

Attachment:
Letters of Support (6)

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FEB 28 2008

**WATER RESOURCES DEPT
SALEM, OREGON**



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulungoski, Governor


Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
FAX (503) 986-0199

March 11, 2004



MEMORANDUM

TO: Natural Resources Conservation Service

FROM: Geoff Huntington, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Efficiency Project
Squaw Creek Irrigation District

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has committed \$164,000 toward the completion of the first phase of this project. We understand this is a multiple phase project that, when completed, will provide a minimum of six cfs dedicated instream senior water right to Squaw Creek. This will increase the unstream water rights to approximately 12 cfs when combined with other conserved water from completed projects we have assisted Squaw Creek Irrigation District in accomplishing.

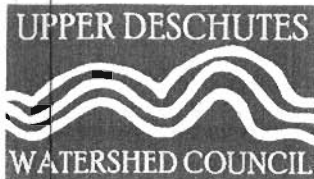
This is important. Prior to the initiation of these water conservation projects in the 1990s, Squaw Creek was dewatered, going dry through the City of Sisters and below for several miles. With the reintroduction of anadromous fish above the Pelton/Round Butte Hydroelectric Project, planned to occur by 2009 and the designation of the lower section of Squaw Creek as Critical Habitat for ESA listed Bull Trout, the conserved water from this project is critically important.

We are pleased to work with the many interests in the Deschutes Basin to restore instream flows in Squaw Creek. We have completed two previous projects with these partners who have a good track record of meeting our grant requirements. The Squaw Creek Irrigation District has proven very capable of completing these projects and they are a leader in water conservation in Oregon.

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Advisory Board

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Central Oregon Rancher
Bob Bridgeford
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Richter Environmental Consulting

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Central Oregon Irrigation District
Leonard Knott
Knott Farms
Dennis Luke
Deschutes County Commissioner
Darcy McNamara
Central Oregon Resident
Bill Swarts
Crown-Pacific, Ltd

Staff

Ryan Houston
Executive Director
Kofeen Yake
Community Rivers Coordinator
Lesley Jones
Water Quality Specialist
Sheila Pyott
Office Manager

July 16, 2004

Marc Thalacker
Three Sisters Irrigation District
PO Box 2230
Sisters, OR 97759

Re: McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Canal Piping Project

Dear Marc:

I am writing to express the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council's support for the McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Canal Piping Project. We are supportive of this project because it represents a unique opportunity to restore in-stream flows in Squaw Creek while simultaneously protecting the irrigation water rights in the area.

We currently have a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in the amount of \$164,000 that we will apply toward the first phase of this project. As the project proceeds, we will seek additional funding to help support the project.

Please let me know how I can be of help.

Sincerely,

Ryan Houston
Executive Director

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WATER RESOURCES DEPT
SALEM, OREGON



DESCHUTES RESOURCES
CONSERVANCY

March 16th, 2004

RE: SQUAW CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT MCKENZIE CANYON
BLACK BUTTE CANAL / ASSOCIATION PIPELINE PROJECT

To Whom It May Concern:

The Deschutes Resources Conservancy (DRC) is an Oregon non-profit organization, whose mission is to restore streamflows and improve water quality in the Deschutes Basin. Among our activities is funding assistance for on-the-ground projects that support the DRC's mission in key areas and sub-basins. The purpose of this letter is to offer our support for the McKenzie Canyon Black Butte Canal / Association Pipeline Project, which would return and permanently protect up to 6 cfs in conserved water to the key reach of Squaw Creek (River mile 25 through the town of Sisters to river mile 29). In the past, the DRC has successfully collaborated with Squaw Creek Irrigation District (SCID) on various water conservation projects such as piping, source switching and annual water leasing.

Squaw Creek is a major western tributary of the Deschutes River. From its glacial headwaters on the flanks of Broken Top and the Three Sisters, the creek flows 35 miles first through forest and then sagebrush steppe before joining the Deschutes at river mile 123 (3 miles above Lake Billy Chinook). Squaw Creek flows are fed primarily by runoff from snow, glaciers, and rain. The cold, clear waters of Alder Springs (river mile 1.5) provide an important refuge for fish, including Bull Trout, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The creek has been seasonally dewatered since the late 1800's, due to the over-allocation of surface water resources. This has led to the creek being listed on the State of Oregon's 303(d) list for temperature and flow modification. Currently, not enough water exists in the creek to support any significant habitat work making streamflow restoration the first and highest priority.

