



Dear Editor,

The Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition (CSWF) is writing to let you know about a proposed land trade on Mt. Hood that should interest your readers. CSWF is a coalition of recreation, citizen, and conservation groups working to protect the north side of Mt. Hood and the area surrounding Cooper Spur from development.

On October 6, 2010 the US Forest Service issued a call for scoping comments regarding a land exchange between the Forest Service and Mt. Hood Meadows Oreg., LLC. The exchange will trade 120 acres of public Forest Service land in Government Camp for 770 acres of land owned by Meadows on the north side of Mt. Hood. Upon completing the trade, the Forest Service will incorporate around 2,000 acres of land on the north side into the Mt. Hood Wilderness and establish another 2,000 acres as a Watershed Special Resources Management Unit for the Crystal Springs Watershed. In total, the land trade and its accompanying actions will permanently protect over 4,000 acres of historic backcountry on the north side of Mt. Hood.

The Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition believes this is a newsworthy event. The coalition represents a diverse number of conservation and recreation groups that are active on all sides of Mt. Hood and throughout the Mt. Hood National Forest, including the Mazamas, Oregon Wild, Bark, Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Hood River Valley Residents Committee, the Ptarmigans, Friends of Mt. Hood, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Portland Audubon, Friends of Tilly Jane, Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Oregon Nordic Club, and Oregon canoe and Kayak Club.

CSWF and its member organizations support the Cooper Spur-Government Camp Land Exchange because we believe the conservation goals of the trade are sound. In exchange for 120 acres of land currently zoned for development in Government Camp, the public gains 770 acres of land and permanently protects over 4,000 acres on the north side of Mt. Hood. Accompanying this letter is a packet of information put together by CSWF to educate the public about the details and benefits of the trade. If you are interesting in running a story about the land trade and its outcomes, please consider the Cooper Spur Wild & Free as a source.

Sincerely,

Russ Pascoe
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