

Trail Advocates

of the Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest

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Palomar Pipeline Trail Impacts go Undocumented

Topic: Palomar Pipeline Trail Impacts go Undocumented

Author: Donovan

Topic Started: 9/1/2008; 11:08:11 AM

Last Posted: 9/2/2008; 6:46:47 AM

Palomar Pipeline Trail Impacts go Undocumented

Donovan : 9/1/2008; 10:08:11 AM

Reads: 540, Responses: 2 ([view responses to this item](#))

Palomar submitted it's Draft Resource Report to the FERC recently. You can read it at the Palomar web site.

I was very surprised and disappointed, and yet not surprised, to find no mention in the dialog between the MHNF and the Company (Resource Report #4. app 4B- parts 2 and 3) of four trails in our District which would be impacted. One heritage site I know of would also be in harms way but finds no mention.

On the map fig 10.4.4-2, the Mount Hood North Alternate would run right over the top of 6 miles of the Grouse Point Trail 517 from Frazier Turnaround to the 4611 road. A 200' clearing with associated access roads along the same ridge as the trail would leave this trail a shambles. The other irony is that the easier grade into the Roaring River is where Paul Turner has located the correct route of the trail. USGS shows the trail in another location.

On the map fig 10.4.4-4, the pipeline goes right through Fish Creek Mountain Trail 541. Indeed their surveyors have used the trail but it appears in no impact dialog. The Alternate around the top of the Fish Creek drainage impacts Skookum Lake Trail 543 and Baty Butte Trail 545. These trails are mentioned nowhere that I could find.

Part of the problem is that our trails are not properly mapped and documented. I have seen the consequences of this before. The trails will be trashed unless the MHNF makes clear the location of these resources and the expectation that they be repaired after the dozers tear them up. Let's encourage the Forest to make sure our trails are adequately protected.

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Re: Palomar Pipeline Trail Impacts go Undocumented[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 9/1/2008; 4:56:15 PMReads: 508, Responses: 0 ([view responses to this item](#))

What is the best way to make sure the trails are protected? Who do we write to?

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Palomar Pipeline Trail Impacts go Undocumented****Robert Koscik** : 9/2/2008; 5:46:47 AMReads: 532, Responses: 0 ([view responses to this item](#))

"top of 6 miles of the Grouse Point Trail 517 from Frazier Turnaround to the 4611 road"

isn't that part of the roadless area/future wilderness? I guess nothing is immune to change...I'm surprised to the extent of the proposed damage though.

200' clearing and new access roads, what a mess. Especially thru that beautiful country.

Here's the website:

http://www.palomargas.com/resource_reports.html

This one I don't understand, I thought old growth was off limits in the MHNF. These maps show a hell of an impact in an already recovering area:

http://www.palomargas.com/docs/resource_reports/rr03_3b_maps_of_old_growth_forest_and_lsrs_crossed_by_the_project.pdf

Proposed Oregon natural gas pipeline raises environmental concerns

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For the Palomar pipeline to be built across Oregon, timber would have to be clear-cut and rivers crossed.

By Peter Zuckerman
The Oregonian
March 23, 2008

The latest maps of a natural gas line proposed for

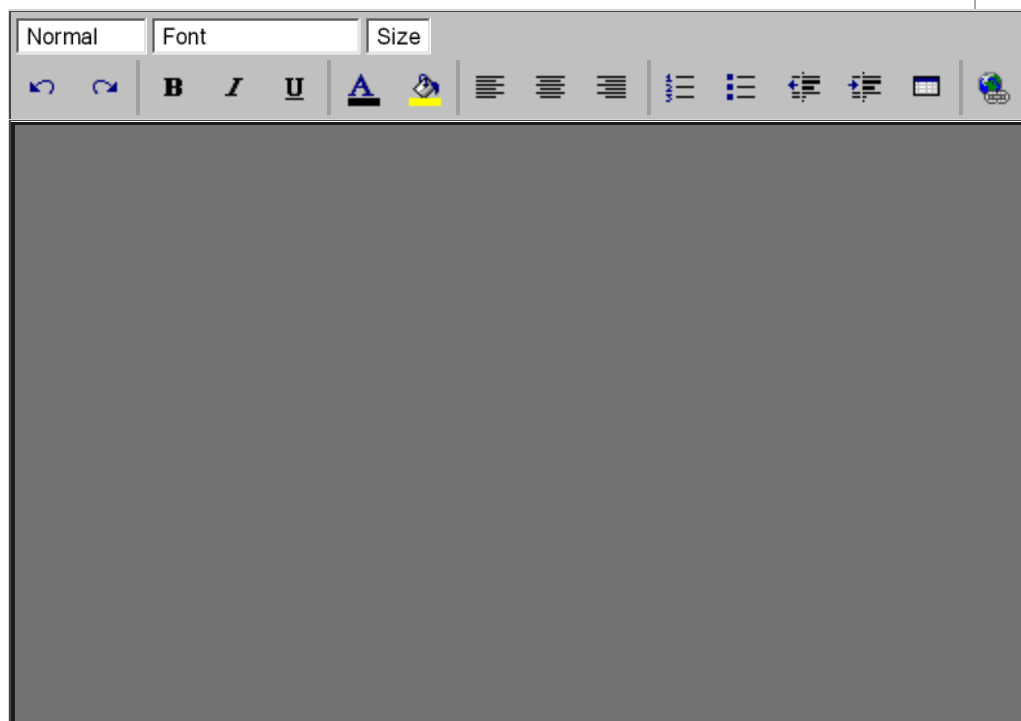
Background: freeway-wide clear-cut slicing through 73 miles of public forest and the pressurized pipeline crossing about 50 rivers and named streams.

