access.

B. Notwithstanding subsection (A) of this section, it is recognized that in many instances (especially in areas near residences and for some types of trails across or near private land) it may be advisable to locate segments of trails in or near existing rights-of-way for roads, highways, public utilities or telecommunications utilities; and it is recognized that trails may on occasion be located, or from time to time relocated, through, or adjacent to, lands used for private or County timber management practices (including logging), agriculture,

commercial or industrial operations and that such location or relocation of a trail, of itself, shall not impose any limitation upon an otherwise lawful use of the adjacent private land except to the extent of the terms of any agreement with the private landowner as provided in this Chapter and except as may be provided by any zoning ordinance, law or regulation.

C. The location and width of a County Forest Recreation Trail across federal or state lands under the jurisdiction of a federal or state agency shall be by mutual agreement between that agency and the County.

D. In selecting locations for new trails, and rerouting or closing existing trails, the Hood River County Forestry Department shall seek the input of local governments, private organizations and landowners impacted thereby, as well as concerned trail users through the County Forest Recreation Trail Committee. Approval for the construction of any structure, such as a restroom or other building must be obtained through the County Planning Department under current law. Planning Department approval will be sought as well for the construction of a new trail, or the relocation of an existing trail, as well as the construction of trail amenities such as parking areas, and information kiosks. Planning Department approval will not be necessary in connection with the decommissioning of a trail or with trail signage.

12.10.060 Hood River County Forestry Department duties and powers

A. Within the exterior boundaries of areas designated as locations for a County Forest Recreation Trail, the Forestry Department may:

1. Enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, federal agencies,

other state agencies, local governments, private organizations and individuals, in order to provide for the development, operation, maintenance, location and relocation of the forest trail; where the forest trail crosses commercial forest land, such agreement shall make reasonable provision for temporary relocation reasonably required for commercial forest management; and

2. Subject to limitations set forth in this Chapter, acquire lands or interests in lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds or exchange, or with funds obtained from grants.

B. Subject to the limitations set forth in ORS 275.320 - 370, the County, in the exercise of its exchange authority, may accept title to any non-County-owned property upon which a trail is located, and in exchange therefore it may convey to the grantor of such property any County-owned property under its jurisdiction and which it classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal, or if they are not approximately equal the values shall be to the advantage of the County as the circumstances require.

C. If lands upon which a County Forest Recreation Trail is located are outside the exterior boundaries of state or federally administered areas, the County shall attempt, and any local governments involved shall be encouraged, to enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, local government, private organizations, and individuals in order to develop, administer, and maintain the trails, and to acquire, develop, and administer such lands or interests therein. However:

1. If the County or local governments fail or are unable to enter into such agreements or to acquire such lands or interests therein within one year after the selection of the location, the County may acquire private lands or interests therein by donation, exchange, or purchase with donated or appropriated

funds, and may develop and administer such lands or interests therein.

2. Exchanges shall be governed by the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

D. County Forest Recreation Trails shall be administered, protected, developed and maintained by the Hood River County Forestry Department, or as provided under subsection (1)(a) of this section, to retain their natural, scenic and historic features, and so as to minimize adverse impacts on water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources. The County Forest Manager shall make the determination as to whether such criteria are met. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, the use of motorized vehicles by the general public along any such County Forest Recreation Trail is prohibited. However, the County shall authorize the use of motorized vehicles when, in its judgment, such vehicles are necessary to meet emergencies, trail construction and maintenance needs or to enable adjacent landowners or land users to have reasonable access to their lands or timber rights. The fact that private lands are included in a County Forest Recreation Trail by cooperative agreement of a landowner does not preclude the owner of such lands or agents of the owner from using motorized vehicles on or across such trails or adjacent lands from time to time in accordance with such agreement. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, the state laws, rules and regulations applicable to lands or areas included in any County Forest Recreation Trail shall continue to apply. Nothing in this Chapter prohibits the use of public roads existing on private lands, which may cross or traverse portions of the trail, nor shall this Chapter prevent trails from crossing such roads.

E. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall endeavor to induce agreements with appropriate state and federal agencies to provide for youth work and correction crew projects to assist in the construction and maintenance of trails that are part of the County Forest Recreation Trails system.

F. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall endeavor, when it considers such to be appropriate, to develop and enhance the educational values and opportunities of County Forest Recreation Trails; and in this connection it shall cooperate with schools, educators and other interested persons or groups in developing and utilizing techniques and materials to demonstrate to and inform the trail-using public of various scenic, forest resource and natural features visible along or from such trails (including geological, botanical, historical, zoological and similar features).

G. The Hood River County Forestry Department shall place and endeavor to maintain signs at such places as it considers appropriate along County Forest Recreation Trails advising users of the Oregon laws of criminal trespass and encouraging users to protect the trails and the rights and property of adjacent landowners.

H. The County, with the concurrence of any federal or state agency administering lands through which a County Forest Recreation Trail passes, and after consultation with the local governments, private organizations and landowners which the County knows or believes to be concerned, and the County Forest Recreational Trail Committee, may adopt rules that may be revised from time to time governing protection, management, use, development and administration of a County Forest Recreation Trail.

I. The County shall have the authority to close trails during periods of high fire danger. The County shall also have the authority to close, relocate or redesign trails or trail structures such as bridges and culverts, as it deems necessary to protect the safety of the public and other natural resources.

J. Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS chapter 477, forest land on which a fire exists that was caused by a person using, for recreational purposes, a trail established pursuant to this Chapter, shall not be considered an operation area as defined by ORS 477.001, if the fire did not start within an operation.

12.10.070 County Forest Recreation Trail Committee

There shall be established, pursuant to guidelines established within the County Administrative Code, a County Forest Recreation Trail Committee. Said committee shall consist of a representative cross section of user groups, one or more members of the public at large, and one member from the County Forest Advisory Committee. The committee shall be involved in the creation, review and amendment of a Forest Recreation Trail management plan, and development of trail system plans; the creation, review and amendment of a Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan, and the creation of a Trail System Master Plan. The committee shall serve generally as liaison between the public and the Forestry Department.

12.10.080 Injunctive relief for violation of HRC 12.10

Hood River County has power to obtain injunctions against violations of any provision of, any rules and regulations adopted, or agreements made under this Chapter.

12.10.090 Civil penalties

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter or any rule, order or permit adopted or issued hereunder shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount to be determined by the County Forest Manager of not more than \$1,000 per day of violation.

Appendix B

Hood River County – Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan

1.	Introduction	p.62
2.	Definitions	p6.2
3.	Existing Trail Inventory Procedure	p63
4.	Construction and Adoption Procedure for New and Existing Trails	p64
5.	Trail Management Issues	p65
6.	Trail Numbering, Naming and Signage	p66
7.	Standards for Trail Construction	p66
8.	Memorandums of Understanding	p67
9.	Amendments to Plan	p67

1. Introduction

This Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan is created pursuant to Hood River County Ordinance, Chapter 12.10 and recognizes that the primary purpose for the Hood River County Forest is the production and sale of timber. No activity authorized by this Plan, which limits the County's ability to manage its forest, shall be allowed. This Plan encourages ongoing cooperation between recreation user groups and the Forest Manager to create a symbiotic relationship whereby timber production and forest recreation can co-exist with a safe and positive result for everyone involved.

