

Appendix R

ODF&W Input

Little Canyon Mountain
Cumulative Effects Analysis

December 5, 2002

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Development: The settlement of man and the impacts of that arrival forever changed the landscape for fish and wildlife species, both historically and currently, serving as an umbrella category for most other impacts.

Mining: Road development to mining sites, and archaic laws protecting that access have perpetuated disturbance to wildlife and habitat. Most activities are not related to mining, such as off-road vehicle recreation, shooting, and partying. These activities create garbage deposits, additional unauthorized cross-country OHV trails, and increased human presence. Therefore, mining activity has provided for opportunistic use of LCM by development outside of the study area.

Housing: The Marysville area has filled in over the years with hobby farm ranchettes. The associated pastures have attracted deer and provided forage, but have also created conflicts with deer, mostly from aggressive does attacking pets. While the tolerance level for deer damage has been fairly high, normal deer winter range has been converted from native browse to cervid “junk food”. Elk use is not recorded for the area. Further development is expected to proceed more slowly, unless a plat is subdivided or partitioned, making more lots available.

Roads: Rugged terrain has limited development to creek bottoms such as Dog Creek and Little Pine Creek. Only the severest winters will force all deer to the open foothills. BLM-owned property is mostly transitional range that will provide adequate habitat to support deer that are not wanted at lower elevations with human habitation. Reduction of road mileage on LCM to mitigate a more open plant community through timber harvesting will help support such use.

Timber harvest: Recent harvest on the northern boundary has been directed at improving forest health, which under ODF rules will remove all diseased, dead or dying trees, and leave an 18 to 30 foot uniform spacing. ODF forest practices have little consideration for wildlife impacts. Numbers of large diameter dead/down, standing/replacement snags, are needed for woodpecker foraging and nesting habitat in the battle to control insects organically. Large down material is important for microbial processes and small mammal/amphibian habitat. Wildlife travel corridors leaving BLM

canyons and draws will be compromised by private lands harvest, and should be left intact where possible (in addition to dispersed cover patches).

Riparian: Implementation of Pacfish buffers, road relocation on Little Pine Creek, and conifer thinning, as proposed, will maximize benefits of BLM ownership to the riparian zone, and provide higher quality water to the watershed. Streambank degradation, channelization, and livestock contamination are probably the greatest impacts downstream.