



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Prineville Field Office

High Desert Region

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Exhibit 4

Received by CCCD
10/22/2025

October 21, 2025

Katie McDonald
Crook County
300 NE 3rd St. Rm 12
Prineville, OR 97754

RE: Request for comments on Record No. 217-25-000081 PLNG; seasonal grass airstrip; Weston's Rock Ridge Ranch LLC

Dear Ms. McDonald,

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is responding to the request for comment on a seasonal grass airstrip (Record No. 217-25-000081 PLNG) located at 7831 NW Lone Pine Lane in Terrebonne, OR 97760. The proposed project overlaps mule deer winter range and is in close proximity to historic Golden Eagle nests.

Aircraft are a concern to wildlife due to the risk of collision and noise disturbance, and ODFW has the following comments and recommendations:

- Update the Crook County Goal 5 winter range and other wildlife overlay zones to reflect current habitat and species' ranges. ODFW is available to assist in this process.
- ODFW acknowledges the seasonal restriction (Dec. 1 – April 30) which would help reduce disturbance to any active nests within the area. However, if there are active nests then ODFW would recommend a longer timeframe to avoid disturbance to raptors during the incubation and fledgling stages. ODFW recommends that the Applicant conduct raptor and eagle nest surveys within 2 miles of the project area during the active nesting season and that no construction activities occur within the specified distance and seasonal restrictions for active raptor nests (specific dates listed below). Additionally, ODFW recommends the Applicant consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on potential impact to eagles and raptors covered under the Golden and Bald Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

For Reference, below are the current recommendations regarding disturbance-free dates and buffers in the state of Oregon:

DISTURBANCE-FREE DATES AND BUFFERS FOR RAPTOR NESTS IN OREGON.

Dates cover territory establishment through fledging. Release dates can be used for unoccupied or failed nests.

Species	Spatial Buffer	Seasonal Restriction	Release Date if Unoccupied
Golden eagle	0.5 – 1 mile	Feb 1 – Aug 15	May 15
Bald eagle	0.5 mile	Jan 1 – Aug 15	May 31
Ferruginous hawk**	0.5 mile	Mar 15 – Aug 15	May 31
Northern goshawk**	0.5 mile	May 1 – Aug 15	June 30
Peregrine falcon**	0.25 mile	Jan 1 – Jul 1	May 15
Swainson's hawk**	0.25 mile	Apr 1 – Aug 15	May 31

White-tailed kite	0.25 mile	Jan 1 – Aug 15	
Osprey	0.25 mile	Mar 1 – Sep 15	
Burrowing owl**	0.25 mile	Apr 1 – Aug 15	May 31
Red-tailed hawk	0.10 mile	Mar 1 – Aug 15	May 31
Other hawks and owls	0.25 mile	Mar 1 – Aug 15	May 31

** Indicates Oregon Conservation Strategy Species

- In order to avoid and/or minimize impacts to wildlife during construction of the project ODFW requests that the applicant avoid removal of bird nests and minimize disturbance to nesting birds during the general bird breeding season (March 1- July 15th).

- The proposed project boundary falls within ODFW mapped winter range for mule deer. Although the construction of the airstrip itself (removal of 6-15 juniper trees, planted over with crested wheat and dryland mix) does not pose a major concern, ODFW has the following concerns regarding mule deer winter range:

- The construction of fences creates fragmentation across the landscape. ODFW strongly recommends wildlife friendly fencing if the construction of fences cannot be avoided.
- If mule deer are present on the property, ODFW also recommends encouraging deer use away from the active airstrip by planting native vegetation in other areas on the property.

- Lastly, ODFW strongly recommends the prevention of spreading invasive annuals in the area of disturbance. Invasive annuals can spread to other areas off-site, and will out-compete native grasses and forbs. ODFW is available for guidance on invasive annual prevention.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this development application.

Sincerely,



Jamie Bowles
Acting District Wildlife Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - Ochoco District

Cc: Jessica Wilkes; Acting Regional Habitat Biologist