



Cooper Spur Wild and Free Coalition

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July 26, 2005

Hood River Valley Residents Committee
Mt. Hood Meadows companies
Hood River County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Mike McCarthy

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition thanks you all for your work to craft an agreement to protect the wild character of the North side of Oregon's Mount Hood.

The Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition is dedicated to providing permanent protection to the Cooper Spur area and the drinking watershed that underlies the forests in and around this area. We also have an interest in issues that affect the Mt. Hood National Forest. We applaud your initiative and hard work that you have put into the recently announced "settlement agreement". We realize it was difficult to bring diverse interests together to agree on a process for resolving the conflict over the North side of Mount Hood. Thanks for your patience and commitment to the mountain. We understand that the proposed solution involves a public process and will require additional work to complete the parties proposal. Rest assured that the member groups in the Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition intend to stay engaged and support the good faith effort to put into place the parties' proposed solution.

As we understand it, Mt. Hood Meadows has agreed to relinquish all of their land and business holdings in exchange for land of similar value in Government Camp that is part of the Government Camp revitalization plan. We further understand that Mt. Hood Meadows, its associates, partners and future subsidiaries agreed that they will never conduct business in an area running roughly uphill from Parkdale and Hwy 35 except for a couple existing commercial sites. The Coalition awaits the information to be developed as a result of the process referred to in the proposed solution. However, we have no doubt that the forests, waters and wildlife of Cooper Spur and the surrounding lands on Mt. Hood would be well served by congressionally-designated Wilderness for the mountains remaining wild lands. In that vein, we are particularly thrilled to hear that the proposed solution would also afford permanent protection to the Crystal Springs drinking water recharge area as well as Wilderness protection to the Historic District and all of the lands that make up the Cooper Spur Ski Area lease that are not currently developed.



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Therefore, we encourage you and the other parties to the settlement agreement to continue to work with all due diligence to ascertain the respective values of the specified properties proposed for trade or sale. When those are established, the Coalition and each of its member groups will review the results and evaluate next steps.

While the Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition's charter is the immediate Cooper Spur area our interest in the Mount Hood National Forest reaches well beyond the North side of the mountain. Therefore in the future, our member partners will be waiting to see how and when this and other processes contribute to overall protections for the mountain, the remaining roadless areas, and possible Wild and Scenic Rivers additions in the Mount Hood National Forest.

We appreciate the work of all parties that have been involved in the refinement of the "settlement agreement" especially the strong and longstanding dedication to the mountain's protection. We intend to stay fully engaged and informed of the proposed solution and new developments as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Russ Pascoe
President
Cooper Spur Wild & Free Coalition