In order to minimize adverse impacts to water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources, to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding resident and tourist population and in order to promote and manage public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas of Hood River County, trails should be established both near the urban areas of Hood River County and within, adjacent to or connecting highly scenic areas more remotely located. Once these trails are established, recognized by the Hood River County Forest Manager and adopted by the Hood River County Board of Commissioners, this Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan will govern the procedures for 1) establishment of new trails and decommissioning of unwanted trails within the Hood River County Forest, 2) maintenance of approved trails within the Hood River County Forest, 3) the development of signage and user group designations for approved trails within the Hood River County Forest, and 4) procurement of third party Memorandums of Understanding as necessary for the establishment of such trails.

2. Definitions

“**AMA**” refers to the American Motorcycle Association;

“**Board**” refers to the Hood River County Board of Commissioners;

“**Committee**” refers to the Forest Recreation Trails Committee;

“**Forest**” refers to the Hood River County Forest;

“**Forest Manager**” refers to the Hood River County Forest Manager and/or his/her designee;

“**IMBA**” refers to the International Mountain Bicycling Association;

“**Memorandum of Understanding**” refers to written cooperative agreements between Hood River County and landowners, federal agencies, other state agencies, local governments, private organizations and individuals, in order to provide for the development, operation, maintenance, location and relocation of forest trails;

“**MMTF**” refers to man made technical trail features;

“**Plan**” refers to the Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Management Plan;

“**Proposal**” refers to a New Trail Proposal;

“**Trail**” refers to a recognized Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail;

“**Trail Adopter**” refers to the person and/or user group responsible for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of a particular trail and/or system of trails;

“**Trail Maintenance Agreement**” refers to a written agreement between a Trail Adopter and the Forest Manager whereby a Trail Adopter agrees to take responsibility for the maintenance of a particular Trail(s);

“**Trail Network**” refers to a group of Trails within an identified area such as Post Canyon, Middle Mountain or Fir Mountain;

“**Walk-Through**” refers to an on site trail analysis by the Forest Manager and the potential adopter(s) as they walk the trail being considered for adoption/construction to discuss construction and maintenance issues, and adoption responsibilities.

3. Existing Trail Inventory Procedure

A. GPS Points, MMTF Photographs and Trail Mapping: The Forest Manager shall collect GPS points for each trail and for every MMTF within every Trail Network in the Forest. Those GPS points shall be recorded on a Forest map indicating the location of each existing trail within the Trail Network. All MMTFs will be photographed and each photograph will be placed in a Trail System Documentation Notebook. Every MMTF location will have a number corresponding to its photograph and will be recorded on a Forest map.

B. Trail Network Walk-Through: Once the Forest Manager is satisfied that the trail mapping is complete for a particular Trail Network, the Forest Manager shall conduct a Trail Network walk-through for the purpose of identifying trail maintenance needs, identifying trails that, in the opinion of the Forest Manager, need to be decommissioned and designation of trails or trail sections that need to be re-routed. The Forest Manager shall, within his discretion, consult with agencies affected by the Trail Network including, but not limited to, agencies governing the impact on water, fish, wildlife, soils and other natural resources.

C. Consideration by Committee: The Forest Manager shall present the findings from his walk-through(s) at a scheduled committee meeting. The Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Forest Manager regarding the execution of trail maintenance, the designation of Trail Adopters, trail user group designations, potential trail re-routes and the decommissioning of trails.

D. Designation of Trail Adopter(s): The Forest Manager shall require that each trail identified on the Trail Network Map be assigned a Trail Adopter who will execute a Trail Maintenance Agreement with the Forest Manager. The Trail Maintenance Agreement shall identify existing trail maintenance needs, trail re-routing needs and a plan for future maintenance of the Trail.

E. Decommissioning by Forestry Department: If the Forest Manger determine that a particular trail/MMTF within an existing Trail Network needs to be decommissioned, the Forest Manager shall be responsible for decommissioning said trail. The Forest Manager may elicit the help of volunteers from recreational user groups to assist in the decommissioning of Trails.

F. Trail Network Adoption by Board and Annual Reporting: The Forest Manager, on an annual basis, shall present amended maps and related documents of the existing Trail System to the Board for formal adoption.

4. Construction and Adoption Procedure for New and Existing Trails (The specific procedures for New and Existing Trail Proposals are found in the 'HRC Forest Recreation Trails Construction and Adoption Procedure for New Trails' flow chart and the 'HRC Forest Recreation Trails Adoption Procedure for Existing Trails' flow chart.)

- A. Submission of New Trail Proposal: Any person or group that wishes to establish a new trail must first submit a trail proposal to the Forest Manager.
- B. Review of New Trail Proposal: New Trail Proposals submitted to the Forest Manager, shall be presented at a Trails Committee meeting by the proponent. The Committee shall determine whether or not the proposal is complete and whether or not it should proceed to the next step. Determinations shall be made by vote of committee members present at the meeting. The next step is for the Forestry Department to submit a letter and copy of the proposal to the HRC Planning Department. Planning will conduct a Land Use Permit review within a reasonable period of time.
- C. Walk-Through of New Trail: Once the HRC Planning Department completes its review of the proposed new trail location, the Forest Manager will schedule a walk-thru of the trail with the trail proponent. The Committee will be encouraged to attend. The purpose of the walk-through is so the Forest Manager and other interested parties can see the actual proposed trail and have an opportunity to ask questions, identify issues, and discuss related responsibilities. A yes or no recommendation to proceed will be given to the proponent at the walk-through.
- D. Approval of New Trail Construction: Trail and/or MMTF construction can proceed if the walk-thru recommendation was yes. The Forestry Department will be notified when construction begins and given an estimate of the completion date.
- E. Final Walk-Through of New Trail: Trail proponent(s) shall notify the Forest Manager when construction is complete. The Forest Manager shall do a final walk-through to assure that the trail meets with Proposal specifications. If problems are found to exist, the trail proponent shall make the necessary modifications. New trails will be GPSed and added to the system map. New MMTFs will be photographed and GPSed and added to the system map.
- F. Adoption of New Trails: If after a final walk-thru the Forest Manager is satisfied that the trail meets with the specifications outlined in the Proposal, the Trail Maintenance Agreement will be signed, the Documentation Notebook presented to the Adopter, and an update provided to the Committee.

- G. Final Update on New Trail Progress: The Forestry Department will give an update on the trails construction and adoption progress at the first scheduled Committee meeting after the Trail Maintenance Agreement has been signed.
- H. Adoption of Existing Trails: The procedures for trail adoption for established trails are specified in the 'HRC Forest Recreation Trails Adoption Procedure for Existing Trails' flowchart. Every trail in existence prior to the adoption of this plan, recognized as a Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail, shall be assigned to a particular person, user group, club or entity to act as Trail Adopter. Each Trail Adopter shall be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of said trail(s) and shall enter into a Trail Maintenance Agreement with the Forest Manager. Trails that fail to become adopted may be decommissioned by the Forest Manager.

5. Trail Management Issues

- A. Unauthorized Trail/MMTF Construction: If it comes to the attention of the Forest Manager that a trail or MMTF is being built without proper approval, the Forest Manager shall make every effort to contact the builder and introduce him to the Trail Construction and Adoption process. If the builder cannot be identified or if the builder refuses to go through the formal process, the Forest Manager may decommission said trail pursuant to Section 5(B) of this Plan. Unauthorized trail/MMTF builders are subject to civil penalties pursuant to Hood River County Ordinance 12.10.080 and 12.10.090.
- B. Decommissioning: If the Forest Manager determines that a trail or MMTF poses an unacceptable environmental threat, is not constructed to acceptable standards, is not being maintained, is incapable of being maintained, or has been constructed illegally, the Forest Manager has the right to decommission that trail by ordering its closure and/or to deconstruct and remove any MMTF that may be present. The Forest Manager may perform the task of deconstructing MMTFs if no one else is to do so. Prior to determining that a trail should be decommissioned, and/or if an MMTF should be deconstructed and removed, the Forest Manager may seek a recommendation from the Committee.
- C. Maintenance, Modification and Alteration: Trail maintenance shall include any work necessary to maintain a trail to specifications outlined in the Trail Maintenance Agreement. In addition, modifications and/or alterations necessary to correct issues that may arise once the trail is adopted and in use shall be considered maintenance for purposes of this section. Modifications/Alterations beyond those which are necessary to maintain the trail to specifications outlined in the Trail Maintenance Agreement shall be considered a New Trail and shall be submitted via Proposal through the New Trail Procedure outlined in Section 4 above unless approved by the Forestry Department. MMTFs may be modified or

constructed if approved by the Forestry Department and in certain cases at Forestry's discretion will require approval by the Committee.

- D. Trails Through Harvest Units: The Forest Manager will temporarily close trails that lie within areas designated as Timber Sales one week before harvest operations begin. Some of these trails may be temporarily or permanently re-routed, and in certain cases permanently closed at the discretion of the Forest Manager. These trails may be reopened after harvest operations are complete. Some of these trails may require significant post-harvest maintenance by the Trail Adopter before they are reopened to the public.
- E. General Forest Clean-ups: The Committee shall promote the organization of two general Forest clean-ups each year. The Committee can delegate organization details to user groups, clubs and other available volunteer groups that are interested in taking part in general Forest clean-ups.

6. Trail Numbering, Naming and Signage

- A. Trail Numbering: All trails in the Forest shall adhere to a numbering system designated by the Forest Manager. As new trails are adopted, they shall be numbered sequentially as they are added to the existing Trail network.
- B. Trail Naming: If a trail has a recognized name and/or the Proponent of a new trail would like to assign a name to that trail, such name can be approved by the Forest Manager. The trail Adopter shall be responsible for procuring trail name signs and affixing them at trail-heads according to the specifications of the Forest Manager.
- C. Signage: The Forest Manager shall establish and maintain a sign at each entrance to a Hood River County Forest Recreation Trail Network encouraging users to respect the trails, other user groups and the rights of adjacent landowners. Signage shall include information such as trail user group designations and trail difficulty ratings and shall conform to the marker system established by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, under ORS 390.959.

7. Standards for Trail Construction

- A. Trails: All trails will be constructed and maintained according to the standards outlined in IMBA's 'Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack', or AMA's 'Off-Highway Motorcycle & ATV Trails Guidelines for Design, Construction, Maintenance and User Satisfaction' or any other standards that may be adopted by the Forest Manager.

- B. MMTF's: All MMTF's will be built according to the Resort Municipality of Whistler's 'Whistler Trail Standards: Environmental and Technical Trail Features'.
- C. Standards: Copies of all standards adopted by the Forest Manager will be maintained at the County Forestry Department and are available for review by the general public.

8. Memorandums of Understanding

- A. Trails in existence prior to adoption of this Plan: The Forest Manager shall be responsible for notifying private landowners of any trails that encroach upon or cross their land. The Forestry Department may negotiate with private landowners pursuant to Hood River County Ordinance 12.10.060. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Forest Manager shall notify the Committee and the Committee shall make a recommendation regarding decommissioning and/or re-routing of any trail encroachment.
- B. New Trail Proposals: If a New Trail Proposal includes the use of private lands, the trail proponent shall include in his Proposal a plan for a Memorandum of Understanding with the landowner. The Forest Manager may, at his discretion, choose to pursue such an agreement or may deny the Proposal based on the fact that it involves non-County land.

