

Exhibit G

**Public Correspondence Received as of
June 3, 2021**

From: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Flathers, Courtney (Merkley) <Courtney_Flathers@merkley.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed acquisition of properties near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Thanks again for getting back to me so quickly, Courtney. I appreciate it.

To follow up on my voice mail, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing to acquire two properties totaling 140 acres adjacent to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area west of Eugene. The properties would be acquired by ODFW using funds from the Bonneville Power Administration and will contribute towards mitigation to permanently settle for impacts of the federal hydroelectric and flood control system in the Willamette Basin.

ODFW is proposing to acquire both properties in order to permanently protect and restore them as wildlife habitat as part of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. Their location, both within a Conservation Opportunity Area, as well as their proximity to the wildlife area and other protected habitats, has lead us to prioritize them for conservation.

I have attached the outreach material we have prepared for a public zoom meeting on April 6 from 6-7:30pm (<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616400284>). This information includes background information about the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, as well as for the properties themselves. I would like your office to be aware of this meeting, and attend if interested. I would also like to have the opportunity to discuss any thoughts or concerns your office may have about these acquisitions in advance of this meeting.

Please call or email me to set up a time to discuss at your convenience.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Kelly

Kelly Reis (she/her)

Willamette Fish & Wildlife Policy & Program Manager
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
P: 541-686-7880 | C: 541-517-2228
kelly.e.reis@state.or.us

From: Flathers, Courtney (Merkley) <Courtney_Flathers@merkley.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>
Subject: RE: Proposed acquisition of properties near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Hi Kelly,

Thanks so much for this information. I don't have any questions or concerns at this time. I'm not able to join the Zoom meeting on April 6th. Will there be a recording of that made available?

Best,

COURTNEY FLATHERS
Field Representative – Mid-Valley to Coast
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY
405 EAST 8TH, SUITE 2010 | EUGENE, OR 97401
Cell: 541-554-5726
Office: 541-465-6750
Courtney_Flathers@merkley.senate.gov

From: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:59 PM

To: Flathers, Courtney (Merkley) <Courtney_Flathers@merkley.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Proposed acquisition of properties near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Courtney, attached is the presentation I gave last night via zoom to interested stakeholders.

Five members of the public attended the meeting, including a staff person from the Army Corps of Engineers. This meeting was in addition to an informal face-to-face gathering we held with invited neighbors last week (3 couples/6 people total attended that meeting, including the 2 couples who have agreed to sell the properties under discussion). Although last night's meeting was scheduled to run from 6-7:30pm, it ended before 7pm after responding to all of the questions.

Please let me know if you have questions about the meeting or would like to discuss any of the information presented. I am working with our webmaster to make this presentation available on-line as well.

Thanks for your interest!

Kelly

Kelly Reis (she/her)

Willamette Fish & Wildlife Policy & Program Manager

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

P: 541-686-7880 | C: 541-517-2228

kelly.e.reis@state.or.us

March 25 2021

Dear Kelly,

Comment for South Coyote II and III, thanks.

Will land need to be purchased as easement to connect Coyote II and III to parcels to South Coyote Mg. area to the north? Can Division of State Land(DSL) purchase easement corridor land to do wetland mitigation on, here, to connect the two, to be purchased South Coyote II and III parcels to South Coyote mg. Area? If DSL uses wetland mitigation banks, can they route money to pay for more easements to be purchased and mitigated on for wetland loss? Mitigation banks will be dissolved/sold off and become new EFU in the future. The State of Oregon is allowing wetland loss to continue, without permanent replacement of lost wetlands.

Can the State of Oregon invest wetland replacement restoration efforts by developers by purchasing easements, to connect places like South Coyote II and III to their creeks and floodplain habitat?

This method of on-site easement purchase and restoration, instead of dumping money into someones mitigation bank, directly builds State owned watershed connectivity as conservation easement corridors, instead of paying a corporation or person for use of x mitigation bank, then in y years, all these wetland mitigation banks will be sold, for more profit, and decommissioned back to Exclusive Farm Use Zone.

These wetland mitigation bank owner's or set of owners profit from state system of creating wetland replication in various wetland mitigation banks. State of Oregon has diminishing, to a figure total less then 1.0% of conserved natural, historic wetland and flood plain/vernal pool valley floor prairie habitat.

