



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Columbia River Gorge
National Scenic Area
(541) 308-1700
Fax (541) 386-1916

902 Wasco Avenue
Suite 200
Hood River, OR 97031

Date: March 22, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

You received this letter because we think you may be interested in working with us on the planning for two new forest restoration projects located on National Forest System land in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA).

The proposed restoration projects were brought forward by our vegetation management team as areas that are out of the range of natural conditions due to fire exclusion over the past 100 years. Our initial analysis indicates that the areas near Rowena Dell and Catherine Creek may benefit ecologically from thinning and underburning of younger in-growth. The objectives are to restore the pre-fire suppression ecological function and condition, reduce wildfire spread and intensity, and to protect private property.

A Collaborative Effort—First Meeting April 12—We need your help if you can devote your time!
During the months of April, May, June, July, and August the CRGNSA team leader, Diana Ross is planning a series of meetings with the project interdisciplinary team and interested public to develop alternatives. We invite you to work with this team. The first meeting is scheduled for April 12 from 5 to 7 PM at a to-be-announced location in Hood River. At that meeting we will discuss the best day and time for the rest of the meetings, answer your questions about the project, discuss expectations and methods for managing the meetings. We gathered comments about our last project and would like to improve our process--so bring your ideas about how you would like it to work. There won't be any presentations from the Forest Service. We will have nice maps and answer questions about the project areas as well as organize the process together.

We will need to adjust the process according to the size of the interested group, so it's important that you reply to the response form below:

Response Form

(Respond via e-mail at <mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us> or send to : Diana Ross, CRGNSA, 902 Wasco Avenue, Hood River OR 97031

[Yes! I'd like to with the Forest Service on this project!](#)

NAME:		PHONE:	
ADDRESS:		E-MAIL:	
I'm interested in: (delete or cross out if not interested)		ROWENA AREA, CATHERINE AREA, BOTH AREAS	

If you need more information before you can make a commitment, call Diana Ross at 541.308.1716

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Harkenrider
DANIEL T.HARKENRIDER
Area Manager