9. Amendments to Plan

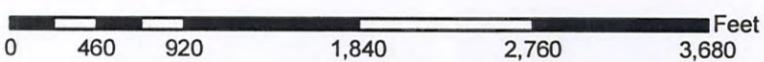
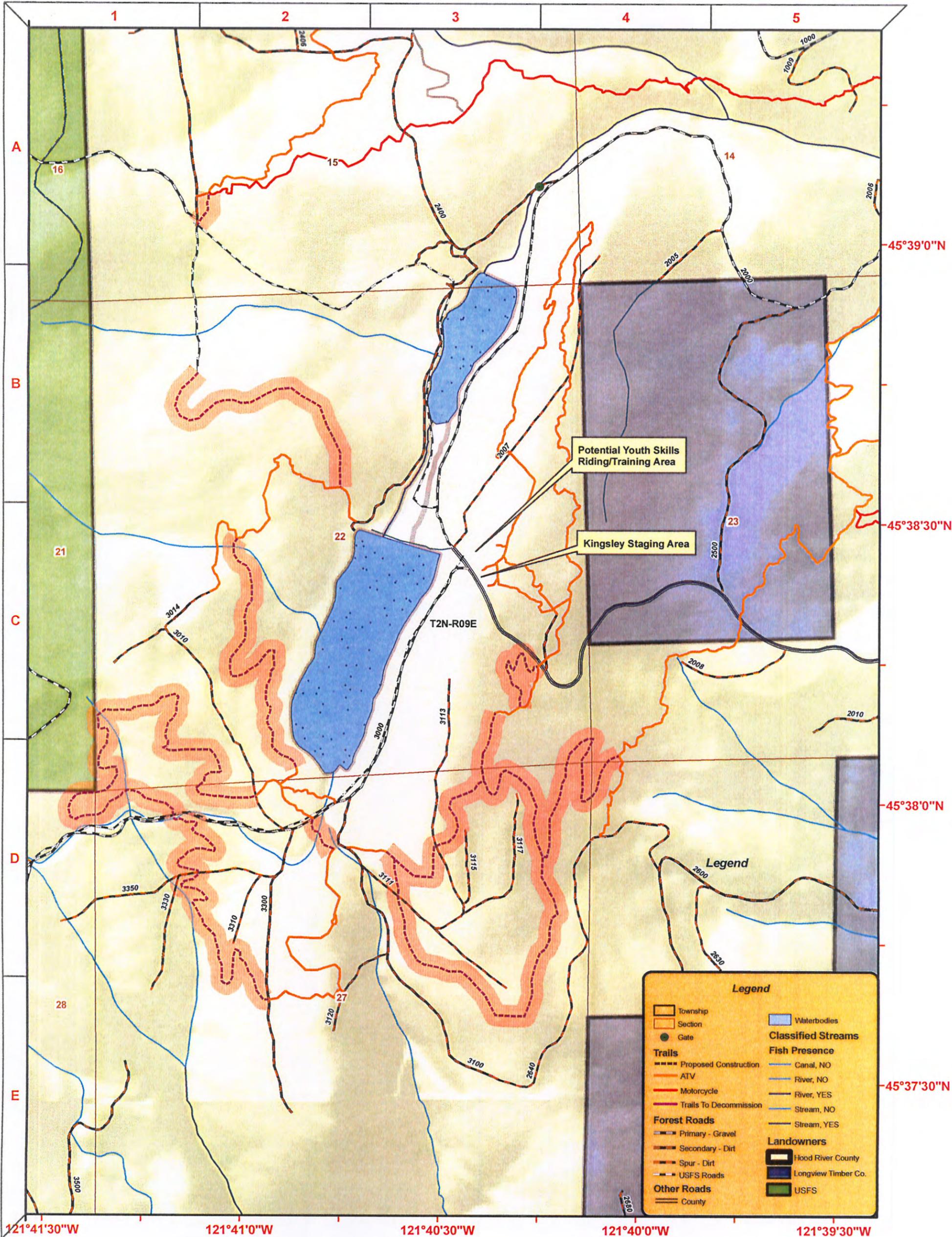
Amendments to this Plan may be made through recommendation by the Committee, approval by the Forest Manager and adoption by the Board. All suggested amendments shall be voted on by the Committee and then presented to the Forest Manager for approval. If the amendment is approved by the Forest Manager, it shall be submitted to the Board for formal adoption into the Plan.

Appendix C

Hood River County
Trail System Master Plan
Kingsley Reservoir Trail Concepts



Township 2N, Range 9E - Trail Mileage					
Sections	14	15	22	27	28
New	0.68	1.56	2.54	2.81	0.14
Existing	4.21	3.34	3.01	1.08	0.00
Totals	4.89	4.90	5.55	3.89	0.14



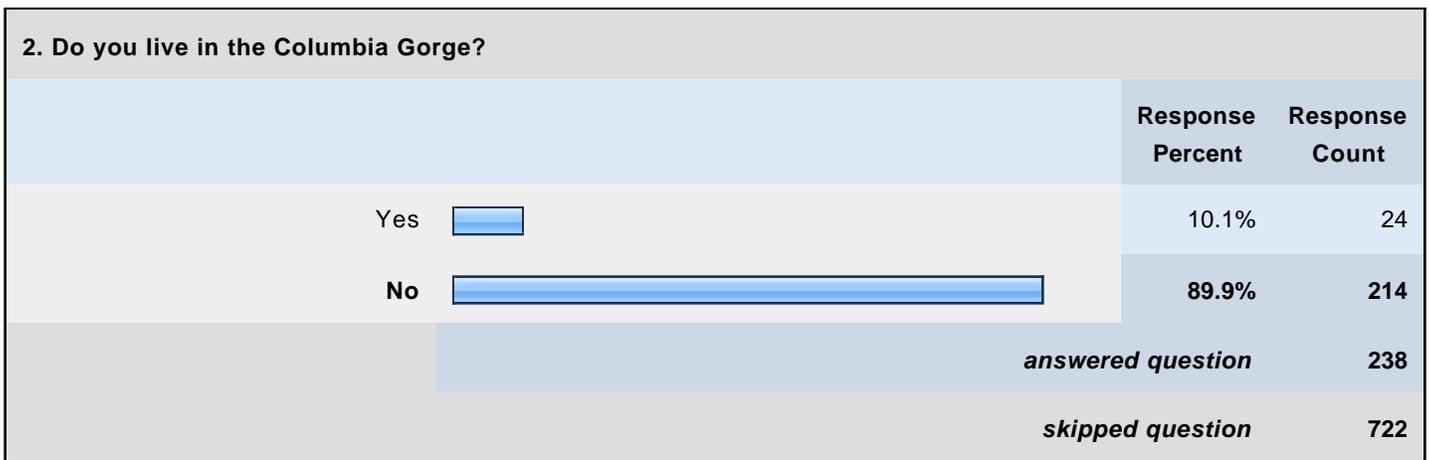
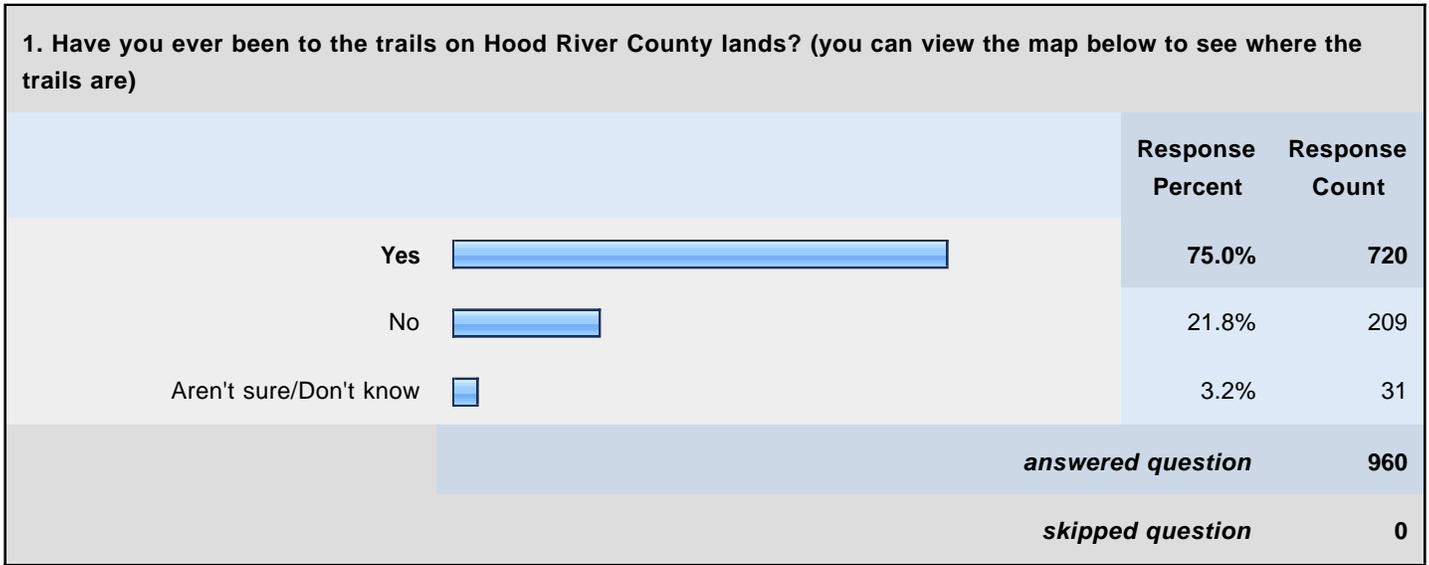
Disclaimer: This map is intended for general reference only. Hood River County makes every effort to ensure that the data used to produce this map is a true representation. However, the County makes no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy or completeness of any information disclosed. The County accepts no liability for any damage or injury caused by the use of this map. **Proprietary Information:** Any resale of this information is prohibited, except in accordance with a licensing agreement.

