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First name: Mike

Last name: Sargetakis

Organization: Friends of Mount Hood

Title:

Comments: Please see the attached comment, submitted on behalf of Friends of Mount Hood.

Dear Wild and Scenic River Planning Comment Reviewer:

These comments are submitted on behalf of Friends of Mount Hood (FOMH). FOMH is dedicated to monitoring development and management of national forest lands on Mount Hood. Friends of Mount Hood is especially interested in protecting the alpine meadows, wetlands, streams, wildlife, and forested slopes on the Mountain. Friends of Mount Hood has been involved in the conservation, preservation, and advocacy for Mount Hood since 1988.

These are comments in response to a letter dated July 22, 2019 and which contained a scoping packet on the BLM-USFS interagency Wild and Scenic River Planning project.

Increasing river mileage on the Wild and Scenic River inventory on Mount Hood is precisely the type of activity by USFS and BLM that FOMH is excited to support, and happy to see enacted. Protection of the remaining outstanding wild, scenic, and recreational river values is critical today.

Free-flowing rivers provide critical habitat for a broad range of native species, support clean drinking water, and are critical to climate resiliency. USFS and BLM should pursue protecting these resources on as large a scale as possible. Between ceaseless development, climate change, and increased interest in outdoor recreation, our precious rivers are subject more pressure today than ever before.

FOMH is supportive of efforts to formally recognize the now-informal trail to Klinger Springs and Pete[rsquo]s Pile, and is hopeful that the addition of the trail will lead to a long-term remedy for the erosion issues and other maintenance problems currently faced by the trail.

FOMH is pleased to support the Proposed Management Actions listed in Table 4 that seek to improve the quality and quantity of wild, scenic, and unique places on Mt. Hood, and appreciates the opportunity to comment on this process.