These areas are the last to be developed, so are being targeted for cheap land, attached surface water rights, to be 100% drained, leveled and planted. As WV population increases annexation is all paper with zero public vote, and SB 2001 and 2003 which grant heavy unrestricted by local land use codes, urbanized developments. Flood plain wetlands areas are being purchased by commercial agro investment firms, in mass, to plant, grow and export products such as hazel nuts to Asia and Europe.

Do the parcels have any chance of supporting remnant botany? If so will survey work be done to find these species before roads and parking lots are built for hunting and public access?

Search for: Extant: Kincaid lupine, Willamette daisy, once common native petunia spp. found in Lane County, mimulus tri color, fenders blue, checkerspot species, and other lepidoptra species. Map and save from mower deck damage ALL wetland ant species mounds, look for rare catisfly insect identified in 2020 at Jackson Frazier Wetland-Benton County after site grading and leveling. Identify and conserve endemics, and range limited oak species, shrub or plant species.

Look for lamprey spp, and conserve what habitat types they need to survive, gravels, alchoves... if they are to be restored back into these valley floor creeks eventually, if they are gone from these creeks due to Fern Ridge construction.

Look for and fix all culvert fish passage blockages and evaluate upgrading restricted flow in rainy season blockages at undersized culverts, do bivalve evaluation on land and in channel of Coyote Creek, look for the need for removal of rip rap and re-vegetate these areas, restore creek alcoves, inventory for need to replant riparian species, willow and riparian species. Is this area able to support elk, streaked horned lark, western pond turtle, river otter, owl spp in existing snags, burrowing owl, or has nest platforms/snag cottonwood trees for long term conservation for eagle and osprey use?

Look for ground nesting birds use, and consider the use of fire for lark habitat needs, create more burrowing owl habitat. Look for red fox, coyote and provide protected space for these species.

Beaver use and accessibility if they are locally 100% extermination of beaver here, and none make it this far up Coyote creek, can this change?

Consider Purple martin use in future. Invest in man made land based nest box systems.

Loss of Coyote Creek flood plain due to field tile drainage, and need to find and break this up to allow for area flooding, restoration of ash,willow, oak, swamp, ash, willow, yampa/wappito flood plain habitat area.

I did found old Red Tree Vole(RTV) evidence in Douglas fir area between Zumwalt Park and Fern Ridge Shores Unit, from historic extension of coast range fir forest from the west but with urbanization, the RTV connection was historically lost to this area.

There may be evidence for historic use by RTV in fir in Coyote III. Can a check of South Coyote III be done in fir trees for red tree vole spp use, prior to cutting these trees down, making snags? To document historic red tree vole range extension into the valley floor from Doug fir before they are removed. For the good of the RTV data base maintained by the USFS.

Hopefully Joel Geier and Paul Adamus are able to help with the Vesper sparrow and other birds needs and ranges and nesting survey use here. Put up nest boxes for bats, western blue bird, owl, wood duck, rockery locations, plant nectar species for butterfly and monarch use such as: two local milkweed species showy and thin leaves milkweeds.

When planting back endangered plants into these units, plan to allow for the use of management tools such as: fire, mowing and management over top of these endangered plants so the plants will not stop area management, and may cause the decline of entire area's because of allowing endangered plants to be installed here.

Thanks, R.Foster

From: ALVERSON Edward R <edward.alverson@lanecountyor.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 10:13 AM

To: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>

Subject: RE: Meeting April 6 to discuss proposed ODFW habitat acquisitions near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Hi Kelly, I think these would be great acquisitions and additions to the wildlife area, South Coyote III in particular is a parcel I've had my eye on for a while because it contains both riparian and upland oak woodland/savanna. If at any point you need assistance with anything, let me know, I'd be happy to help.

Thanks,

Ed

From: Pat Patterson <ziegenlieb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:47 PM
To: TESLER Laura * ODFW <Laura.TESLER@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Expansion

This sounds like a very good plan. Thank you.

> On Mar 19, 2021, at 11:59 AM, Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us> wrote:

>

> Commissioner Bozievich,

>

> To follow up on my voice mail just now, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing to acquire two properties totaling 140 acres adjacent to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area west of Eugene. The properties would be acquired by ODFW using funds from the Bonneville Power Administration and will contribute towards mitigation to permanently settle for impacts of the federal hydroelectric and flood control system in the Willamette Basin.