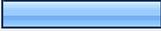
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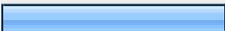
Appendix D

Hood River Trail System Survey

Hood River Trail System



3. Where do you currently live?			Response Percent	Response Count
Hood River			16.0%	4
Dee			0.0%	0
Parkdale			8.0%	2
Mt Hood			8.0%	2
The Dalles/Mosier			16.0%	4
Cascade Locks			4.0%	1
Skamania County			4.0%	1
Bingen/White Salmon/Husum/Underwood/BZ Corners/Lyle			20.0%	5
Other (please specify)			24.0%	6
			<i>answered question</i>	25
			<i>skipped question</i>	935

4. Where do you currently live?			Response Percent	Response Count
Portland Metro Area (Portland, Gresham, etc.)			33.8%	72
Vancouver/Camas/Clark County			7.5%	16
Washington State			14.1%	30
Oregon State			19.2%	41
Other US State			12.2%	26
Canada			4.7%	10
Other (please specify)			8.5%	18
			<i>answered question</i>	213
			<i>skipped question</i>	747

5. What state do you live in?

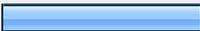
Drop down to choose state

	Alabama	Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas
State	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	4.2% (1)	0.0% (0)

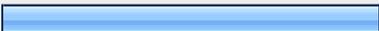
6. What would help you to come to Hood River County and use the trail system? Select all that apply

	Response Percent	Response Count
Available Maps of trail system 	81.7%	187
Trailheads that are easy to find 	59.4%	136
Well marked trails 	55.9%	128
Easy/Beginner trails 	22.7%	52
Variety of trail levels 	69.4%	159
Advanced/Expert trails 	45.4%	104
Ability to camp near trails 	65.9%	151
Other (please specify)		19
	answered question	229
	skipped question	731

7. Please select which you feel is your primary use for these trails: (You can select only one)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Mtn Biker 	30.0%	70
Equestrian 	1.3%	3
Hiker 	3.0%	7
Trail Runner 	1.3%	3
Motorcycler 	42.5%	99
ATV/Quad 	21.5%	50
Other (please specify) 	0.4%	1
<i>answered question</i>		233
<i>skipped question</i>		727

8. Which type of Mountain biking do you do the most of? You can select only one.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Free-riding (no shuttle) 	57.1%	40
Cross-country riding 	14.3%	10
Downhill/Free-Ride (with car shuttle) 	28.6%	20
<i>answered question</i>		70
<i>skipped question</i>		890

9. Do you live in the Columbia Gorge?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	46.9%	338
No 	53.1%	382
<i>answered question</i>		720
<i>skipped question</i>		240

10. Where do you currently live?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Portland Metro Area (Portland, Gresham, etc.)	49.5%	190
Vancouver/Camas/Clark County	7.3%	28
Washington State	15.6%	60
Oregon State	11.5%	44
Other US State	5.5%	21
Canada	5.2%	20
Other (please specify)	5.5%	21
answered question		384
skipped question		576

11. What state do you live in?

Drop down to choose state

	Alabama	Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas
State	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)

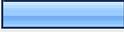
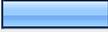
12. How did you first hear about the trails on Hood River County lands?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Friend 	65.9%	244
Guidebook 	7.0%	26
Local Merchant or Shop 	6.8%	25
Magazine 	1.4%	5
Website 	10.0%	37
Other (please specify) 	8.9%	33
answered question		370
skipped question		590

13. What is/was your primary reason for coming to the area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Trails 	87.4%	305
Paddling 	0.3%	1
Wind Surfing/Kite Boarding 	6.3%	22
Visiting Friends/Family 	2.6%	9
General visit/vacation 	3.4%	12
Other (please specify)		38
answered question		349
skipped question		611

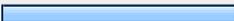
14. How long will/was your visit to the area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1 day 	39.5%	146
2 days 	18.1%	67
3 days 	15.9%	59
4-6 days 	10.0%	37
7-9 days 	1.6%	6
10 or more days 	14.9%	55
answered question		370
skipped question		590

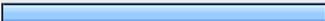
15. How many days will/did you spend using the trails?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1 day 	24.9%	92
2 days 	16.3%	60
3 days 	16.0%	59
4-6 days 	14.4%	53
7-9 days 	3.5%	13
10 or more days 	24.9%	92
answered question		369
skipped question		591

16. How much do you estimate you will/did spend in the area on this visit?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than \$10 	1.4%	5
\$11-\$25 	10.4%	38
\$26-\$50 	15.8%	58
\$50-\$99 	21.0%	77
\$100-\$500 	35.4%	130
\$501-\$1,000 	8.4%	31
More than \$1,000 	7.6%	28
<i>answered question</i>		367
<i>skipped question</i>		593

17. What types of expenditures will/did you have?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Lodging 	27.0%	100
Gas 	93.0%	344
Food 	97.3%	360
Trail-related equipment/goods 	49.2%	182
Shopping 	38.9%	144
Other (please specify) 	5.9%	22
<i>answered question</i>		370
<i>skipped question</i>		590

18. How many times have you been to the Hood River County trails?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
1st time	11.0%	41
2-3 times	15.5%	58
4-5 times	15.5%	58
6-9 times	9.7%	36
10 or more times	48.3%	180
<i>answered question</i>		373
<i>skipped question</i>		587

19. Where do you currently live?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Odell	0.9%	3
Murdoch	0.0%	0
Hood River	57.4%	191
Dee	0.6%	2
Parkdale	3.0%	10
Mt Hood	3.6%	12
The Dalles/Mosier	6.9%	23
Cascade Locks	0.0%	0
Skamania County	1.8%	6
Bingen/White Salmon/Husum/Underwood/BZ Corners/Lyle	16.8%	56
Other (please specify)	9.0%	30
<i>answered question</i>		333
<i>skipped question</i>		627

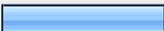
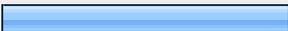
20. For each month, please try and estimate the number of days that you use the trail system.

