



Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District
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Henry Lorenzen, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
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April 18, 2016

RE: Support for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs John Day River Watershed Restoration Strategy (Project #2007-397-00).

Dear Mr. Lorenzen,

The Gilliam SWCD would like to provide comment and support for the Tribes' John Day River Watershed Restoration Strategy. Over the last decade we have built a strong partnership with the Tribes for the planning, coordination and implementation of natural resource restoration projects in the Lower John Day Basin. The financial and technical assistance provided by BPA via the Tribes, through the cooperative nature of the Tribes' John Day field staff, has been a key component of seeing on the ground restoration being made a reality.

The Tribes' *John Day River Watershed Restoration Strategy* serves as an excellent guide for the Tribes' activities within the John Day Basin. Further, I appreciate that the Tribes built such a document to allow implementers like the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District to have guidance when applying for funding through the Tribes' review process. Having a transparent and defined prioritization and decision making process builds trust in the mechanisms employed for distributing restoration funding throughout the John Day Basin. The document also serves as reference material for submissions to other funders. Much of the work we do within our District is not impacted by the *Strategy* document, but it is always nice to have it available when we work with the Tribes.

As a member of the Stakeholder TAC, the Gilliam SWCD was offered significant opportunity to provide input into the document's development. The Lower John Day Sub-Basin is often forgotten about by State and Federal agencies during their planning processes, so it is wonderful to have a management entity seek out and incorporate our local knowledge into a large scale strategy document.

The Tribes' *Strategy* is a usable, common sense driven document which provides excellent guidance for anyone seeking to partner with the Tribes or to participate in their funding process.

Sincerely,

 , District Manager

Cc:

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