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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Adams
Ranger District
509-395-2501

2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650-9046
509-395-2858 TDD

FILED FOR RECORD
SKAMANIA CO. WASH
BY *John Barnett*

Reply To: 2600

Date: January 6, 1992

FEB 7 9 58 AM '92

P. Lowry
FOR

GARY M. OLSON

Mr. John E. Barnett
400 W. Steuben
#9 General Delivery
White Salmon, WA 98670

Dear Mr. Barnett

To begin with thank you very much for taking the time to come into the Ranger Station to express your concerns as to the safety practices of the Wildlife Tree Blasting contractors. Please excuse the long turn-a-round time in answering your concerns, several efforts to contact you by telephone were made but no telephone number was available.

This letter is in response to the concerns expressed by you personally on Nov. 15 at the Mt. Adams Ranger Station. Apparently a two inch diameter branch flew across the roadway, while you were driving by and you believed your well-being was jeopardized. Also you stated that the roadway was not signed and the on-site truck was not signed to indicate it carried explosives.

On November 18 Joseph Esteves, Forest Service employee had a safety meeting with the Contractor's Representative and crew. The discussion centered on the concerns you expressed. The Contractor claims the truck had signs posted during the period it was carrying explosives. The signs are usually removed when no explosives are remaining. And road signs had been used during the blasting operations.

On November 17 Joseph Esteves surveyed the only contract unit in the 86 road area worked on November 15. He found no sign of blasted tree parts near the road system and no blasted trees within several hundred feet of any open roads.

Several accidents within the Forest Service this last season have promoted a detailed review of these types of contracted activities. That is currently in process. Your concerns are being incorporated into that review process.

If we may be of any further assistance, please telephone the District Office at 509-395-2501. Your contacts will Joseph Esteves or Jim White.

[Signature]
JAMES R. BULL
District Ranger

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Caring for the Land and Serving People

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