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Comments: To Dean Schlichting

Project Lead

Tamolitch Pool Draft Environmental Assessment

Thank you for the notification and opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Analysis for the Tamolitch Pool project.

In my opinion, the project design described in the Draft EA meets all project purpose and needs described in the document. In addition, the project proposes implementation mitigations to minimize impacts to the values you are trying to maintain or enhance.

I was pleased to see the proposed relocation of the Tamolitch Pool Trail from the west to the east side of the Upper McKenzie River. I believe your team's attention to protecting Wild and Scenic River Outstandingly Remarkable Values are met by project design.

I applaud your inclusion of Universal Accessibility proposals in this project and to a broader level of recreation accessibility on the Willamette National Forest.

The challenge of balancing increasing public use with sensitive natural values is likely a moving target that will need careful monitoring. The project's proposed use of remote monitoring technology sounds like an innovative next step in determining recreational capacity. I believe the project proposal of trash collection and human waste vault facilities should be expected to maintain the natural values sought by the public.

Will the pit toilet facility near Tamolitch Pool eventually concentrate human waste beyond acceptable levels? Will the porous nature of the lava that created the falls contribute to a more efficient ground transmission of waste? Would a composting toilet be feasible in that setting?

I believe this proposal serves the public interest well. The proposal's ambitious design and focus on maintaining or enhancing Tamolitch Pool and Trail values should position it well to compete for national and regional funding, and perhaps partnership funds from Eugene Water & Electric Board.

Sincerely, David Bickford