>

> ODFW is proposing to acquire both properties in order to permanently protect and restore them as wildlife habitat as part of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/willamette_wmp/index.asp>. In addition to their potential habitat values, their location, both within a Conservation Opportunity Area<<https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/conservation-opportunity-areas/>>, as well as their proximity to the wildlife area and other protected habitats, has lead us to prioritize these properties for conservation.

>

> I have attached the outreach material we have prepared for a public zoom meeting on April 6 from 6-7:30pm (<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616400284>). This information includes background information about the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, as well as for the properties themselves. I would like to invite you to attend this meeting, as well as have the opportunity to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have about these acquisitions in advance of this meeting.

>

> Please call or email me to set up a time to discuss at your convenience.

>

> Thank-you for your consideration.

>

> Kelly Reis (she/her)

>

> Willamette Fish & Wildlife Policy & Program Manager Oregon Department
> of Fish & Wildlife

>

> 3150 Main Street | Springfield, OR | 97478

> P: 541-686-7880 | C: 541-517-2228

> kelly.e.reis@state.or.us<<mailto:kelly.e.reis@state.or.us>>

>

> Please note that my phone number has changed. I can be reached at 541-686-7880 or 541-517-2228 (cell).

>

> From: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>

Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 4:49 PM

To: BOZIEVICH Jay K <jay.bozievich@lanecountyor.gov>; Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>

Cc: Frances.BRINDLE@odot.state.or.us

Subject: RE: Proposed ODFW habitat acquisitions near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Commissioner Bozievich -

Thanks for raising the potential for collaboration with ODOT. In concept, there may be an opportunity to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. We have done so successfully at another ODFW property in our program (Gail Achterman Wildlife Area near Salem).

Frances, please don't hesitate to contact me and we can talk about what this might look like.

Thanks again and enjoy the weekend.

Kelly

Kelly Reis (she/her)

Willamette Fish & Wildlife Policy & Program Manager Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

P: 541-686-7880 | C: 541-517-2228

kelly.e.reis@state.or.us

From: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Tiffany Nino <Tiffany@oregonfb.org>
Subject: Proposed ODFW acquisitions near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Tiffany, I received your name from Peter Kenagy as someone I should speak with at the Farm Bureau regarding two proposed property acquisitions totaling 140 acres adjacent to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area west of Eugene. The properties would be acquired by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife using funds from the Bonneville Power Administration and will contribute towards mitigation to permanently settle for impacts of the federal hydroelectric and flood control system in the Willamette Basin.

ODFW is proposing to acquire both properties in order to permanently protect and restore them as wildlife habitat as part of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. Their location, both within a Conservation Opportunity Area, as well as their proximity to the wildlife area and other protected habitats, has lead us to prioritize them for conservation.

I am reaching out to you because of the potential value these properties may have for agricultural uses. One property (40 acres) is currently being used to graze horses. The other property (100 acres) is primarily a mix of upland and riparian forests, and wetlands/wet prairie, including approximately 20 acres of wetland/wet prairie that is currently hayed in late summer.

I have attached the outreach material we have prepared for a public zoom meeting on April 6 from 6-7:30pm (<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616400284>). This information includes additional background information about the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, as well as for the properties themselves. I would like to personally invite you to attend this meeting. I would also like to have the opportunity to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have about these acquisitions in advance of this meeting.

Please call or email me to set up a time to discuss at your convenience.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Kelly

Kelly Reis (she/her)

Willamette Fish & Wildlife Policy & Program Manager
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

3150 Main Street | Springfield, OR | 97478
P: 541-686-7880 | C: 541-517-2228
kelly.e.reis@state.or.us

From: Tiffany Nino <Tiffany@oregonfb.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:10 PM
To: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>
Subject: RE: Proposed ODFW acquisitions near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Thank you Kelly for the information. I'm going have our public policy director get back to you on this since it's her area. Reaching out to you will be Mary Anne Cooper.
Tiffany

From: Mary Anne Cooper <maryannecooper@oregonfb.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:16 PM
To: Tiffany Nino <Tiffany@oregonfb.org>; Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>
Subject: RE: Proposed ODFW acquisitions near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Hi Kelly! And I reached out to my local farm bureau to see if they wanted to get involved – so either Tiffany Monroe or I might be reaching back out depending on what they say!