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SALEM, OREGON

700 NW Hill Street - Bend, Oregon 97701
(P.O. Box 1560 - 97709)
541.382.4077 - Fax 541.382.4078
www.deschutesrc.org / info@deschutesrc.org

Rick Allen
Robert A. Brunot
Beverly Clarno
Ron Eggers
Dan Erickson
Mike Golden
Kyle Gorman
Mike Hollem
Julie Keil
Bob Main
Jim Manion, Chair
Gregory McClarren
Tom Norton
Jim Noteboom, Secretary
Dan Roberts
Chuck Schoncker
John Shelk
William Smith
Leslie Weldon
Zach Willey, Treasurer

The McKenzie Canyon Black Butte Canal / Association Pipeline Project would replace existing canals with buried pipelines. At completion, the entire pipeline will service 28 deliveries for a combined acreage of 2000 acres. Typical flows are 20 – 40 cfs with losses of approximately 6 – 12 cfs. Permanent instream transfers to Squaw Creek will equal 6 cfs of conserved water. The project will be built in 5 phases, each phase dedicating 1.2 cfs of conserved water instream.

The DRC has already pledged \$150,000 of support for Phase I of the project and looks forward to supporting all phases with the combined support of other agencies (NRCS, OWT, NFWF, BOR, UDWC, OWEB). The conserved water (6 cfs) would augment current streamflows from 8.5 cfs to 14.5 cfs. The DRC looks forward to the completion of this project and eventually reaching the goal of 20 cfs in Squaw Creek.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Aylward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Aylward".

Bruce Aylward
Deschutes Resources Conservancy

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SALEM, OREGON**



522 SW FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 825
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

503 226.9055
FAX 503 226.3480
e-mail: info@owt.org
www.owt.org

March 15, 2004

Marc Thalacker
Squaw Creek Irrigation District
68000 HWY 20 W
PO Box 2230
Sisters, Oregon 97759

Re: McKenzie Black Butte/Association Pipeline project

Dear Marc:

I emphatically support SCID's efforts to obtain financial assistance from NRCS through their PL-566 program to fund the above listed project. Based on my understanding of the project, SCID intends to increase Squaw Creek's summer-time flow by an extra 6 CFS by protecting this additional water through an allocation of conserved water application. This would be a great addition to the successful flow restoration work that has occurred in Squaw Creek by Oregon Water Trust, Deschutes Resources Conservancy, you and many others. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Fritz Paulus
Executive Director

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BONNEVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL
FOUNDATION

April 8, 2004

THE HONORABLE
MARK O. HATFIELD
U.S. Senate (ret.)
Chairman

RALPH CAVANAGH
Natural Resources
Defense Council
Vice-Chairman

RACHEL SHIMSHAK
Renewable Northwest
Project
Secretary

BRETT WILCOX
Golden Northwest Aluminum
Treasurer

BILL DRUMMOND
Western Montana C&T
Cooperative

DON FRISBEE
PacifiCorp (ret.)

STEVE HICKOK
Bonneville Power Administration

JAMES LICHATOWICH
Alder Fork Consulting

JAIME A. PINKHAM
Nez Perce Tribe

WILLIAM T. TOWEY
J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

ALDO BENEDETTI
Tacoma Public Utilities (ret.)
Emeritus

ANGUS DUNCAN
President

133 SW 2nd Ave., #410
Portland, OR 97204
p 503-248-1905
f 503-248-1908
www.b-e-f.org

The concentric circle was a design frequently used in Native American Columbia River pictographs. It may signify the sun, or a pool of water, or may simply be decorative. This example, from the Big Eddy reach, was submerged in 1957.

Mr. Marc Thalacker
Manager
Squaw Creek Irrigation District
PO Box 2230
Sisters, OR 97759

Dear Marc,

Thanks for letting me review again the Squaw Creek Water Conservation Project Proposal as it has evolved since we discussed it last year. I'm as enthusiastic now as I was then, about both the project and the initiative and the water conservation ethic that SCID is demonstrating with this and your other good works.

The dewatering that has historically occurred in Squaw Creek creates severe hardships on fish populations in the system, and general stress on the stream ecosystem in this arid part of Oregon. SCID's efforts to redress these hardships and stresses, while preserving its members livelihoods, is an ongoing demonstration that this kind of accommodation is possible if never final and complete. In this case, by delivering pressurized water supplies to your members, the conservation project arguably delivers higher value irrigation water to the district as well as environmental value back into the stream.

