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First name: Steven D.

Last name: McCoy

Organization: Friends Of The Columbia Gorge

Title: Staff Attorney

Comments: August 26, 2019

Regional Forester, c/o Julie Knutson, Regional Environmental Coordinator

US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Regional Office

1220 SW Third Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97204

comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us

Re: Comments on the Forest Service's Environmental Assessment for the Pacific Northwest Region
Aquatic Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Knutson:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has reviewed and submits these comments on the above-referenced proposal. Friends is a non-profit organization with approximately 7,000 members dedicated to protecting and enhancing the resources of the Columbia River Gorge. Our membership includes hundreds of citizens who reside in the six counties within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Friends supports efforts to enhance natural resources so long as the project complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resource protection guidelines in the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The following comments are provided to help ensure that the proposal complies with NEPA.

As stated in our November 2018 comments, Friends is uncomfortable with the EA only presenting two alternatives [ndash] a no action alternative and a proposed action alternative. This is poor precedent and Friends does not endorse such a circumscribed inquiry. However, the proposed alternative would apparently have demonstrable benefits to aquatic environments and the listed species that inhabit them. We look forward to receiving the National Scenic Area permit applications when projects within the National Scenic Area are proposed. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Steven D. McCoy

Staff Attorney

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

333 SW Fifth Ave. Ste 300

Portland, OR 97204