Mary Anne Cooper | Vice President of Public Policy
Oregon Farm Bureau
1320 Capitol St. NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301
Cell: 541.740.4062 • Office: 503.399.1701 x. 306 • Fax: 503.399.8082
maryanne@oregonfb.org • oregonfb.org

Coyote Creek II and III Neighborhood Meeting Notes
Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Headquarters
March 30, 2021 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Attendees

ODFW:

Kelly Reis, Willamette Fish and Wildlife Policy and Program Manager

Chris Vogel, WWMP Restoration and Monitoring Biologist

David Speten, Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Manager

Jennifer Ringo, Acting South Willamette Watershed District Manager

Neighbors:

The Lassens

Pat Goodwin

Roger Goodwin

Annie Carter

Wayne Carter

This in-person meeting was held outside with COVID protocols in place (masks required, socially distant seating, hand sanitizer provided). Attendees introduced themselves and Kelly Reis gave some brief background on the project then turned it over to the neighbors to ask questions.

A question was asked about future use and access. ODFW responded that it would be open to the public consistent with wildlife area rules. South Coyote is open May 1 – 1 week prior to start of waterfowl season (in October). During waterfowl season there is limited entry hunting. Hunting is archery or shotgun only, centerfire rifle is not allowed on the wildlife area. Would not be able to use the area for siting in a rifle or shooting clay pigeons. Outside of waterfowl season, the area is open for other activities such as birdwatching or walking dogs on-leash.

A question was asked as to whether haying would continue on the property. ODFW responded that there would be an 18-month land management planning process with opportunities for the public to weigh in. For the time-being, it is beneficial for ODFW to not have to mow the property and helpful to get the thatch up with haying. ODFW does not anticipate pulling the plug on haying in the short-term but cannot guarantee how long it would continue. ODFW does not think that public use of the property would interfere with hay production.

A concern was brought up about the Douglas-fir trees being removed. ODFW responded that we would not be removing all of them; it would be selective and would primarily focus on the areas where they are encroaching around oak trees.

A question was asked about plans to clear ash out of riparian area. ODFW responded that there might be some clearing but it would primarily occur around oaks.

A neighbor brought up that a surveyor would need to come out to the property. Neighbors said that they would like to be notified when this happens. It was also mentioned that the survey might alter the existing fence line of one of the neighboring landowners that was at the meeting.

A question was asked about what kind of access there would be – walk-in or driving. There has been a history of people leaving trash at the end of the road but has finally improved. ODFW responded that we would not have parking at the end of the road. Access would be very limited (no big parking lot) and would be at the gate where there is existing access.

A question was asked about plans to enhance the pond on the property. It was pointed out by a neighbor that the pond was an NRCS project. ODFW responded that we would not remove the pond but would look at enhancing it by removing invasive species and replacing with native plant species. A neighbor mentioned that a lot of work had gone into getting tansy out of that area.

A question was asked about what all of the heavy equipment was for last year. ODFW responded by talking about the South Coyote DU project.

A concern was brought up from a neighboring landowner about their horses and having hunting next to the fence where the horses are. ODFW responded that people hunting waterfowl would not be hunting next to the fence. Also, pheasants will not be released on these properties.

A question was asked as to whether the elk on the wildlife area would be managed. There is a herd of about 42 elk that use Coyote Creek South III. ODFW responded that elk could be hunted during the hunting season, but they would not be managed differently than other elk.

A question was asked about how owls might be affected. ODFW responded that owls should benefit from the prey species that occur on the property.

ODFW mentioned that we would be curious if they are hearing from other neighbors and encouraged them to contact us if they have any other concerns or questions.

One of the neighbors said that they liked the answers that they heard at the meeting.

**ODFW – WWMP Public Meeting via Zoom: Proposed Acquisitions Coyote Creek II & III
April 6, 2021**

ODFW staff present: Kelly Reis, Laura Tesler, Jennifer Ringo, David Speten, Chris Vogel & Anna Levine
Four members of the public were in attendance.

Meeting started at 6:02 PM.

- Kelly welcomed attendees and introduced ODFW staff
- Kelly presented a PowerPoint presentation

Questions from the public

Q1: Options for dog training? David responded this has been brought up by others and there are some restrictions due to USACE lands. South Coyote being state owned, might be a possibility but would need to be considered in regards to timing, duration, size, liabilities, etc.

Q2: Is there a bridge that crosses Coyote Creek? Neighbors (Shippey) to the east concerned about hunting and public access to acreage across Coyote Creek. Kelly responded that current regulations for South Coyote provide limitations and closures. Chris responded that he will ask land owner and lessee about a foot bridge and that if there were a bridge, it would most likely be removed for safety. The area in the southeast corner is also within a BPA Right-of-Way, therefore limited management would be require access across the creek.

