



Forest Service
Pacific
Northwest
Region

**MT. HOOD MEADOWS
SKI AREA MASTER PLAN/ACCESS ROAD**

**Final Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Mt. Hood National Forest
Hood River Ranger District**

December, 1996

- ◆ Page III-43: In the first paragraph, under Alternative R3, replace the second sentence with:

A "No Impact" determination is made based upon a proposed road realignment that avoids this meadow habitat.

Mount Hood Meadows 4b

- ◆ Page III-42: In the second paragraph under Alternative S5, replace the third and fourth sentence with the following and add a new paragraph:

Approximately 50-70 acres of late-successional habitat would be removed as a result of lift, ski trail and parking lot development. Additionally, 50-70 acres of adjacent, "interior" late-successional forest would be indirectly impacted as the ability to provide "interior" habitat would be diminished or, for some species, absent. Consequently, Alternative S5 would be expected to directly and indirectly impact between 100-140 acres of late-successional habitat.

Alternative S5 would also provide for development of a ski lift/trails on the western edge, but outside of the 300-acre LSR block. Approximately 35 acres of late-successional habitat would be removed, with an additional 35-50 acres indirectly impacted as a result. The 35-50 acres indirectly impacted would be within the 300-acre portion of the LSR. Added to the direct and indirect impacts described above, approximately 135-190 acres of late-successional habitat within the LSR could be cumulatively impacted.

- ◆ Page III-43: Add the following after the last paragraph under Alternative R3:

The acreage to be cleared is considered mature forest and provides for some late-successional associated species. However, this area does not contain any unique habitat attributes (wetland, riparian, forested talus, etc.) that could be expected to provide habitat components for late-successional associated species identified in the Northwest Forest Plan requiring special habitat management and protection (Table C-3 and Protection and Buffer species).

The suitability of the affected habitat is currently compromised due to its proximity to OR Highway 35 and the disturbance associated with a sporadic level of medium intensity noise. This most likely deters longer-term or resident type use of the area by larger late-successional species (including pileated woodpeckers and pine marten). Smaller home range, and hence smaller size, late-successional species probably do utilize the area on a year-round basis.

Clearing of this acreage would be expected to have a long-term, discreet impact on smaller home range late-successional species. Removal of this acreage from the 34,500-acre LSR equates to the removal of 0.075% of the total LSR land base. Smaller home range, late-successional species habitat is not a limiting factor in this area.

The proposed access road improvements would be on the edge of the LSR, and therefore would result in minimal fragmentation to the LSR. In addition, the area surrounding the acreage proposed for clearing has previously been fragmented by Highway 35 and the existing access road.