



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 4, 2009

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

The Honorable Gail Kimbell, Chief
USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Chief Kimbell:

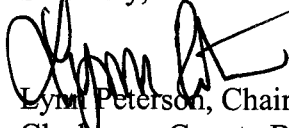
The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners opposes the Forest Service's proposal to amend the Mount Hood Forest Plan for the sole purpose of constructing a 211-mile long, 36 inch diameter pipeline across the Mt. Hood National Forest.

As Senator Ron Wyden has noted, the proposed construction will cross through both a current Wild and Scenic River in the Mount Hood National Forest, as well as the proposed Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness area. The construction of the 75 – 120 foot path through the forest and across the 66 crossings of rivers and streams will most likely negatively impact salmon and steelhead habitat. The proposed Palomar Gasline Transmission Project will also cross Fish Creek, which will be designated Wild and Scenic by the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners is also concerned about the impacts to the forest landscape and the resulting impact to the recreational elements the Mt Hood National Forest provides. Clackamas County is "Oregon's Mount Hood Territory." We agree with Senator Wyden's concern that the Forest Service would allow the pipeline to cut through two late successional reserves that have been designated under the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Forest Service's proposal to amend the Mt. Hood Forest plan to allow the Palomar pipeline to be sited through the sensitive and treasured areas of the Mt. Hood National Forest is unacceptable. We request that you immediately rescind the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,



Lynn Peterson, Chair
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

LP/kjb

CC: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkeley
Representative Schrader
Sandy Forest Service District Office