

4 June, 2010

To Whom it may concern:

Mr. John Getz contacted me recently regarding a request for an expert to help with the determination of what is and is not matsutake habitat for the OHV Designated Routs Working Group in the Oregon Dunes. In Oregon or perhaps the United States, I would probably be that expert. However, in my research on the American matsutake and other wild edible mushrooms, I have found that many harvesters with their extensive field experience have a more refined and accurate notion of those physical and biological characteristics that comprise appropriate habitat than any university researcher, and I have often relied on the judgment of commercial mushroom harvesters in my own work to locate study sites and to generate hypotheses. In the determination of matsutake habitat, the harvester I turn to is Mr. Getz. I am not aware of anyone with a more comprehensive understanding of the decades-long life cycle of habitat patches, including recognition of the indicator organisms and forest characteristics that precede matsutake production in a given stand, and the indicators of mushroom yields within different productive stands. In those respects I believe Mr. Getz has few peers in North America. I would be glad to assist if you feel the need for consultation with an outside expert, but I believe there is little to gain beyond the expertise already available to you within your working group.

Sincerely,

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