

Middle Fork Irrigation District

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October 8, 2018

Michelle Lombardo, Environmental Coordinator

Mt Hood National Forest
16400 Champion way
Sandy, Oregon
97055

RE: Middle Fork Hood River Wild and Scenic River Planning Process

Greetings,

Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID) respectfully submits the following comments related to the development of the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan for the Middle Fork of the Hood River.

Middle Fork Irrigation District supplies water to over 6300 acres of high value farm land in the Upper Hood River Valley. This water supply is critical to the rural economy and the agricultural success of the region. Much of the districts water supply passes through the designated river corridor. MFID is concerned, and had expressed this concern with Senator Wyden and Representative Blumenauer staff in a meeting back in April of 2008, that the need for maintenance, replacement, upgrading and necessary additions to our infrastructure required to continue efficient and sustainable water supply be specifically included in the Management Plan. Specific projects that are anticipated in the near future within the mapped corridor include the Coe Creek Conservation Conduit, general infrastructure maintenance and the possible relocation of the 2840 road to reduce the foot print of infrastructure on the forest that is in harms way of Eliot creek debris flows. It is the opinion of MFID that these and future projects involving our improvements will not impact the outstanding remarkable values of the designated river section. The District requests the plan clearly recognize the presence of and need for future improvements and ongoing maintenance of MFID infrastructure in the corridor.

Thank you for the consideration of these comments.



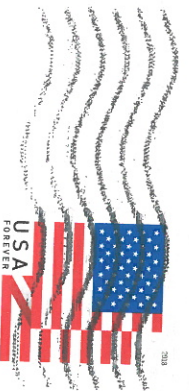
Craig DeHart
Middle Fork Irrigation District

Cc:
MFID Board
Dan Mahr, Sen. Jeff Merkley's office
Senator Ron Wyden
Congressman Earl Blumenauer

MIDDLE FORK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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