

DRAFT

Dear Ms. Northrup,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the selection of the next Forest Supervisor for the Mount Hood National Forest. Clackamas County agrees that strengthening long-term relationships with communities near National Forests is vital. That relationship is especially important in counties like ours with a high percentage of public land—54.5% in Clackamas County, most of which is national forest.

We believe the next Forest Supervisor must possess strong communication and collaboration skills, be a strategic thinker, and be adept at bringing together diverse interests and stakeholders to discuss challenging issues that cross property boundaries.

The devastating 2020 Labor Day fires and February 2021 ice storm underscored that we must expect future emergencies—such as wildfires, winter storms, earthquakes, and volcanic events. Natural disasters know no property boundaries, and collaboration amongst government agencies, landowners, and local communities is essential to successfully prepare for and respond to a disaster.

The Mount Hood National Forest supports diverse economic sectors, from tourism to natural resource extraction, that provide jobs in rural communities and contribute to our regional economy. We recognize that a Forest Supervisor who is a coalition-builder and strategic thinker would be an asset to navigating the interests of diverse uses and users that rely on our public lands.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners has adopted a set of strategic priorities that guide our work:

- Honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources
- Ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities
- Grow a vibrant economy
- Build a strong infrastructure
- Build public trust through good government

Our relationship with the Forest Service and the Mount Hood National Forest encompasses each of these priorities, and we look forward to continued and strengthened partnership.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners