

Timberline 3

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cc
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Subject: Proposed Timberline Express Project

Traci,

Based on my telephone conversions today with you and Brad Goehring, USFWS, I concur with the Mt. Hood NF determination that the proposed Timberline Express ski lift expansion project would have no effect on ESA listed anadromous fish (Lower Columbia River steelhead, LCR Chinook salmon, or LCR coho salmon) or their proposed critical habitat in Still Creek. Habitat that is known to be occupied by ESA-listed fish species is approximately 5 miles downstream from the proposed project site. Conservation measures which would be implemented as part of the project are expected to minimize sediment transport to the headwaters of Still Creek in the project area. In addition, because of stream channel gradient and configuration, any sediment that may enter the creek from the project site, would be expected to settle out prior to reaching anadromous fish habitat 5 miles downstream.

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Threatened and Endangered, Candidate and USFS Sensitive Species

Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, Timberline would continue to operate without any further development. No additional impacts would occur to Threatened and Endangered fish species under Alternative 1.

Alternative 2

Suitable rearing and spawning habitat exists on Still Creek both within and downstream of the Study Area for LCR chinook salmon, LCR steelhead trout, bull trout, LCR coho salmon, redband trout, and Columbia Dusky Snail. Surveys conducted in Still Creek (2003) and the West Fork Salmon River (2004) found no evidence of these species within the Study Area (see Appendix D – Fisheries). Barriers to fish passage located downstream of the Study Area exist, as a result, these species are not expected to occur within the Study Area. Therefore, no direct impacts to individuals within the Study Area are anticipated under Alternative 2. However indirect impacts to fish may occur due to altered flows, changes in sedimentation, or water quality.

The effects of the Proposed Action on Threatened and Endangered species is summarized below in Table 3.4-2. Additional information regarding the effects of the Action Alternatives can be found in Appendix D – Fisheries Biological Evaluation for the Timberline Express Chairlift Proposal.

Table 3.4-2
Effect Determinations for Listed Species

Species	Status	Effect Determination			
		Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 5	Alt. 8
Lower Columbia River Fall/Spring Chinook (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>)	Federal Threatened	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Lower Columbia River Steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)	Federal Threatened	NLAA	NLAA	No Effect	No Effect
Bull Trout (<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>)	Federal Threatened	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Lower Columbia River Coho (<i>Oncorhynchus kistutch</i>)	Proposed Threatened	NLAA	NLAA	No Effect	No Effect
Redband Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss sp.</i>)	USFS Sensitive Species	MIIH	MIIH	No Impact	No Impact
Columbia Dusky Snail (<i>Lyogyrus n. sp 1</i>)	USFS Sensitive Species	MIIH	MIIH	No Impact	No Impact

NLAA- May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect

MIIH- May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but is not likely to contribute towards federal listing of this species

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areas over a mat of processed slash, avoiding exposure of mineral soils and eliminating need for trails or skid roads. A single grip harvester is a machine that cuts the tree at the stump, delimbs, tops, and bucks to the desired length with a processing head on the end of a hydraulic boom. This boom is attached to a four-wheel drive or a track carrier. A forwarder is a rubber tire or steel tracked, articulated vehicle used for transporting cut trees and is equipped with a grapple loader for loading and unloading.

Potential impacts to wildlife from tree removal activities would include disturbance due to the increased noise and activity within the Study Area. Helicopter-assisted tree removal would potentially result in wildlife disturbances outside of the Study Area. Design Criteria W4 and W5 restrict the use of helicopter assisted tree removal (see Table 2.4-2).

Determination of Effects

Table 3.6-8 presents the determination of effects for special-status species potentially occurring within the Study Area. A complete discussion of these effects can be found in Appendix F - *Wildlife Technical Report and Biological Evaluation for the Timberline Express Chairlift Proposal*.



**Table 3.6-8
Effects Determinations for Special Status Wildlife Species Potentially
Occurring in the Timberline Express Proposal Study Area**

Species	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	Alternative 8
Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species				
Northern spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>)	CHU – No Effect Owls/habitat – MANLAA1 Disturbance - MANLAA1	CHU – No Effect Owls/habitat – MANLAA1 Disturbance - MANLAA1	CHU – MANLAA1 Owls/habitat – MANLAA1 Disturbance - MANLAA1	CHU – No Effect Owls/habitat – MANLAA1 Disturbance - MANLAA1
Mt. Hood National Forest Sensitive Species				
American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Harlequin duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)	No Impact			
California wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo luteus</i>)	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Pacific fisher (<i>Martes pennanti</i>)	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Baird's shrew (<i>Sorex bairdii permiliensis</i>)	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Pacific western (Townsend's) big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Pacific Fringe-tailed bat	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			

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Species	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	Alternative 8
<i>(Myotis thysanodes vespertinus)</i>				
Oregon spotted frog <i>(Rana pretiosa)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Cope's giant salamander <i>(Dicamptodon tenebrosus)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Cascade torrent salamander <i>(Rhyacotriton cascadae)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Oregon slender salamander <i>(Batrachoseps wrighti)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Oregon red tree vole <i>(Arborimus longicaudus)</i>	No Impact			
Larch mountain salamander <i>(Plethodon larselli)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Puget Oregonian <i>(Cryptomastix devia)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Columbia oregonian <i>(Cryptomastix hendersoni)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Dalles sideband <i>(Monodentia fidelis minor)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Crater Lake tightcoil <i>(Pristiloma arcticum crateris)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Mt. Hood National Forest Management Indicator Species				
Pileated woodpecker <i>(Dryocopus pileatus)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
American marten <i>(Martes americana)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Black-tailed deer <i>(Odocoileus hemionus)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Elk <i>(Cervus elaphus)</i>	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			
Neotropical Migratory Birds	May impact individuals, but would not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing			

MANLAA – May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect