



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

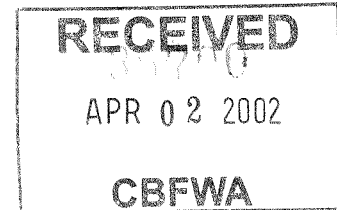
Mt. Hood
National Forest

Hood River Ranger District
6780 Highway 35
Mt. Hood/Parkdale, OR 97041
(541) 352-6002
Fax: (541) 352-7365

File Code: 2610

Date: March 28, 2002

Tom Iverson
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
2501 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97201



Dear Mr. Iverson:

I understand that Farmer's Irrigation District will soon be applying for a BPA Innovative Technology Grant to test the application of their new fish screening technique. Farmer's District personnel recently gave a presentation about this technology at a meeting of fish biologists and managers in the Hood River Basin. The design and preliminary tests of their screen design shows great promise to substantially improve fish passage at water diversions over current methods, especially in glacial streams with high sediment loads. I believe this design may be the only viable screening solution that would work on two irrigation diversions in Coe and Eliot Branches, both glacial streams, on the Hood River Ranger District. These diversions have impeded both upstream and downstream passage for bull trout (Lower Columbia River Distinct Population Segment), cutthroat trout (proposed as Threatened), and likely steelhead (Lower Columbia River Ecologically Significant Unit) for several decades. Until now, there has not been a screen design that could adequately route water and sediment, as well as provide unimpeded fish passage, in these naturally turbid and unstable stream systems.

The opportunity to restore fish passage in Coe Branch and Eliot Branch, as likely other streams in the watershed, would compliment the many stream habitat restoration and passage projects already completed in the Hood River Basin. Further field-testing of this innovative fish screening method is critical to finalize design parameters so the design can be applied in a variety of situations. I feel this design shows great promise and I'm excited about it's applicability throughout the Hood River Basin, the Hood River Ranger District, and the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Titus for

KIM M. TITUS
District Ranger

