

**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** July 22, 2019

Dear Interested Party,

The Mt. Hood National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest Oregon District are proposing to adopt a comprehensive river management plan for nine rivers as part of the **Wild and Scenic River Planning** project. BLM is a cooperating agency on this project. Four of the rivers are either on, adjacent to, or in close proximity to lands that BLM manages. The South Fork Clackamas River corridor is the only river corridor that includes both National Forest System and BLM-administered lands. BLM lands are located adjacent or in close proximity to Fifteenmile Creek, Eagle Creek and Fish Creek.

We have identified you as an individual, agency, or organization with potential interest in commenting on our proposal. The scoping packet provides background, purpose and need, and the proposed action, including recreational user capacity, river corridor boundaries, potential management actions, and Forest Plan amendment. The scoping packet and other information is available for review on the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54674>.

## How to Comment

The purpose of this letter is to invite your participation during our public scoping process. Any comments you may have at this stage of project development are welcome. In particular, if you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or have concerns regarding this proposed action, please send that information in writing to the address at the end of this letter. We anticipate that the level of review necessary for this proposal will be covered through an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Public involvement is a key element of the land management planning process. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides the framework for public participation in the federal decision making process. Public input at this point in the process will help identify issues associated with this planning process and guide development of possible alternatives to the proposed action. Comments will again be solicited from the public and other federal, state and local agencies when a preliminary assessment and draft comprehensive river management plan are available.

The Forest Service objection process is outlined below. The BLM appeal process will be provided at the time of decision. We would like your comments by **August 26, 2019**.

## Forest Service Objection Process

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual.

The programmatic amendment to the Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) is subject to 36 CFR 219, Subpart B. Only individuals or entities who have submitted substantive formal



comment to the plan amendment during the opportunities for public comment, including this scoping period. (36 CFR 219.53). Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 219.54(c) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments.

## Written Comments

Electronic comments including attachments may be submitted electronically in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), hypertext markup language (.html), or portable document format (.pdf). Specific written comments may also be submitted via mail or hand delivered to the Zigzag Ranger Station between the hours of 7:45 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Website: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=54674>. Link is located on the left side of the [project website](#).

Mail & Hand Delivery: Wild and Scenic River Planning Comments, 70220 E. Highway 26, Zigzag OR 97049 or BLM Northwest Oregon District, Wild and Scenic River Planning Comments, Attn: Whitney Wirthlin, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, OR 97306

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action and may be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents nor will it provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative judicial review.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the requester is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven days.

## Geographic Based Comments

Short, geographic based comments can be submitted via the [interactive story map](#), as explained under the last tab of the interactive map application. When submitting a comment, you will not have legal standing unless you fill out first name, last name, and mailing address, as explained above.

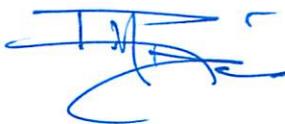
The only information displayed to the public is what is written in the "comment" field. Once a comment is made available it will be displayed as a star on the map or listed with the comments on the map. Clicking either on the list or on a circle on the map will show display the comment.

## Additional Information, including Project Contact

Additional information can be found on the [Wild and Scenic Rivers Comprehensive River Management Plan website](#) as well as the [Forest Service project website](#) and [BLM project website](#). For questions, please contact Jennie O'Connor Card, team leader, at 406-522-2537 or [jennie.oconnorcard@usda.gov](mailto:jennie.oconnorcard@usda.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Periman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RICHARD PERIMAN  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: Scoping Packet