Number of Days									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
January	41.4% (104)	10.4% (26)	14.3% (36)	8.0% (20)	5.2% (13)	7.6% (19)	2.8% (7)	1.2% (3)	3.2% (8)
February	32.0% (81)	9.1% (23)	14.2% (36)	8.7% (22)	11.5% (29)	6.7% (17)	3.6% (9)	1.2% (3)	3.2% (8)
March	11.0% (30)	5.9% (16)	12.5% (34)	9.6% (26)	11.0% (30)	13.2% (36)	6.6% (18)	2.6% (7)	5.1% (14)
April	3.8% (11)	4.8% (14)	10.7% (31)	5.5% (16)	9.7% (28)	7.3% (21)	8.3% (24)	4.2% (12)	10.0% (29)
May	2.0% (6)	2.6% (8)	7.5% (23)	4.9% (15)	6.5% (20)	8.1% (25)	5.5% (17)	2.6% (8)	7.5% (23)
June	1.3% (4)	1.9% (6)	6.3% (20)	4.1% (13)	6.3% (20)	8.4% (27)	5.6% (18)	3.4% (11)	6.3% (20)
July	2.9% (9)	2.6% (8)	7.1% (22)	2.6% (8)	6.7% (21)	8.3% (26)	8.0% (25)	1.0% (3)	7.7% (24)
August	4.2% (13)	4.9% (15)	5.5% (17)	3.9% (12)	4.6% (14)	8.8% (27)	7.2% (22)	1.0% (3)	9.1% (28)
September	2.3% (7)	4.5% (14)	5.8% (18)	4.9% (15)	5.5% (17)	8.1% (25)	6.8% (21)	1.3% (4)	8.1% (25)
October	3.1% (9)	4.1% (12)	5.5% (16)	5.8% (17)	7.2% (21)	12.0% (35)	6.5% (19)	2.4% (7)	8.2% (24)
November	15.0% (39)	7.3% (19)	13.1% (34)	8.8% (23)	11.9% (31)	13.8% (36)	3.5% (9)	0.4% (1)	6.2% (16)
December	37.7% (95)	11.5% (29)	14.7% (37)	8.3% (21)	6.3% (16)	6.3% (16)	3.2% (8)	0.4% (1)	3.2% (8)

21. Please select which you feel is your primary use for these trails: (You can select only one)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Mtn Biker 	60.1%	422
Equestrian 	2.3%	16
Hiker 	4.1%	29
Trail Runner 	2.4%	17
Motorcycler 	27.1%	190
ATV/Quad 	2.3%	16
Other (please specify) 	1.7%	12
<i>answered question</i>		702
<i>skipped question</i>		258

22. Which type of Mountain biking do you do the most of? You can select only one.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Free-riding (no shuttle) 	24.4%	103
Cross-country riding 	43.6%	184
Downhill/Free-Ride (with car shuttle) 	32.0%	135
<i>answered question</i>		422
<i>skipped question</i>		538

23. Of the following uses, approximate the percentage of time that you do them on the Hood River Trail System (make Mtn Biker 20% Trail Runner 10%)

Percentage of Time

	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%
Mtn Biker	4.6% (25)	5.5% (30)	4.4% (24)	4.6% (25)	3.7% (20)	4.4% (24)	4.8% (26)
Equestrian	75.2% (88)	8.5% (10)	1.7% (2)	0.0% (0)	1.7% (2)	1.7% (2)	0.9% (1)
Hiker	16.6% (48)	41.0% (119)	17.9% (52)	7.6% (22)	3.4% (10)	3.8% (11)	2.4% (7)
Trail Runner	36.7% (65)	33.9% (60)	8.5% (15)	6.8% (12)	5.6% (10)	1.1% (2)	2.8% (5)
Motorcycler	20.8% (61)	5.1% (15)	4.1% (12)	4.1% (12)	3.1% (9)	7.2% (21)	3.1% (9)
ATV/Quad	67.8% (80)	7.6% (9)	3.4% (4)	2.5% (3)	3.4% (4)	1.7% (2)	1.7% (2)

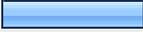
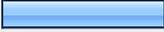
24. Do you ever cross-country ski or snowshoe on any of the Hood River County Trails?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	23.0%	157
No 	77.0%	525
answered question		682
skipped question		278

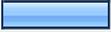
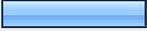
25. What national, state or local trail organizations do you belong to?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Columbia Gorge Off-road Association (CGORA)	6.7%	43
Hood River Saddle Club (HRSC)	1.2%	8
International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)	19.5%	125
Backcountry Horsemen Association (BHA)	1.7%	11
Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET)	0.3%	2
Columbia Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA)	12.5%	80
American Hiking Society (AHS)	0.2%	1
Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC)	7.5%	48
American Motorcyclist Association (AMA)	17.0%	109
Chinook Trail Association (CTA)	0.0%	0
Portland United Mountain Peddlers (PUMP)	6.1%	39
Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA)	9.7%	62
None	38.8%	249
Other (please specify)	21.4%	137
answered question		641
skipped question		319

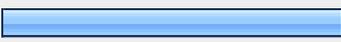
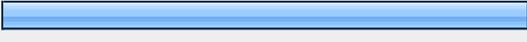
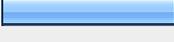
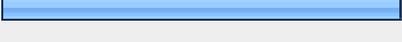
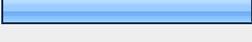
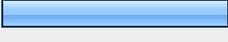
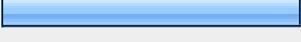
26. How long of a trail ride/run/walk do you prefer?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5 miles 	4.2%	29
5-10 miles 	21.1%	145
10-15 miles 	24.2%	166
16-20 miles 	15.7%	108
20-30 miles 	11.8%	81
31-50 miles 	11.4%	78
More than 50 miles 	11.5%	79
answered question		686
skipped question		274

27. Which type of rides/walks/runs is the most important to you? Select only one.

	Response Percent	Response Count
loop trail 	61.1%	420
out and back trail 	1.5%	10
shuttle ride/hike 	16.0%	110
don't care 	21.4%	147
answered question		687
skipped question		273

28. When you use a trail, which of the following are important to you? You can select as many as you like.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Ability to enjoy a peaceful/quiet experience		51.6%	347
Quality of the trail/tread surface		80.2%	540
Availability of Parking		25.9%	174
Aesthetics/Views		60.6%	408
Ease of Negotiating Trails/Trail Signage		37.7%	254
Availability of trail maps		34.0%	229
Restrooms		12.3%	83
Cleanliness of trailheads/Trash cans		45.3%	305
	Other (please specify)		91
answered question			673
skipped question			287

