

BRINGING RIVERS TO LIFE



American Rivers
FOUNDED 1973

April 4, 2006

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Resources Committee
Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee
1337 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall
Senior Democrat
House Resources Committee
Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee
186 Ford House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Congressman Udall,

On behalf of American Rivers' 44,000 members, I write to proudly support Chairman Walden's Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act (H.R. 5025) and urge its expeditious consideration. This bipartisan bill would add the South Fork Clackamas River, Middle Fork Hood River, South Fork Roaring River, Zig Zag River, and Eagle Creek to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These five rivers represent the rich diversity of cultural, ecological and recreational heritage in Mount Hood National Forest.

Congress established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1968 to preserve the free-flowing character of our nation's most treasured rivers. A Wild and Scenic designation does not prevent the development and use of a river; instead, the goal is to preserve the existing character of a river. Uses and development compatible with the management goals of a particular river are allowed.

While American Rivers fully supports H.R. 5025, I strongly encourage you to add six other rivers: the East Fork Hood River, Oak Grove Fork, Clackamas River, Fifteenmile Creek, North Fork Breitenbush River, North Fork Clackamas River, Fish Creek and Collawash River. Like the rivers already in H.R. 5025, these rivers provide clean drinking water, some of the last, best habitat for threatened and endangered species in western Oregon and excellent river recreation including hiking, boating, hunting, and fishing. All but Fifteenmile Creek have been studied by the Forest Service and found to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System, and there is a compelling case for a segment of Fifteenmile as well.

American Rivers appreciates you scheduling a hearing on this legislation and asks that you work towards its enactment this Congress. My staff and I stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Wodder
President

cc: Members of the Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee
Rep. Earl Blumenauer