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Organization: NOAA Fisheries

Title: Natural Resource Specialist

Comments: Please see the attached letter for our agency's comments.

Re: NOAA fisheries's scoping comments on the USDA forest Service's proposed adoption of a comprehensive river management plan for nine rivers as part of the Wild and Scenic River Planning project

This letter responds to a request for scoping comments on the U. S. Forest Service's proposed adoption of a comprehensive river management plan for nine rivers including the south Fork Clackamas, which is within the NOAA Fisheries office's area of jurisdiction. We understand the proposed action would include updates to the wild and scenic river corridor boundaries including that of the South Fork Clackamas, installation of interpretive signs, and the development of recreational facilities with recreational use controls.

NOAA Fisheries is supportive of comprehensive river management plans that include controls

for uses that could ultimately impact federally designated threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat. Though our agency is not providing action-specific comments at this time, we request the U.S. Forest Service include NOAA Fisheries on the list of interested parties to ensure receipt of the draft Environmental Assessment when it is released for public comment. Additionally, any specific actions implemented under the comprehensive plan that could affect species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or critical habitat under NOAA Fisheries' purview will require consultation with this office under section 7 of the ESA.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the ESA section 7 consultation process, please

feel free to contact Kate Wells of my staff at 503-230-5437 or Kathleen.Wells@noaa.gov

References

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2008. Endangered species Act Section 7(a)(2) consultation Biological Opinion & Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation on the Willamette River Basin Flood Control Project FTNWR 2000/2017, July 11 2008