



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

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September 15, 2025

Mt. Hood National Forest
16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055

RE: Lost Lake Late-successional Reserve (LSR) Acreage Swap

Dear Michelle Lombardo,

On behalf of Hood River County, please accept the following comment for the record regarding the proposed amendment to the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan, as guided by the Northwest Forest Plan.

The County has reviewed the proposal to remove 299 acres of developed recreation land at Lost Lake from LSR #RO-201 and reclassify it as Administratively Withdrawn, while adding 1,535 acres of Matrix land to LSR, with all other Forest Plan allocations maintained. We agree that an adjustment will support fire protection and defensible space around developed recreation areas, improving safety for visitors, staff, and infrastructure. Given the significant public use and existing facilities in this area, removing these parcels from LSR is appropriate.

At the same time, the County emphasizes the importance of maintaining the overall LSR footprint at a comparable scale. Preserving this balance is essential to ensuring continued protection of late-successional habitat while also addressing operational needs and public safety priorities. In addition, increased daily traffic associated with recreation areas accelerates road deterioration. Hood River County would like to continue to partner with the USFS in applying for funding to maintain roadways used to access federal lands.

In conclusion, Hood River County supports an acreage swap as a practical approach to safeguarding developed recreation sites while preserving habitat in other areas. We strongly recommend that the final action reflects a balanced LSR acreage swap, allowing for a full suite of forest management practices for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Jennifer Euwer, County Commission Chair