

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2021 8:00:00 AM

First name: Bonnie

Last name: New

Organization:

Title:

Comments: USDA leadership,

I'm writing to strenuously object to the Mt. Hood/Government Camp Land Exchange planned by the US Forest Service and Mt. Hood Meadows (MHM), a private corporation. Oregon's congressional delegation and many volunteers and nonprofit organizations have worked for years to complete a "Clean Sweep" land trade that would have ensured a deal that is fair to the public and fulfills the main goal of protecting the wild north side of Mt. Hood's wilderness, watershed, and habitat without leaving the door open for future development or disputes.

The deal proposed by USFS and MHM accomplishes none of those things, and is colossally unfair to the public, including me, who are the landowners. That seems to have been entirely forgotten in this deal. USFS has based their proposal on appraisals that grossly underestimate the value of the public's land at Government Camp. For example, lots in Government Camp that sell for \$250,000 were valued at \$26,000 each by the appraiser - an appraiser from Alabama, no less! Really? Likely to know our area well? Clearly not.

This land-grab deal also allows MHM to keep 160 acres for future development at Cooper Spur. This is EXACTLY what we and the Oregon congressional delegation have been working for decades to avoid. This north side of Mt. Hood is spectacular in its wildness and lush habitat, and it is the watershed for the entire Hood River Valley. Our main economic engine here is agriculture, which is entirely dependent on that water. And every person in the watershed, including me and 30,000 others, depends for life on both the water itself and on the intact forests to maintain its quality.

I urge you to reject the land exchange as proposed. I am one of the landowners and I do not consent to having my land given away for 1/10 of its actual value. This needs to go back to the previous "Clean Sweep" plan that was economically sound and provided essential environmental protections for the landowners who live here.