



File Code: 2610
Date: 10/7/21

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support of the John Day Fish Habitat Program of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Malheur National Forest has successfully partnered with this program to implement restoration work that directly supports and enhances the recovery ESA-Threatened summer steelhead, Westslope cutthroat trout, redband trout, and Columbia spotted frogs in the John Day Basin.

Improving habitat for these species is at the heart of the Forest Service's mission to sustain the nation's forests' health, diversity, and productivity to meet the needs of present and future generations. The John Day Fish Habitat Program has a successful history of implementing high-quality restoration work.

For example, this past summer, they worked with the Blue Mountain Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest to implement a process-based restoration project on Tinker Creek, home to ESA listed summer steelhead and Westslope cutthroat trout. The John Day Fish Habitat Program was instrumental in completing this work. Aside from the Malheur assisting with permitting, the Habitat Program successfully handled all aspects of project implementation. Implementation included a high level of coordination with other project partners working in the same vicinity on other project components.

The Habitat Program's work helped rehabilitate floodplain connection, habitat diversity, and cold water refugia for salmonids in the watershed. The work they did to re-connect the floodplain will improve the system's capacity to store water and release it during the dry season. The associated riparian area will be re-invigorated, resulting in the return of an abundant hardwood community.

The John Day Fish Habitat Program is an important partner working on completing actions specified in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan in the John Day Basin. The Malheur Forest fully supports their work and expects to continue partnering to meet our common goals. We will endeavor to obtain project federal match funds through our Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and annual budget appropriations to continue our collaborative work with the John Day Fish Habitat Program.

Sincerely,

CRAIG
TRULOCK
CRAIG TRULOCK
Forest Supervisor

Digitally signed by CRAIG
TRULOCK
Date: 2021.10.07
08:47:06 -07'00'

