

Resolution #2
Federation of Western Outdoor Club

**OPPOSE LIFT-ASSISTED DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKE FACILITY AT
TIMBERLINE LODGE - REAFFIRM FWOC RESOLUTION 2010 -11**

Submitted by: Mazamas

Background: RLK and Company, managers of Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood, have proposed a plan to transform the ski permit area into a downhill lift-assisted bike park during the summer season.

Timberline Lodge is a National Historic Landmark and arguably the premier historic alpine lodge in the nation. The activities associated with a downhill mountain bike park are incompatible with the experience expected by the nearly 2 million guests and visitors to Timberline each year. Mountain biking is a high impact activity which stresses the landscape and wildlife. In addition, it interferes with other recreational uses, including hiking and wildlife observation.

The analysis of the environmental impacts to wildlife described in the Preliminary Assessment (PA), which was written by a Forest Service biologist and submitted to the agency's Zigzag Ranger District as part of the final report, is flawed. It minimizes the significant and detrimental effects to the Mt. Hood elk herd from human disturbance, including potential negative impact on the calving area, loss of summer range, and herd disturbance. In addition, there is the potential of negatively affecting the Zigzag and Salmon River Watershed by permanently altering the natural landscape by disturbing the natural precipitation-absorptive capacity of that landscape.

Status: The USFS does not intend to issue a decision on the permit for the lift-assisted mountain bike project until late fall. If the project is approved, it will likely face a court challenge. The fact that the Forest Service failed to solicit public comment on the RLK Master Plan is likely to present grounds for litigation.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs reiterates its opposition to the proposal to construct a Lift-Assisted Downhill Mountain Bike Facility at Mt. Hood's historic Timberline Lodge due to its adverse impacts on the Mt. Hood elk herd, as well as its impacts on other recreational users.

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