



# WASCO COUNTY

Wasco County Court  
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Dan Ericksen, *County Judge*  
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Sherry Holliday, *County Commissioner*

July 16, 2006

The Honorable Greg Walden  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden,

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to review the updated Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act of 2006 (H.R. 5025) and providing maps. I am very pleased this is moving forward and I certainly appreciate the bipartisan fashion and time you and Congressman Blumenauer have dedicated to this important issue.

As you are well aware I have kept you informed of what I felt were important issues for Wasco County throughout this process. The most important issue for us has been and continues to be our ability to manage our watersheds. We have several in the Mt. Hood National Forest including the City of The Dalles (2), City of Dufur and the unincorporated communities of Pine Hollow and Sportsman's Park. I believe you have made the correct decision in leaving those areas out of the proposed wilderness. This will allow those communities to continue their successful partnerships with the US Forest Service to manage those watersheds. In order to do good forest management we must use adaptive management to protect water quality. Fire risk is an area that is a huge concern and we must have the ability to do active management to improve forest health, control wildfire, protect water quality, operate and maintain existing water system infrastructure and development of future water supplies.

I believe you and Congressman Blumenauer have addressed other concerns for Wasco County, which includes the Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act (County Payments Bill). We are very concerned those dollars may be reduced or disappear altogether and we must be able to have some level of harvest in order to sustain our County Road Department. As you well know the harvest levels promised in the 1994 Forest Plan have never been achieved and many scientists have now come to believe the bug kill that we are seeing devastate our east side forests will continue until we can begin to do long range forest health treatments.

I am pleased to see the bill would direct agencies (US Forest Service & State of Oregon) to work together to develop a long-range transportation plan. Getting to the Mt. Hood National Forest from the west side of Oregon via Highway 26 can be quite an expedition in itself. Perhaps some creative thinking will develop to look at alternative ways to reach the drier part of the Forest.

Recreation on Federal Lands is ever increasing. I am happy to see your bill would allow for a Recreational Advisory Council of local stakeholders. I have always believed that people who live and work in a particular area should be the ones who are solicited to help make decisions that directly affect them.

I am aware there was a lot of input as you and Congressman Blumenauer made your trek around Mt. Hood. There were many stakeholders who had an opportunity to share their views with you both. Therefore I am confident you have made the very best decisions while trying to address the myriad of concerns you heard.

Again Congressman Walden, thank you very much for your leadership on this important, far-reaching and everlasting piece of legislation. I believe you have solicited input for several years and made educated decisions based on what you have observed and heard. I feel fortunate to have been a small part of your advisory group and I am hopeful your legislation comes to fruition in a timely manner.

If I can be of any assistance at all please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Holliday". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Sherry Holliday,  
Wasco County Commissioner