From: Huffman, Ross T (DFW)
To: Jen Watkins
Cc: Wood, Lisa (DFW); McCorquodale, Scott (DFW)
Subject: RE: Comment letter on DNS 14-039: OAK CREEK WILDLIFE AREA ROAD MANAGEMENT
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2014 3:17:21 PM
Attachments: maps Oak Ck WA combined.pdf

Ms. Watkins,

Thank you for taking the time to comment on our proposed road actions on the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. To follow up on our phone conversation we had this morning I have attached the maps you requested. These are the same maps that were sent out in the original DNS email on 6/3/14. The maps go section by section showing which roads will be abandoned in red with unauthorized ORV trails in orange. New construction is very limited and is designed to improve the ORV trails system in the area, those trails are in section 5 and are shown in a purple dash.

As I stated on the phone the road management we are proposing to implement was an initial attempt to meet our Road Maintenance and Abandonment Planning (RMAP) obligations by dealing with identified problems, and to try and address the numerous miles of unauthorized ORV trails. I look forward to working with Conservation Northwest and other members of the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative as we develop and implement land management activities on the wildlife area.

In regards to your question on total miles of unauthorized ORV trails, I have requested that information from our GIS staff and will provide the total amount when it is available.

Currently we are coordinating with our enforcement program to develop a plan for education and enforcement of the road closures in the area. The first step is to complete the process of approving the closures. Currently we are working on maps and kiosks for the area to provide the public information on the changes. We will also be posting individual roads as appropriate.

Currently funding is being requested for the next biennium to address RMAP issues. It is expected that RMAP funding will be awarded and work will begin after July 1 2015. I am currently working on a RCO grant application to complete motorized trail improvements. We will be working with the US Forest Service and volunteer groups to improve the system trails in the area. We currently have no funding to address unauthorized trails. We will work to address these trails as time and budgets allow. This project has great support from the ORV community and there are opportunities to work with them to repair damaged areas and to close some of these trails. In the mean time we will post signs and work with enforcement to maintain the closures. As we discussed on the phone any support or coordination on securing funding to complete this work is welcomed.

Thank you again for the support for this project and if I can provide any additional information feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Ross Huffman
Oak Creek Wildlife Area Manager
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(509) 961-8093-Mobile

From: Jen Watkins [mailto:jwatkins@conservationnw.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:45 PM
To: Huffman, Ross T (DFW)
Cc: Dave Werntz; Wood, Lisa (DFW)
Subject: Comment letter on DNS 14-039: OAK CREEK WILDLIFE AREA ROAD MANAGEMENT

Dear Mr. Huffman,

Please find attached our comments on DNS 14-039: OAK CREEK WILDLIFE AREA ROAD MANAGEMENT.

Thank you,

Jen Watkins
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