

# HORSE HELI TIMBER SALE

## *Help Protect a Wild Highway in the Sky*



*Old-growth cedars in the Horse Heli timber sale.*

NEAR TREELINE, HIGH ON THE STEEP SISKIYOU CREST just south of the Oregon border and about thirty miles west of I-5, the proposed Horse Heli Timber Sale would log ancient forest and important wildlife habitat in a corridor which connects the Klamath Mountains to the southern Oregon and northern California Cascades. This highway in the sky will be a key to keeping our wild areas alive with wildlife into the future.

The USFS justifies Horse Heli with the rhetoric of “fire hazard reduction,” as if removing large trees from deep in the backcountry does anything to improve safety for firefighters or rural communities. At this high elevation site, fire suppression has not affected the ecosystem to the degree that it has in the lowlands. Historical events included very intense fires that promoted forest regeneration, soil nutrient cycling, and biodiversity.

## WATERSHEDS OF CONCERN...

The Horse Heli Timber Sale would log 18 million board feet from 1,498 acres along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) on the southside of Condrey Mountain midway between Mt. Ashland and the Red Buttes Wilderness. The Headwaters of the Doggett, Kohl, Buckhorn and Middle Creek Watersheds (creeks which all flow into the mid-Klamath River) would be logged. All four of these watersheds are designated as “watersheds of concern” due to the cumulative impacts of past management.

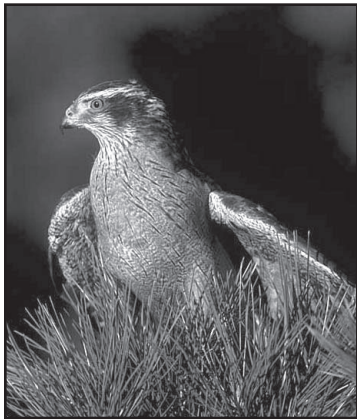
The US Forest Service (USFS) originally proposed Horse Heli with helicopters as the predominant logging method. But given rising fuel costs, the USFS decided to add insult to injury by increasing the amount of ground-based logging, further degrading already ailing watersheds. Almost 800 acres of logging would be conducted by ground-based cable and tractor logging systems. These yarding methods are known to cause soil compaction and harm soil productivity.

The Siskiyou Crest is a rare east-west mountain range straddling the Oregon-California border. We call the crest a “land bridge” because it allows for on-going dispersal and migration of species across the landscape. It brings together species from the coast, the Cascades, the Sierra, the Central Valley, the Great Basin and even the Rocky Mountains.



*Northside view of the Horse Heli timber sale.*

The Forest Service justifies cutting nearly 1,500 acres on the steep, fragile slopes of Condrey Mountain by claiming its necessary to protect “forest health” and hydrological (stream) function. Cutting big trees is more likely to increase fire hazards than to diminish them. Unfortunately, the Forest Service already considers the downstream sub-watersheds “impaired” due to past logging and the abundance of logging roads in the area. The proposed logging would thus pose an even greater risk to the salmon and steelhead in the area, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act.



*Northern goshawk,  
(Accipiter gentilis).  
Photo by Don Getty*

**This high elevation forest is crucial for the connectivity of plants and animals across the landscape.**

The area includes habitat for both the northern spotted owl and the northern goshawk. Horse Heli could remove and fragment important habitat used by rare forest carnivores including Pacific fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and American marten (*Martes americanus*).



*Pacific fisher  
(Martes pennanti).  
Photo by Eleanor Kee Weffman*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Comments on the Draft the Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked by February 13.** Please contact the Klamath National Forest and ask that they do not allow cutting of trees larger than 20 inches in diameter. Also request that they allow no tractor yarding in these sensitive watersheds. Encourage the Klamath National Forest to focus logging on second growth plantations. Please visit Horse Heli and our website at [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org) to learn more about the region and KS Wild’s efforts to protect it.

**Write to: Peg Boland, Forest Supervisor**  
Klamath National Forest  
1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097-9549  
(530) 842-6131



*Taking a break on a KS Wild hike to enjoy a big tree in the Horse Heli Timber Sale.*



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