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**From:** Dave Wiley [davewiley@wvi.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:16 PM  
**To:** Stockade Block  
**Subject:** Comments - Draft Stockade Block Area Management Plan

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Stockade Block management plan.

I strongly oppose the proposal, found on page 35 and 36 of the draft plan, to lease hunting rights in the SB (public land) to private parties which action will exclude the public hunters from hunting on public land. I recommend the proposed option be removed from the draft document.

In Oregon there is a long standing historical precedent of allowing the general public to hunt the state own public land and to hunt the 230,000 acre (SB) in particular. Leasing hunting rights on the SB to an individual and thus exclude the general public from hunting that public land, even the consideration of such leasing as included in the draft, is highly distasteful to me and likely inflammatory to all the hunters of State. Oregon Hunters are accustomed by 150 years of tradition to being able to hunt public land. Please consider it is the licensed Oregon hunters, through their license and tag fees, which pay for all the management of the State's wildlife.

Leasing hunting rights on public land to a private party and thus excluding hunting of the land by the general public may well be at odds with State law. Oregon law, ORS 496.012 – Oregon Wildlife Policy, states in part, "It shall be the policy of the State of Oregon that wildlife shall be managed .. .....to provide optimal recreational and esthetic benefits for present and future of this state." Leasing the hunting rights to a private party and thereby excluding the general public does not seem to me to fulfill the intent of the law.

Failure to remove the lease hunting rights option from the draft plan could bring the State Land Board and the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Department of State Lands and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, into a conflict over the issue of public access to public lands because ORS 496.012 (4) states the Fish and Wildlife Commission has a responsibility "To develop and maintain public access to the lands and waters of the state and the wildlife resources thereon."

Energy sighting and loss of wildlife habitat are a major concern. The draft plan discusses options to lease for energy sights, wind energy for example. If energy sighting leases are some day approved, this draft management plan must contain direction that off-site wildlife habitat improvements will be made to compensate of lost habitat and recreational opportunity that results from the energy sighting lease.

On page 17 in the draft plan it mentions that Big Horn sheep are found in the Saddle Butte area of the SB. Big Horn sheep contract a form of pneumonia from domestic sheep and goats and die from it because they have no immunity to the disease. Please don't permit a grazing lease for sheep or goats any where near Big Horn sheep range.

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