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**Grant Soil and Water Conservation District**  
***Kenneth H. Delano Agricultural Service Center***  
721 S. Canyon Blvd. - John Day, OR 97845 - Phone (541) 575-0135

March 15, 2022

Mr. Mark Fritsch  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue  
Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204

**RE: Letter of Support for ODFW John Day Fish Habitat Program**

Dear Mr. Fritsch,

Please accept this letter as Grant Soil and Water Conservation District's support for this effort. The District's involvement with this program extends back to sometime before 1989 and we feel very strongly about the significance of this program to improving riparian conditions along critical fish-bearing streams.

The District takes its credibility with Grant County agricultural producers very seriously; we tend to be very cautious when recommending state or federal programs to our constituents. That said, we view the ODFW Fish Habitat Program as one of the most "landowner friendly" in many respects, the least of which includes the ease of enrollment and conditions. We feel secure in supporting the program and are pleased to promote it among producers.

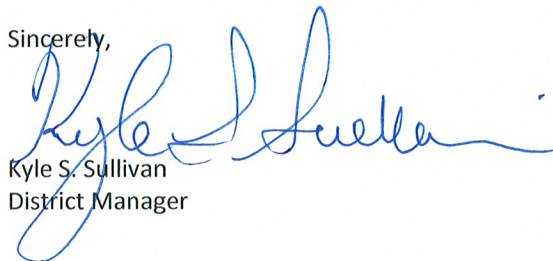
In the last fourteen years, the District has increased its support through the authorship of nine, successful, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board proposals. These grants, totaling \$1,012,621, significantly augmented the program. Additionally, these proposals were reviewed and recommended for funding by a diverse group of state and federal agency natural resource representatives and, many times, were the top ranked project for that grant cycle. In an industry that's often regarded as divisive, particularly when the management priorities of agricultural producers and agencies are considered, the significance of the broad-based support by all interests cannot be understated.

We are currently witnessing an increase in interest in the condition of riparian areas among other state agencies statewide; we feel the need for this program is becoming more essential than in the years prior. This program is a successful tool that connects willing producers with projects that enhance habitat conditions for aquatic organisms and improve water quality. Additionally, this program has served as a gateway for discussions about other conservation interests under consideration by the landowner.

For these and other reasons, the District Board of Directors and staff view this program as essential to our shared mission to improve the condition of the natural resources within the John Day River Valley.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kyle S. Sullivan  
District Manager