

MAZAMAS

909 N.W. 19TH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97209

March 29, 1972



Mr. John White, Coordinator
Mt. Hood National Forest
P. O. Box 16040
Portland, Oreg. 97216

Dear Mr. White:

We are substantially in agreement with the Roaring River Management Assumptions as set forth at the meeting of Feb. 29 in Gresham, except we want to comment further regarding one of them.

Our recommendations as submitted earlier to the Mt. Hood National Forest multiple discipline team called for a low level trail from the mouth of Roaring River upstream to connect with Trail 517, plus a new trail along the top of the cliffs from the Dry Ridge trail, at about the 2400 ft. contour, to connect with Trail 517. This would make a desirable loop trip of 10 or 12 miles from the mouth of the river and provide a much needed low elevation trail, usable most of the year.

However your fisheries biologist has pointed out that no trail or road should be built along the river if a good native trout fishery is to be maintained. He has also pointed out that the lower part of the river appears to be the most productive because of larger pools and more water. Our original thinking was that the river from the South Fork downstream was already receiving considerable fishing pressure from people working up from the mouth and down from Trail 517 and that a trail along the river would not increase this much.

After further thought we can see that such a trail would very likely increase the fishing pressure. As inaccessible streams with good native trout populations are in exceedingly short supply in Oregon, we believe protecting this portion of the stream should receive top priority, even though a trail along it would provide attractive, almost year around hiking possibilities. Such trails are also in short supply within a days drive of Portland.

We believe a feasible compromise would be to locate a trail along the top of the cliffs on the north side of the river at about the 2000 foot contour, to run from the mouth of the river to an intersection with Trail 517. This together with the spur from the Dry Ridge trail would still provide a desirable loop trip at fairly low elevation. Snow probably would make its use difficult for two or three winter months in most years, but still useable over a much longer period than for most of the existing trails in the Portland area.

The old trail from the mouth of Roaring River to Squaw Mt. is still pretty much intact up to the edge of Ladee Flat and would only require clearing and a minimum of regrading. This appears to be the logical route for the first part of the suggested trail as it would head the first tributary from the north, which is in a very steep sided canyon and difficult to cross. We have not had time to scout a possible route all the way to Trail 517 but believe a feasible route can be found.

If a feasible route cannot be found on the north side of the canyon, we would reluctantly accept just the extension from the Dry Ridge trail to Trail 517. Hopefully this will not be the case as it would eliminate a desirable loop route at reasonably low elevation.

Another alternative would be to use the money a Roaring River trail as suggested, would cost and build a low level trail elsewhere in the Clackamas area. Possible locations are:

1. Along the North Fork of the Clackamas from the mouth upstream.
2. Along the rim of the main Clackamas river canyon, starting near Promotory Point and angling up the hill and running to the mouth of Roaring river.
3. A trail along the west side of the Clackamas from Memaloose bridge to Fish Creek or from Fish Creek to Three Lynx bridge or both.
4. From Sandstone bridge upstream on the west side of the Clackamas.

All of these have possibilities but we will not attempt to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each one in this letter because of space. However we will be glad to go into more detail with you at any time you desire. We also stand ready to help in exploring if such becomes desirable.

Yours truly

Chairman, Mazama Conservation Committee

cc- Karl Mecklenburg
District Ranger
Estacada, Oreg.