



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Willamette National Forest
Middle Fork Ranger District

Lowell: 60 S. Pioneer Street
Lowell, Oregon 97452
Oakridge/ 46375 Hwy. 58
Rigdon: Westfir, Oregon 97492

File Code: 1950 NEPA
Date: April 22, 2004

Subject: Waldo Lake – Managing Recreation Use Environmental Assessment
Public Scoping

To: Interested Publics

The Forest is preparing a revised Environmental Assessment to analyze recreation use options at Waldo Lake with a desire to issue a Decision Notice by the end of summer 2004. This analysis will rely heavily on analysis contained in the first environmental assessment, though new information will be brought into the process. Information about the first Environmental Assessment for this project is available at the Forest website (www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/manage/waldolake).

In 2003, the Forest surveyed 413 visitors at Waldo Lake to gather more information on recreation use and visitor attitudes at Waldo Lake. The Forest also collected lake sediment samples near boat launches in 2003 to determine if motorized boating is contributing measurable levels of pollution to the lake ecosystem.

Results from these two surveys will be included in the new assessment, in addition to a new alternative that considers partitioning the summer recreation season between motorized and non-motorized boat use. Similar to the previous analysis, the purpose and need of the second assessment will focus on meeting recreation management objectives for the lake and surrounding dispersed recreation areas on the shoreline.

The major elements considered in this project's purpose and need include: recreation emphasis for the lake and its shoreline, motorized boating, dispersed site management, and special use permit regulation. Recreation emphasis is defined for management areas by Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) designations. ROS designations describe manageable aspects of the recreation setting, its target recreation experience, and visitor behavior that is compatible with the setting and experience goals.

The proposed action in this second assessment would accomplish the following:

- Change the ROS designation of Waldo Lake to Semiprimitive Nonmotorized. This change would be a non-significant amendment to the 1990 Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (as amended).
- Prohibit the use of gas-powered boat motors on the lake except for emergencies and approved research.



- Prohibit float planes from landing on Waldo Lake throughout the year.
- Implement a dispersed campsite management strategy that controls site expansion around the lake shore. This strategy would also prohibit the public use of chainsaws and generators around the lake in Management Area 10e (Dispersed Recreation, Semiprimitive, Nonmotorized).
- Restrict the issuance of new special use permits for activities on or around the lake and impose stricter conditions for new permits. These stricter conditions would also apply to existing permits when they come up for renewal.

People interested in submitting comments for the 2004 planning process should send their thoughts to my office:

Waldo Lake Recreation Use Analysis
Rick Scott, District Ranger
Middle Fork Ranger District
Willamette National Forest
46375 Hwy 58, Westfir, OR 97492

Comments can also be made electronically by sending email to:

comments.pacificnorthwest-willamette@fs.fed.us

Public comments received during the 2002 environmental analysis will be considered for this revised environmental assessment, and the existing mail list of interested publics will be used. Questions or requests for further information should be directed to Brian McGinley (541-367-9234) or Jim Williams (541-782-2283). Thank you for your interest in Waldo Lake.

Sincerely,

RICK SCOTT
DISTRICT RANGER