

Resolution #11
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

OPPOSE TIMBERLINE LODGE LIFT-ASSIST DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKE FACILITY

Submitted by: Mazamas

Background: The operator Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood has proposed a plan to transform the ski permit area into a downhill lift-assist bike park during the summer season. The proposed trail system, while stated to only impact 7 acres, will span over hundreds of acres. The proposal may involve noise and large events that can impact the Timberline Trail. Increase downhill bike use will also impact neighboring trails.

Timberline Lodge is a National Historic Landmark and arguably the premier historic alpine lodge in the nation. It is our belief that the activities associated with a downhill bike park are incompatible with the experience expected by the nearly 2 million guests and visitors to Timberline each year.

Downhill riding, as opposed to single track trail riding, is a high impact activity which places maximum stress on landscapes and wildlife. A bike park will sacrifice a multi-use area of forest, meadows and wetlands for a single-use area. In addition to permanently altering the natural landscape, there is the potential of negatively affecting the Zigzag and Salmon River Watershed.

Status: A decision by the Forest Service is pending and the public comment period is officially closed, however, it isn't too late for citizens or organizations to express their views. If approved, the mountain bike facility will be appealed.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs opposes the proposal to construct a Lift-Assist Downhill Mountain Bike Facility at Mt. Hood's historic Timberline Lodge.

Contact: Joan Zuber, zuberj@juno.com or, conservation@mazamas.org, (503) 227-2345.