29. When you use a trail, which of the following is MOST important to you? You can only select one.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Ability to enjoy a peaceful/quiet experience	18.1%	116
Quality of the trail/tread surface	55.0%	352
Availability of Parking	2.7%	17
Aesthetics/Views	12.5%	80
Ease of Negotiating Trails/Trail Signage	9.5%	61
Availability of trail maps	6.1%	39
Restrooms	1.7%	11
Cleanliness of trailheads/Trash cans	3.4%	22
Other (please specify)		57
answered question		640
skipped question		320

30. Which trail areas in Hood River County do you use/have you used? Select all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Whoopee Trails Area	51.7%	350
Post Canyon/Northwest Area	92.8%	628
East Trails/Eastside Area	60.0%	406
Middle Mountain	39.7%	269
Other (please specify)	3.8%	26
answered question		677
skipped question		283

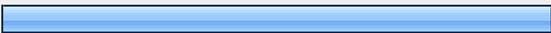
31. Which area do you frequent the most? Select only one.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Whoopee Trails Area <input type="checkbox"/>	4.6%	31
Post Canyon/Northwest Area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	71.8%	483
East Trails/Eastside Area <input type="checkbox"/>	17.7%	119
Middle Mountain <input type="checkbox"/>	5.5%	37
Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	0.4%	3
<i>answered question</i>		673
<i>skipped question</i>		287

32. How would you describe the user traffic on trails in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Never saw another user <input type="checkbox"/>	1.2%	8
Encountered a few other users <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	63.1%	426
Had to stop and let other users go by several times <input type="checkbox"/>	28.0%	189
Too busy to be fun <input type="checkbox"/>	1.9%	13
Never been to the Post Canyon/Northwest Area <input type="checkbox"/>	1.9%	13
No opinion/Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>	3.9%	26
<i>answered question</i>		675
<i>skipped question</i>		285

33. Do you think there are too many trails (gets confusing/takes away from the ride/etc.) at Post Canyon/Northwest Area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	6.0%	40
No 	83.9%	564
No Opinion/Don't know 	10.1%	68
<i>answered question</i>		672
<i>skipped question</i>		288

34. The next few questions ask for recommendations for specific trail areas. If you aren't familiar with the Hood River County Trail System or don't want to answer these types of questions, select skip below:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Answer questions 	80.8%	553
Skip the recommendation questions 	19.2%	131
<i>answered question</i>		684
<i>skipped question</i>		276

35. Please rate how good of an idea you think the following trail development proposals are? (Feel free to look at maps above):

I think it is a _____ .

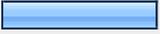
	Bad idea	Neutral	Good idea	Don't Know/Care
Develop more Free-ride trails in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area	9.4% (49)	27.2% (142)	60.6% (317)	2.9% (15)
Develop a Free-ride trail on Middle Mountain	6.9% (36)	23.1% (121)	62.7% (328)	7.3% (38)
Develop more cross-country trails (no stunts)in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area	8.3% (43)	25.2% (131)	62.1% (323)	4.4% (23)
Develop non-moto trail connections and trails in the USFS Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area lands to the Northwest/Post Canyon Area	13.9% (72)	18.5% (96)	63.8% (331)	3.9% (20)
Develop an equestrian-only trail in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area	33.1% (172)	31.3% (163)	26.7% (139)	8.8% (46)
Develop a multi-use "necklace" trail (closed to ATV/Quad but open to motorcycles and non moto users) that loops around the town of Hood River and connects all of the trail areas.	18.5% (97)	16.4% (86)	61.1% (320)	4.0% (21)
Develop more trails and loops in the Whoopee Trail Area	2.3% (12)	16.3% (85)	74.2% (388)	7.3% (38)
Develop more non-moto trails and loops in the Middle Mountain Area.	13.6% (70)	21.9% (113)	56.0% (289)	8.5% (44)
Develop more motorized trails in the Middle Mountain Area.	26.0% (136)	26.5% (139)	37.6% (197)	9.9% (52)
Other	6.3% (6)	16.7% (16)	64.6% (62)	12.5% (12)

Other (please specify)

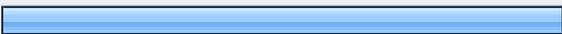
answered questions

skipped questions

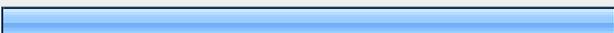
36. Please select which idea you think is the best/most important/should be done first? (You can select only one - Feel free to look at map immediately above):

		Response Percent	Response Count
Develop more free-ride trails in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area.		23.4%	123
Develop a free-ride trail on Middle Mountain.		7.6%	40
Develop more cross-country trails (no stunts) in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area.		15.2%	80
Develop non-moto trail connections and trails in the USFS Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area lands to the Northwest/Post Canyon Area.		6.7%	35
Develop an equestrian-only trail in the Post Canyon/Northwest Area.		1.0%	5
Develop a multi-use "necklace" trail (closed to ATV/Quads but open to motorcycles and non-moto users) that loops around the town of Hood River and connects all of the trail areas.		23.0%	121
Develop more non-moto trails and loops in the Whoopee Trail Area.		5.5%	29
Develop more non-moto trails and loops in the Middle Mountain Area.		2.9%	15
Develop more motorized trails in the Middle Mountain Area.		7.6%	40
Don't Know/Care		2.7%	14
Other (please specify)		4.6%	24
		answered question	526
		skipped question	434

37. Are you aware that the lands on which the Hood River County Trails are located are primarily used for timber production?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	85.2%	570
No 	14.8%	99
<i>answered question</i>		669
<i>skipped question</i>		291

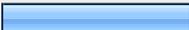
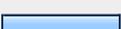
38. In the Hood River County Trail System, do you believe that recreation and timber production can co-exist and provide a quality trail experience?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	93.7%	623
No 	6.3%	42
<i>answered question</i>		665
<i>skipped question</i>		295

39. How would you describe your last experience on the Hood River County Trails?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent! 	54.1%	354
Good 	37.3%	244
Okay 	7.5%	49
Poor 	0.6%	4
Kind of sucked! 	0.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		654
<i>skipped question</i>		306

40. What could be done to improve your experience? Feel free to select as many as apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Make some easier trails and routes		14.2%	90
Create longer distance routes		58.0%	368
Better maintenance of trails		24.7%	157
Decrease number of users on the trail		6.0%	38
Improve trail signage and maps		44.3%	281
Better parking		12.6%	80
Lessen number of trail intersections		6.3%	40
Increase the number of stunts on the trails		28.3%	180
Reduce the amount of stunts on the trails		7.7%	49
Create more networks of shorter loops		14.8%	94
Create a few single use trails (i.e. equestrian only)		17.3%	110
Other (please specify)		15.1%	96
		answered question	635
		skipped question	325