At peak construction, Palomar Gas Transmission plans to employ up to 1,000 workers to clear brush and trees along a 120-foot-wide path, level terrain and bury the pipe in a trench 7 feet deep, according to the latest draft of a report filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Until now, environmental opposition to the Palomar project and a similar, competing proposal centered on concerns about possible pollution or spills from tankers crossing the Columbia River bar and transferring huge quantities of fuel at an estuary upstream from Astoria. New details about Palomar's proposed route expand the debate to include communities throughout northwest Oregon.

In all, the pipeline would extend 210 miles, feeding into a natural gas network east of the Cascades. Work crews would cut through public and private land using backhoes, rock cutters, tractor-mounted mechanical rippers and blasting tools. Palomar officials say they would minimize environmental damage while providing Oregonians with jobs and a reliable source of energy.

Critics say the project would degrade wildlife and fish



h itat, destabilize s kill endangered species, spread
invasive weeds, destroy patches of old-growth trees
and open public forest to all-terrain vehicles.

More energy sources

At low temperatures, natural gas liquefies.

Palomar would ship supercooled liquid natural gas imported on tankers from Russia, Indonesia, Australia and the Middle East to a terminal near Wauna, on the Columbia River. The fuel, warmed to a gas state, would flow through a high-pressure line, providing enough energy to supply thousands of West Coast homes and businesses.

Proponents say the Pacific Northwest must develop more energy sources and that natural gas is cleaner than coal. They estimate the project would pump \$75 million into local economies each year and provide \$8 million in annual taxes.

Regardless of whether the terminal is approved and constructed, Northwest Natural Gas Co., Oregon's leading natural gas provider, proposes building the eastern section of Palomar to ship more fuel between central Oregon and the Willamette Valley.

Palomar officials acknowledge that pipeline construction



Post Response

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would disturb land and water. But, as a company brochure puts it, "Palomar is committed to environmental protection throughout the course of construction and on into the operation and maintenance of the pipeline."

Hydrologists, geotechs, biologists, geologists, archaeologists and other experts are helping Palomar find the best path for the line, officials said.

Crossing rivers

No matter what route is chosen across western Oregon, the Palomar pipeline must cross several rivers with important salmon habitat, including the Willamette, Clackamas, Molalla, Pudding and Deschutes.

In all, construction would require the use of 3,124 acres -- an area about the size of Milwaukie -- plus a yet-to-be-determined amount of temporary workspace, according to the project description Palomar submitted to the regulatory commission. Once operating, the pipe would require the use of much less land -- about 1,300 acres.

Although construction crews would use a 120-foot-wide path in most areas, the pathway would narrow to 75 feet in wetlands. In steep terrain or at difficult crossings, workers would use additional terrain. Until they determine the final route, Palomar officials say they won't know how many water crossings the pipeline would require or whether it would go above or below specific rivers and streams.

An analysis of Geographic Information System data conducted by Erik Fernandez, wilderness coordinator for Oregon Wild, which advocates for the protection of Oregon's wilderness, found the proposed pipeline would cross 292 water bodies, many of them too small to have names.

An examination of less detailed maps by The Oregonian found the pipeline would cross about 50 named rivers, streams and creeks.

Environmental activists and some public officials said the crossings would dirty the water, spoil spawning habitats and sicken and kill threatened fish species.

In a letter to Gov. Ted Kulongoski and other public officials, the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District said district residents have expressed "shock and disbelief" at the potential degradation of public property. "Recent landslides in Columbia County have heightened public

awareness to the linkage between clear-cutting and landslides," district manager Rick Gruen wrote.

Many environmentalists are alarmed, saying the pipeline amounts to a giveaway to pollution-intensive corporations.

"It's taking public assets and turning them into private profits," said Bill Barton, Native Forest Council field operations director. "We should stop this. If citizens don't wake up, our resources will be gone."

Instead of hooking Oregonians on natural gas, the state should promote renewable sources of energy, he and others said.

This month, Forest Grove became the first Oregon city to formally oppose the project, finding that it would jeopardize the ecological balance of the Columbia River, the natural resources along the pipeline route and the water supply of Forest Grove.

"Even if they do everything they can to protect the environment, this project will still have an adverse impact," said Brenna Bell, staff attorney for Willamette Riverkeeper. "That raises the question: Do we need this project?"

Mitigating damage

Palomar officials say the project's economic benefits more than outweigh environmental costs.

Once they determine the pipeline's path, company officials say they will propose specific measures to minimize damage. Workers would probably replace topsoil, recreate the contours of the land, replant native tree seeds or seedlings, install erosion-control devices and possibly buy and donate land to offset any losses.

After construction, the forest could grow back in most places, except for a 23-foot path, according to Palomar project manager Henry Morse.

"The permanent, untimbered area is so narrow the canopy can almost completely cover it," he said.

Peter Zuckerman: 503-294-5919;
peterzuckerman@news.oregonian.com