



File Code: 1950/2720-2

Date: July 14, 2008

Dear Interested Public:

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area has two permits that are due for renewal. The first permit is for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cascade Fish Hatchery. The second permit is for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead.

### Background

Cascade Fish Hatchery was legally established in 1956 under the Mitchell Act as part of the Columbia River Fisheries Development Program as a way to enhance declining fish runs. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was issued a permit from the Forest Service for construction of the facility in 1956. Since then, the Forest Service has re-authorized the continued operation and maintenance of this facility on National Forest System lands. The facility is used for egg incubation and rearing of Coho salmon and provides stock for both conservation and harvest. The area authorized under the permit includes the structures, utilities and infrastructure necessary to operate the hatchery.

Construction of the Mark O. Hatfield trailhead was legally established through review under the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act Management Plan (Decision Memo, 9/10/1997 and Finding of Facts, 9/9/1997). The Forest Service issued a permit to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the construction, operation and maintenance of this trailhead on National Forest System lands. The area authorized under permit includes: a visitor center, parking lot, restrooms, camp-host site, and ancillary infrastructure associated the trailhead facilities. This trailhead accesses the Mosier Twin Tunnel section of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Both of these permits are legally established uses that have been in full time operation since their construction. The new authorizations will not expand the operations of either facility, or change the type of use that was previously permitted. Therefore, neither of these uses will require additional reviews for consistency under the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

### Location

Cascade Fish Hatchery: The hatchery is located west of Cascade Locks, Oregon in Multnomah County, adjacent to the Eagle Creek trailhead and campground. The facilities are accessible from Exit 41 off Interstate-84. The permit area is in portions of Section 22 and 23 in Township 2 North, Range 7 East, W.M.

Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead: The trailhead and facilities are located east of Hood River, Oregon in Hood River County. The facilities are accessible from the Historic Columbia River Highway, east of Highway 35. The trailhead facilities are located in Section 31 of Township 3 North, Range 11 East, W.M.



## Proposed Action

The proposed action is to reissue these two authorizations for the operations and maintenance of the existing facilities. Both permits would not exceed 30 years in term; the operating plans for each site will be updated every 5 years, or more frequently if conditions change. There will be no expansion of the current permit area.

## Why Are Comments Important?

Your comments can help make us aware of issues in this planning effort. Issue-specific comments are the most helpful. For example, simply stating that you are opposed to re-authorizing the fish hatchery and trailhead is not as helpful as identifying specific issues related to re-authorizing the permits.

The Forest Service comment period will end **August 14, 2008**. Comments can be emailed to: [comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us); written comments may also be mailed to Jennifer Wade at: 902 Wasco, Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031. For specific questions on the permits, please contact Jennifer at (541) 308-1705.

Sincerely,



DANIEL T. HARKENRIDER  
Area Manager

# Site Maps and Vicinity Map

## Cascade Fish Hatchery



## Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead

