



Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 95 - Monument, OR 97864 - Phone (541) 934-2141 - Fax (541) 934-~~2312~~ 2141

April 26, 2016

Henry Lorenzen, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348
hlorenzen@nwcouncil.org

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

Dear Mr. Lorenzen,

The Monument Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) appreciates this opportunity to provide comment and support for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) *John Day River Watershed Restoration Strategy* (Strategy). Beginning in 2012, the Monument SWCD has benefitted from its association and partnership with CTWS to plan and implement numerous projects within our District that is located within the North Fork John Day Basin. This partnership with CTWS has been a new source of funding for the Monument SWCD, allowing us to greatly expand our ability to implement resource improvement projects and assist landowners within this subbasin. We appreciate the process CTWS utilized to develop its Strategy document while including input from the District and our landowners.

In early 2013, CTWS contacted the Monument SWCD regarding a new approach it was developing towards strategic implementation of its BPA administered restoration funding within the John Day Basin. Along with moving towards a Request for Proposals for project implementation dollars it provided to its partners, the Tribes was also developing a strategy to guide its restoration efforts and the distribution of these monies. They also obtained comments from a diverse group of stakeholders, including area Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to ensure a broad spectrum of resource concerns and uses was represented.

The Monument SWCD is governed by a Board of Directors composed of five local landowners elected by the citizens of the District. This structure, as set forth in Oregon Revised Statutes, ensures that these locally elected board members speak for the interests of the constituent landowners they represent. This representative review process was used on multiple occasions during development of the CTWS Strategy, guaranteeing that local landowner interests were taken into consideration.

The Monument SWCD staff participated in three Stakeholder TAC meetings during this process, one of which was also attended by a local landowner. The SWCD also spent additional hours helping develop the Landowner Project Benefits portion of the new project scoring matrix. We

remain engaged in the biannual BPA Partners coordination meeting and the newly formed John Day Partnership.

While some of the Monument SWCD's restoration priorities may not always align with those of the CTWS, the Strategy provides a professional document outlining the Tribes' prioritization and process for distributing its restoration dollars. This new approach has been greatly appreciated by the Monument SWCD as it has opened the door to a new revenue source for project implementation that we have successfully leveraged many times over. The Strategy is also very useful as a reference document when applying for other grant funding opportunities as it provides additional emphasis to partner developed resource concerns within the North Fork John Day subbasin.

Again, we thank you for this opportunity to comment on the CTWS *John Day River Watershed Restoration Strategy*.

Sincerely,


Steve Ussery
District Manager

Cc:

Kendra Coles, NPCC, kcoles@nwcouncil.org

Erik Merrill, NPCC, emerrill@nwcouncil.org

Amy Charette, CTWSRO, amy.charette@ctwsbnr.org