January 20, 2017

Lisa Northrop
Forest Supervisor
Mt. Hood National Forest
16400 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055
mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood@fs.fed.us

RE: *Government Camp – Cooper Spur Land Exchange #33072*

Dear Ms. Northrop:

I fully support they Government Camp-Cooper Spur Land Exchange authorized by the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009. I have the following comments about the Forest Service’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):

The main goal of the land exchange is to protect as much land as possible on the north side of Mount Hood and to keep it as natural as possible.

The north side of Mt. Hood is special. Along with ending decades of rancorous dispute between citizens of Hood River and Mount Hood Meadows LLC over destination resort development on the north side of the mountain, the land trade also gives Wilderness protection to thousands of precious back-country acres around the historic Tilly Jane trail and protects the future of much of Hood River’s drinking water through the Crystal Springs Watershed Special Resources Management Unit. *(feel free to insert your own story about how you use or value this area for back-country hiking, skiing, wildlife habitat etc.)*

The land exchange has overwhelming local support and immense public benefit. In executing the trade, the public is best served by the Forest Service striving to protect as much land on the north side of Mount Hood as possible. To that end, the Forest Service should keep all options on the table about what specific Mt. Hood Meadows properties are included in the trade should an equalization of properties be necessary based on the appraisal. Additionally the Forest Service should share the appraisal with the public when completed for at least 60 days prior to finalizing its environmental impact statement so that the public has a chance to weigh in on the specific properties proposed.

Along with protecting as much land as possible, the Forest Service should manage those lands as naturally as possible. Much of the land should be managed as old growth forest, including the Crystal Springs watershed where the 2009 Act restricts road building and reconstruction.

I highly encourage the Forest Service to serve the public interest by completing this much-delayed land exchange in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

*Insert your name and address*