41. What single improvement would be the most important to you?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Make some easier trails and routes	3.8%	24
Create more long distance routes	34.8%	218
Better maintenance of trails	9.6%	60
Decrease number of users on the trail	3.2%	20
Improve trail signage and maps	17.6%	110
Better parking	1.1%	7
Lessen number of trail intersections	1.0%	6
Increase the number of stunts on the trails	13.9%	87
Reduce the amount of stunts on the trails	1.4%	9
create more networks of shorter loops	2.6%	16
Create a few single use trails (i.e. equestrian only)	3.7%	23
Other (please specify)	7.3%	46
answered question		626
skipped question		334

42. Did you have a unfavorable experience with another trail user on the Hood River Trails?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	14.7%	99
No	85.3%	573
answered question		672
skipped question		288

43. Which types of user(s) were these unfavorable experiences with? Select all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Mtn Biker (cross-country)	24.0%	23
Mtn Biker (downhill)	25.0%	24
Mtn Biker (free-rider)	18.8%	18
Equestrian	15.6%	15
Motorcycle rider	40.6%	39
ATV/Quad rider	31.3%	30
Hiker	12.5%	12
Trail Runner	6.3%	6
Other (please specify)	12.5%	12
<i>answered question</i>		96
<i>skipped question</i>		864

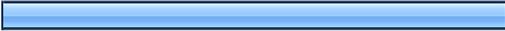
44. What was the reason for the unfavorable experience?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Excessive speed	38.8%	33
Noise	27.1%	23
Trail/resource damage	49.4%	42
Rudeness	74.1%	63
Other (please specify)		26
<i>answered question</i>		85
<i>skipped question</i>		875

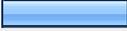
45. Feel free to tell us in your words how you think we could improve the trails in the Hood River Trail System. Hit next if you don't want to tell us anything.

	Response Count
	278
<i>answered question</i>	278
<i>skipped question</i>	682

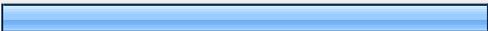
46. In order to reduce impacts and maintenance costs, would you be willing to support a trail closure during the wettest months (Nov-Mar)?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	77.0%	501
No 	23.0%	150
<i>answered question</i>		651
<i>skipped question</i>		309

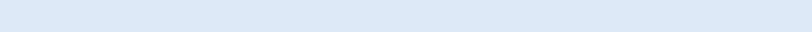
47. Would you be willing to do volunteer trail work on the Hood River Trail System?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	81.5%	731
No 	18.5%	166
<i>answered question</i>		897
<i>skipped question</i>		63

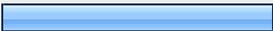
48. Are you already doing volunteer trail work on the Hood River County Forest Trail System?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	26.0%	190
No 	74.0%	541
<i>answered question</i>		731
<i>skipped question</i>		229

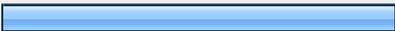
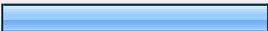
49. If you would like to leave your contact info (name and phone or email), we will have trail work coordinators contact you regarding trail work parties.

	Response Count
	324
<i>answered question</i>	324
<i>skipped question</i>	636

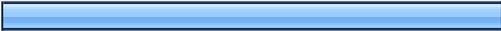
50. Which of the following would you support if proceeds went back into the trail system?: (check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Trail Map (\$7-\$10) 	87.1%	748
Bumper Sticker (\$5-\$7) 	40.9%	351
T-shirt (\$10-15) 	58.3%	501
<i>answered question</i>		859
<i>skipped question</i>		101

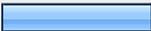
51. Would you be willing to buy a trail pass to the Hood River Trail System?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	59.7%	533
No 	40.3%	360
<i>answered question</i>		893
<i>skipped question</i>		67

52. Would you rather buy a pass for the day or a pass good for the year?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Day 	24.0%	128
Year 	76.0%	405
<i>answered question</i>		533
<i>skipped question</i>		427

53. How much would you be willing to pay for an annual trail pass supporting the Hood River Trail System?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than \$10 	6.7%	27
\$10-15 	28.4%	115
\$16-20 	25.4%	103
\$21-25 	22.5%	91
More than \$25 	17.0%	69
<i>answered question</i>		405
<i>skipped question</i>		555

54. How much would you be willing to pay for a day-use trail pass supporting the Hood River Trail System?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than \$3		10.2%	13
\$3-4		21.9%	28
\$5-6		43.8%	56
\$6-7		4.7%	6
\$8 or more		19.5%	25
answered question			128
skipped question			832

**STEWARDSHIP
PLAN SIGNATURE
PAGE**

Forest Management Plan Signature Page

This forest management plan describes the existing vegetation, soils, and wildlife/fisheries habitat and addresses the opportunities for the management and protection of all natural resources according to landowner objectives with no long-term adverse impacts. The forest management planning elements that have been checked are addressed. Planned actions are voluntary and subject to change. This plan does not limit or reduce any existing rights of the landowner. Carrying out the recommended actions contained in this plan will likely enhance long-term carbon storage through sustainable management of the land for forestry uses, even if short-term carbon storage capacity may be diminished by some actions.

Cover Page	X	Integrated Pest Management	X
Table of Contents	X	Fish and Wildlife	X
Landowner, Property and Plan Information	X	Desired Fish and Wildlife Species and Habitats	X
Property Description		Threatened and Endangered Species	X
Background and History	X	Rare, Sensitive and Other Unique Resource Sites	X
General Description	X	Wildlife Related Damage and Problem Wildlife	X
Terrain and Topography	X	Roads	X
Current Uses	X	Access and Security	X
Landscape Context	X	Wildfire Protection	X
Goals and Actions	X	Aesthetics and Recreation	X
Maps and Photos	X	Cultural Resources	X
Where to Get Help	X	Tax and Business Management	X
Soils	X	Schedule of Planned Actions	X
Water Resources	X	Regulatory Compliance	X
Forest Vegetation	X	Signature Page	X

Prepared for Hood River County

Acres of Forestland: 31,177

I understand that participation in Oregon's Forest Management Planning System may involve periodic monitoring by third parties.

Adopted this 17th day of August, 2015.



Commissioner Les Perkins



Commissioner Maui Meyer



Chair Ron Rivers



Commissioner Robert Benton

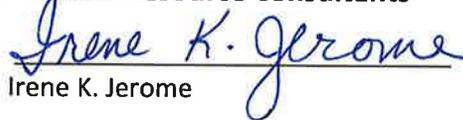


Commissioner Karen Joplin

Prepared by Creative Resource Solutions & Jerome Natural Resource Consultants



Edwin Baird



Irene K. Jerome

Approved by: Oregon Department of Forestry

Date: 9-10-2015



Chet Behling