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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive River Management Plan for the East Fork of the Hood River.

The river corridor has been altered by management over the past 100 years. There is a need to restore the function of the stream corridor, and to also allow vegetation management to occur along the canyon walls of the stream.

Two highway road alignments have disrupted the function of the riparian zone in various locations as well as relocated the stream for the convenience of the road location. The salvage of wind thrown timber in the late 1970's, and the salvage of a large amount of woody debris after the 1980 Pollalie debris flow has set back the natural recovery of the stream channel.

These sections of the stream need to be restored or at the least restoration should be started so that this important stream can begin the healing process of providing the ecological function it needs.

100 years of fire suppression has also altered the forest along the stream, especially where the Canyon walls are steeper, near the confluence with Pollalie and Cold Springs creeks. The removal of shade tolerate understory trees along this section would help the survival of the old growth trees during a wildfire. These old growth trees provide the scenic character of this stream corridor and highway. Much of the slopes of Mt Hood are scarred from large wildfires that have occurred in the past 15 years. This highly traveled corridor is a favorite destination for travelers to the region. Another stand replacement wildfire along this waterway would ruin the scenic and ecological functions that make it Outstanding and Remarkable. I believe there is enough reminders that fire is a part of the forest ecosystem, we need to demonstrate that we can properly manage the forest.

I would hope that there could be some provisions within the Comprehensive

Management Plan to allow for stream restoration and to provide for vegetation management which could help maintain the scenic values of the corridor.

Thank you

Richard Ragan