From: Dave Gillaspy
To: Schlichting, Dean - FS, OR
Subject: [External Email]MRRD project scoping public comment
Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 4:55:24 PM

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My name is David Gillaspy, and my mailing address is [redacted] eugene Oregon [redacted]. I'm commenting on the 2023 Developed Recreation Site Improvements, with regards to the proposed installation of solar-powered light poles along the edge of cougar resevoir, specifically at the trailhead and parking lot of Terwliger hot spring.

Introducing artificial lighting into one of the Willamette Forest's premier and most-acccesible dark-sky recreation areas would be ruinous to the night time environment and is an unconscionable approach to true stewardship of our natural spaces. I urge you to not go forward with any plans to bring artificial lighting into this beautiful mountain valley. The hot spring parking lot is on the very edge of the resevoir and would be visible and glaring at night across hundreds of acres. It is a true joy to launch from the boat ramps on the opposite shore and kayak under the milky way, and camp on the shores under the stars - all within line-of-sight from where these lights will be shining. I often go to this exact area to stargaze and pursue astrophotography and utilize my telescope, and share the experience with others. It is nestled in a deep dark mountain valley and is a wonderful spot to access views of our milky way galaxy, which is only visible from the darkest of skies.

In the past, the pole that is there has been used successfully to host night-vision security cameras to curb vandalisim in the parking lot (and not as the 'light pole' as it's misidentified as in the proposal). There have also been motion-activated trail cameras mounted to the trees along the hot spring trail too, which have effectivly limited any unsafe activity in the area. Please take this effective approach to safety and security if need be. I've spoken to dozens of people familiar with this exact spot at night and there has been a consistent sense of dismay towards this proposal. A private company (American Land and Liesure) should never be allowed to advocate to light pollute to our dark national forests held in public trust. Adding lights will make the parking lot more of an attractive, inviting night time destination for rif-raf, not a safer one.

Artificial lighting has been shown to increase predation upon coho salmon, which we know reside in the resevoir throughout the year, as well as negatively effect the Northern Spotted Owl in the area. For this reason, I do call for you to open a full environmental review of this decision if you do decide to go forward. Again, I urge you to abandon all plans to introduce artificial lighting fixtures in this dark natural area. How many lumens would these lights emit? How does the forest service plan to make these lights bird-safe? Would the glow of these lights and the surfaces which they illuminate be visible from the countless campsites on the opposite shore and night time recreators on the water? How would this affect insect

populations across the resevoir? How would this effect the visibility of the stars both on the water and upon its shores and up the surrounding hillsides? What plans does the forest service have to protect the Northern Spotted owls, migratory birds, and Coho Salmon from being negatively impacted by this proposal? This proposal is an affront to good stewardship and flies in the face of our latest and best science and absolutely impacts over 20 acres and demands a full NEPA review. Please abandon this misguided use of public funds and protect our remaining dark skies.

Thank you for your time and consideration and all the great work you and your team do!

- Dave gillaspy
[redacted]