Re: Upcoming Forest Management Work – McLellan Conservation Area

Dear McLellan Conservation Area Neighbor,

As you may be well-aware, Spokane County through its Parks, Recreation & Golf Department owns and manages the property located near you known as McLellan Conservation Area. This property was acquired as part of the County’s Conservation Futures Program in 1995. The property has and will continue to be managed for wildlife habitat and passive, non-motorized recreational use (e.g. hiking, mountain biking). We hope you’ve been able to enjoy this nearby recreational resource!

Upcoming Forest Management / Fuels Reduction Work
Being very familiar with past wildfires in this part of Spokane County, we’re working proactively to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in your area. Towards that effort, we’ve worked with our professional forester to develop a forest management plan (FMP) for McLellan Conservation Area. As recently as 2018, we completed a pre-commercial thinning project on approximately 67 acres of the conservation area. That together with past thinning projects have brought us to the next stage of implementing the recommendations of the FMP: a commercial thinning project on approximately 240 acres of the western half of the conservation area - detailed further below as “Phase 2” and depicted in the attached project map.

The intended goal of Phase 2 is to reduce the overall stocking density of the ponderosa pine and create pocket openings to mimic pre-fire control conditions while enhancing forest health and reducing the potential for future bark beetle infestations. This project is designed to leave a significant percentage of existing trees (currently, all “leave” trees are marked) to retain habitat, wildlife cover, and aesthetics of McLellan Conservation Area. While the project is in full swing, 10-15 truckloads of logs will leave the property daily via an easement held by Spokane County across Washington State Department of Natural Resources property just east of McLellan Road.

Woody debris from the harvest will be piled, chipped, and removed from the property to prevent future beetle outbreaks.

The project is anticipated to run from late-April through late-May (weather dependent). Crews will typically work Monday through Friday. To reduce risk of injury, signs will be posted at the end of McLellan Road communicating a public use closure of the area Monday through Friday while the project is active. McLellan Conservation Area will reopen for public use Saturday & Sunday through the project’s active phase.

Any profit generated from this timber harvest will be used to support future forest and habitat enhancement at McLellan Conservation Area.
Questions and comments related to this project should be directed to me at pknowles@spokanecounty.org or (509) 477-2188.

We look forward to working with you now and in the future to ensure the McLellan Conservation Area continues to provide a positive impact on you and your community. Thank you!

Best Regards,

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McLellan Conservation Area
Timber Sale

Legend
- Harvest Boundary
- Ownership Boundary
- County Roads
- Woods Roads
- Cabin Remnant

All lines are approximate
2015 photo layer

Prepared by:
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