

March 18, 2013

RE: SB12/HB3251 hearing

To Whom It Concerns,

On May 26, 2008, a friend and I were camping in the Elliott State Forest, between the 8000 road and the West Fork Millicoma River, east of its confluence with Deer Creek. While there we witnessed two vehicles driving down the middle of the West Fork Millicoma River. We heard a truck and then saw it driving down the river past our camp. This is the first picture I took at about 3:30 p.m., looking from our camp down toward the river.



We went down to the river and I took this next picture:



I told the driver he should not be in the river. He said he couldn't go much further anyway, and started to turn around. I asked him where he was from, and he said "from here". I assumed that meant Reedsport.



One can see from these pictures that these are modified pick-up trucks for rock crawling in rivers like the West Fork Millicoma River.





As he was completing his turn around, we saw the second truck driving down the river.



The driver of the first truck must have communicated to the driver of the second truck that there were two people on the river bank with a camera telling him he should not be in the river, because the second truck started to turn around as soon as it came into our view.





The trucks continued to drive upriver out of our sight. Later that day, when I got to a place where my cell phone worked, I reported what I saw to the ODF office in Coos Bay.

About 4 miles downstream from where I saw the trucks in the river, there is a campground on the Elliott, next to road 8100, popular with off highway vehicles. This is also the heart of a marbled murrelet reserve (Elkhorn Ranch Marbled Murrelet Management Area).



This camping area is just across the 8100 road from the West Fork Millicoma River. Below is a mud bog in the campground that was made for vehicles to drive through for recreation.



The road from the mud bog leads directly to this user-created trail into the river.



From the Millicoma riverbank, the user-created trail up to 8100 looks like this:



Other user created trails lead from the 8100 road directly into the West Fork Millicoma. The road below is about a half mile north of the mud-bog and trail in the previous picture.



This is yet another road into the West Fork Millicoma River, near the one above, and also off of road 8100.



To view more pictures of trucks in the West Fork Millicoma, in the Elliott, go to:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/112037980213765028264/OHVDamageInWfKMillicomaElliottSF>

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