

ORDER REVISING BOUNDARIES OF THE
METOLIUS RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Secretary of Agriculture under regulation 36 CFR 251.23, I hereby order that the lands described in the attached report by Robert L. Eidenberger dated January 5, 1973, be designated as the Metolius Research Natural Area.

5/9/73

Date

John R. McElmer

Chief

REVISION OF ESTABLISHMENT REPORT FOR METOLIUS RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

The Metolius Research Natural Area is described in the Establishment Report dated June 9, 1931. It is located in the Metolius River drainage on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, Jefferson County, Oregon.

In order to better manage this Natural Area, the east and west boundaries should be adjusted from imaginary lines that are subdivisions of a section to natural and manmade features that can be readily recognized on the ground.

Natural Area Boundary

The area to be designated, all within T. 12 S., R. 9 E., W.M., is shown on the attached map. The new boundary on the west is located 100 feet east of the centerline of Road No. 113. It starts approximately 396 feet west of the quarter corner between Sections 34 and 35, and extending northerly along Road No. 113, ending on the north section line of Section 26. The new boundary on the east is the summit of Green Ridge in Sections 25 and 36. The north and south boundaries remain unchanged except for those areas being added or deleted.

These adjustments will reduce the area size from 1,440 acres to 1,318 acres.

Management of Buffer Strip Between Road No. 113 and the Natural Area

The buffer strip will be managed in a manner which will exert a minimum of influence on the ecological conditions present in the Natural Area and to retain a strip that resembles the Natural Area as closely as possible. To accomplish this goal, the following practices will be followed:

1. Timber management will be confined to handling of danger trees that pose a public hazard along Road No. 113.
2. Pulling trees over will be preferable to felling with a saw. All downed trees will be left where they fall.
3. Removal of stumps that have been created by a saw will be considered. A mechanical stump remover may be used where a minimum evidence of disturbance by man would result.

Opportunities for Research and Public Information

At this time, there are several opportunities that exist in research and public information on the Natural Area, by comparison with managed stands immediately outside the area. A few of these are:

1. Study pine dwarf mistletoe in a completely unmanaged stand.
2. Study the western pine beetle. Each year, there are timber losses due to the beetle.



3. Commandra - Blister Rust - Cronartium Commandrae is present in a good number of the pine on the area.
4. Snags have not been felled on the Natural Area. Perhaps there is an opportunity to find out what effect cutting of snags has had on the bird population.
5. The amount of browse plants and their condition on a managed and unmanaged area.

These items offer an opportunity to show interested groups some of the differences between a managed timber stand and one that is not managed. This would include some of the visible differences such as stand thrift, stand composition, fire hazardous snags, etc. It could also include the less apparent factor of rate of growth in the managed stand as opposed to the unmanaged.

January 5, 1973
Date

Submitted: Robert L. Edinger
Timber Management Assistant
Sisters Ranger District

February 5, 1973
Date

Recommended: Chris Nichols
Forest Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest

February 20, 1973
Date

Recommended: Robert E. Ruchman
Director
PNW Experiment Station

Feb. 12, 1973
Date

Recommended: Robert H. Torheim
Acting Regional Forester
Region 6

5/9/73
Date

Approved: John R. McManis
Chief

RLE
12/19/72

