
From: Ted & Venice Anderson [bigbull84@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 8:14 PM
To: Stockade Block
Cc: Bastian Bob; Dave Wiley; Kaboth, Dieter; Richardson, Bill; ssm1120: aol.com
Subject: Stockade Block letter

Attachments: RMEF Comment Letter Stockade Block.doc



RMEF Comment
Letter Stockade B...

Here is a comment letter on the draft Stockade Block management plan, please see attached. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Ted

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Ted W Anderson,
RMEF Oregon State Co-Chair
220 SW Hawthorne Street
Sutherlin OR 97479
541-459-8800
541-430-3338



Steve Martin

Ted Anderson

Oregon State Co-Chairs

1701 1/2 X Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 215-0022
ssm1120@aol.com

220 SW Hawthorne St
Sutherlin, OR 97479
(541) 459-8800
bigbull84@charter.net

April 13, 2009

Oregon Department of State Lands
Attn: Stockade Block Plan Comments
775 Summer St. NE Ste. 100
Salem OR 97301-1279

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Stockade Block (SB) Area Management Plan.

RMEF objects to the proposal (page 35 of the draft plan) to exclude the public from freely enjoying hunting access on public land by leasing hunting rights on the state-owned Stockade Block... We recommend the proposal to lease hunting rights be removed from the draft document for the reasons stated below.

Licensed Oregon hunters pay for all the management of the State's wildlife through their license and tag fees. Oregon has a long standing history of allowing the general public to hunt state-owned public land including this 230,000 acre site. A decision to lease Stockade Block hunting rights to individuals or entities and exclude the public from free hunting access, is highly objectionable to the hunters of the State of Oregon.

Oregon law, ORS 496.012 – Wildlife Policy, states in part, "It is the policy of the State of Oregon that wildlife shall be managedto provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state." ORS 496.012 (4) further 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." Leasing hunting rights on public land to a private party excluding free hunting access of the land by the general public contradicts this State law.

In conclusion, RMEF strongly opposes the language in the draft Stockade Block Area Management Plan to lease hunting rights on public land and recommend it be removed from the draft. RMEF urges the Department of State Lands to continue to keep public lands open and freely accessible to the public.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a national non-profit conservation organization. The mission of the Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. RMEF also works to open, secure and improve public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation. There are more than 13,000 RMEF members in Oregon and 150,000 nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Andersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ted Andersen
Oregon State Co-Chair
The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation