

**From:** [POWELL Russell M \\* ODFW](mailto:POWELL.Russell.M.*ODFW)  
**To:** [sullivank@ortelco.net](mailto:sullivank@ortelco.net)  
**Subject:** FW: Habitat fencing support  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:27:01 PM

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Kyle,

Here is another Letter of support, you can probably send them to Mark F. when you get time ,  
Thanks for all of your help, Russ

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**From:** James Collins <tmcc1916@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:50 AM  
**To:** POWELL Russell M \* ODFW <Russell.M.POWELL@odfw.oregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Habitat fencing support

Hello My name is Jim Bob Collins I am the owner/manager of Table Mountain Cattle Company.

I'm writing in support of the riparian fencing and maintenance program. I have fenced in multiple miles of critical steelhead habitat on the ranch pairing ODFW and CREP together. When I went to resign one of my leases I was told I wouldn't be able to have the support of ODFW going forward, I was shocked and very reluctant to apply again. As the cost of leased grazing has come up over the years the long term leases threw CREP have not kept up with the value of the vegetation inside them BUT with the support of ODFW's maintenance it made it worth while. Not only did I feel like the program worked at keeping my cattle off the riparian zones because of the regular maintenance and the higher standard in initial construction it also meant that I don't lose man hours in doing the job of keeping the fences up all year round thus making the leases make financial sense. I know that the maintenance has been a turn off to many other ranchers and we have lost/missed out on acres being enrolled in protection. How I know this is because I've been vocal about the success of our projects here at the ranch and loved to tout the great relationship we have made with ODFW with the fencing program as well as the off site water program. BOTH have been critical in attracting more landowners to the program. The other thing the program does is provide local jobs for the building of fences and maintenance of them. In Rural areas like the John day watershed every local job counts big time towards the success of a healthy community and has a trickle down effect that is far reaching than just the ODFW office and employees. As a rancher coming from a 150 year old ranching business I feel as I can speak well to how we are struggling in these communities, also as the Wheeler SWCD Chair of the board I can tell you we really value the partnerships we have in doing conservation, and losing this program has a trickle down effect on our successes too.

In closing, I really appreciate what the ODFW has done with the fencing and offsite water programs. It made it so I felt confident in that fencing off the creeks wasn't a negative to my ranch's financial security. I can also say it really has had a positive trickle down effect in the John Day watershed communities. Losing it means a lot more than a budget cut for the ODFW agency it means a loss in support for wild life and rural communities.

Thank you and if you have any further questions don't hesitate to call

Jim Bob Collins  
Table Mountain Cattle Company  
Wheeler SWCD  
Oregon SWCC

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