Your description is unclear on the disposition of the plans to add low-head electrical generation to the system. We know the generation element often is difficult to make pencil out. I regret its omission, but clearly the project stands on its own merits as a combined irrigation services, water conservation, and streamflow restoration project.

My best wishes for successful implementation.

Sincerely,


Angus Duncan
President and CEO
The Bonneville Environmental Foundation

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SALEM, OREGON



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Water Resources Department
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Watermaster, District 11
1340 NW Wall St. Ste. 100
Bend, OR 97701
Ph: 541-388-6669
Fax: 541-388-5101
www.wrd.state.or.us

March 2, 2004

Marc Thalacker
Squaw Creek Irrigation District
PO Box 2230
Sisters, OR 97759

Dear Marc:

I understand that you are requesting a letter of support from the Water Resources Department for the McKenzie Black Butte/Association Pipeline project. The project includes piping an open canal and saving water, power costs, and increasing wildfire protection.

The Department is a proponent of developing more efficient delivery systems for water users and is most interested in those projects that put protectable water instream. The estimate is 6 cfs of instream water rights for Squaw Creek from the diversion canal to the mouth. This amount of water would be a significant benefit to the resources of Squaw Creek as this section of the stream has historically suffered from extremely low flows during the late summer months. With the improved control of water within your system, the reduction of power costs due to elimination of pumping and with the increased instream flow, I think you have a triple winner of a project that will be a benefit to the citizens of Oregon and the aquatic species who inhabit this stream.

Sincerely,

Kyle Gorman

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7220 (OR-932)

APR 16 2004

Terry Nelson
Resource Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 SW Main, Suite 1300
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appreciates the opportunity to review the *Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment* for the McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Project. The project holds great prospect for improving habitat for salmonids and other species in Squaw Creek and for creating efficiencies as a function of improved agricultural operations.

BLM has no objections to the proposed project. The agency has one question regarding the temperature impaired waters in Squaw Creek and whether the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the proposed action within the context of existing Oregon Department of Agriculture Senate Bill 1010 (SB1010) plans. The SB1010 planning process provides a positive approach for engaging private landowners in the regulatory process. BLM attention to the SB1010 process in areas of the state where private ranching and agricultural economies could be affected by BLM actions has proven valuable. If a SB1010 plan exists for the affected area, the Environmental Analysis might reference that plan relating the details to the comprehensive restoration strategy that NRCS is proposing. If you have any further questions, please contact Rosy Mazaika of my staff at (503) 808-6076.

Sincerely,

William Craig Mackinnon

for Michael S. Mottice
Deputy State Director for Resource
Planning, Use and Protection

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SALEM, OREGON



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Deschutes National Forest
Sisters Ranger District

PO Box 249
Sisters, OR 97759
(541) 549-7700

File Code: 2530-4

Date: March 19, 2004

Route To:

Subject: McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Project EA Review

To: Terry Nelson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon

Thank you for the chance to review the Environmental Assessment for the McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Project. This project is a valuable opportunity to restore flows in Squaw Creek that will restore habitat for native redband trout and historic habitat for steelhead trout and spring chinook salmon. With the partnerships you have developed with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and Squaw Creek Irrigation District, this project helps restore watershed conditions while building relationships in the community. This project will make important progress in the restoration of fish habitat and water quality in Squaw Creek. Improved flow will also restore the connectivity of aquatic habitats between the public lands in the upper and lower portions of the subwatershed.

I commend your efforts to benefit both the water users and the public resources on federal lands within the Why-Chus Watershed. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed comments, please contact Michael Riehle, District Fishery Biologist, phone (541)549-7702, or email: mriehle@fs.fed.us.

WILLIAM ANTHONY
District Ranger

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SALEM, OREGON



JEFFERSON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
625 SE Salmon Ave. Suite 6
Redmond, Or. 97756
(541) 923-8018 Fax: (541) 923-4713
marie-horn@or.nacdnet.org



February 23, 2004

RE: McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Project

The Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District is offering full support of the this project. We feel it will conserve water in the Deschutes basin.

Jefferson SWCD offers its support with technical assistance as needed and as we are able to provide.

Dan Comingore, District Chair

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