



Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
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June 24th, 2009

Nancy Ryke, Mt. Adams District Ranger
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
2455 Hwy 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650

RE: Hemlock Dam Removal on Trout Creek

Dear Ms. Ryke:

We are pleased to see the Hemlock Dam removal project is moving forward and wish to express our interest in providing future input on the Hemlock Recreation Site.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have over 6,500 members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing approximately 80,000 whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. Trout Creek and the Wind River are enjoyed by whitewater paddlers throughout the Pacific Northwest region during the winter and spring paddling seasons. Restoration of this important Columbia Gorge tributary and long-term stewardship of the river is of interest to our members in the region.

In addition to our interest in restoration of geomorphic processes and channel connectivity which will benefit steelhead, we also have an interest in the recreational benefits of a high-quality day use site along a river that will be enjoyed by our members and the general public. There are significant opportunities for development of a site that provides public access to the river throughout the year as a take-out for runs on Trout Creek, as a put-in for the Wind River, and for general public enjoyment. There are also significant opportunities for interpretation and education on river restoration.

Please place our organization on the mailing list for any future discussions or opportunities for public comment as you work to develop a future vision for this site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Keefe', written over a white background.

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director