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Title:

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Comments to be sent by Todd Shechter attributed to Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit

Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit (CMRU) appreciates the opportunity to respond to this public comment period on the improvements being considered for the Blue Pool/Tamolitch Falls area. Over the past several years, CMRU has responded to multiple searches, rescues, and body recoveries at the Blue Pool area and feel we are well versed in rescue operations at this location.

Our comments on this proposal have mostly to do with the positioning of the helipad. After responding on multiple rescues and training in the area, our concern is that most patients who need transport have fallen at the pool itself. And the traverse up to where the helipad is scheduled to be located is very steep, rocky, and not easy to navigate with a wheeled rescue litter. Having conducted training operations in this exact area, and constructing a rope rescue system necessary to move a rescue litter from the pool up to where the helipad would be, this is a multiple hour operation involving many mountain rescue members and prolonging the amount of time necessary to move the patient to the next level of care. It would be much faster to wheel the litter out to the Trailbridge trail head (as we currently do), or use the assistance of the Oregon Army National Guard to do a winch hoist loading operation at the pool as we also have done many times.

Our suggestion moving forward would be either to move the helipad down closer to the pool itself, or construct an ADA accessible trail from the pool up to where the helipad is scheduled to be. An ADA accessible trail would make it possible to move a wheeled rescue litter from the pool up to the helipad and decrease the transport time for the patient.

A secondary suggestion that we did not see noted in the proposed plan would be to actually create an ADA accessible trail down to the pool area itself. We know that swimming will be banned in the pool but so many folks want to access that area, and there currently is not a safe way to do so.

Again thank you for the opportunity to comment and should you have additional questions or clarifications do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to the safety improvements at Blue Pool/Tamolitch Falls.