Q3: Can other units, such as Applegate be open to dog training? Kelly and David responded.

Neighbors (Shippey) to east have a CE with McKenzie River Trust, and are concerned about hunting in regards to their efforts for wildlife. They recommend we work with them and McKenzie River Trust for long term stewardship. Laura responded that ODFW works with McKenzie River Trust.

Q4: How will you enforce lead ammunition ban? Dave responded that lead is illegal for waterfowl hunting, but could be used in shotgun slugs. Oregon State Police enforce all laws and rules on wildlife area.

Q5: What about a building a nature center? Kelly responded that BPA has limitations on development and infrastructure.

Q6: What about using non-toxic substitutes for herbicides? Kelly responded that at the scale of management and maintenance, it isn't realistic.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Comments received from Wufoo, an on- line link on the WWMP website

Name	Current city of residence	Who do you represent? (optional)	Comments
Andrew	Blaney	Eugene	Purchasing new land for the fern ridge wildlife area is a great idea, I sincerely hope this goes through it will expand on the already great opportunities on the land and will surely be enjoyed by the public.
Mark	Peabody	Eugene	Neighboring resident Questions: 1. . Is it possible to dedicate a portion of the preserve as free from hunting and fishing? 2. How do the authorities in charge, monitor and enforce the ban on the use of LEAD ammunition in those areas where hunting is allowed? 3. Will there be oppurtunities for community to participate in native plant restoration? 4. Will there be the potential for the installation of a Nature Center open to the public? We would like to see a map of the entire Fern Ridge Wildlife Area including the proposed property acquisition. Thank you for your dedication to this project
Sue	Craig	Lane County	Interfaith Earthkeepers Please add this 140 acres. And please make certain that beavers can use it without being trapped, or hunted. WE need them desperately for ground water retention, among other things.
Connie	Peabody	Eugene/veneta	Rural Resident Questions: 1. Will public access be made available via trail construction for hikers, cyclists and horseback riders in near future? 2: Is the University of Oregon participating in providing a study team of professional biologists, ethno-botanists or wild lands experts to study the impacts of hunting, use of herbicides or water quality testing? 3. How can we in the community participate in wild lands restoration?
Kris	Sherman	Cheshire	Clean air Please tell me "yes" or "no" if this area will be "field burned: My mom lives in West Eugene..I travel alot from Veneta to Eugene. The smoke has stopped traffic..my mom has had asthma symptoms from burning in this area and not controlled properly. How can this be a wildlife/bugs/turkeys/birds project if it kills and/ or displaces them when their home is burned. A wildlife and forestry/conservation project should be looked at separately.
Michelle	Swansin	Eugene	Myself Fantastic news! Fully support!
Matt	Samples	Junction City, Oregon	I think this is a fantastic idea. The more land used for conservation is a win for nature and the community. I am concerned however that you will allow hunting. I feel this goes against the goal of conservation and it benefits a small number of users while restricting non-hunter's use of the area. Thank you
Sue	Craig	Eugene/County	This sounds really good. Hope you will get some beavers in to help store water for our future. Il also hope that ODFW will stop allowing beavers to be hunted and trapped. They hold a very firm place in aquifers, and in their ability to clean water.
Devon	Bond	Elmira	Self Hope the acquisition is successful. We need more land for wildlife that will be protected from future development.
john	winquist	Eugene	Yes! A part of creating a functional size wildlife refuge. Thanks too for you collaboration with other agencies abutting
Nartnucha	Unhanand	The Dalles	Myself and wildlife I strongly support the expansion. It will help preserve wildlife for future generations to enjoy. Will help keep the earth green. Wildlife deserves a peaceful environment free from human encroachment and safe from hunting and other forms of destruction.
William	Simonson	Corvallis	myself In my opinion the acquisition is a no-brainer. It meets the purpose of the funding mechanism and will be of great benefit to the community.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT
WILLAMETTE VALLEY PROJECT
211 EAST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 480
EUGENE, OR 97401

Laura Tesler
WWMP Program Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Ave SE
Salem OR 97302

Dear Ms. Tesler,

This purpose of this letter is to express support for additional acquisition of conservation land by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to be managed as part of the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. Our agencies have a long history of collaborating to promote natural resource values at Fern Ridge Lake. This relationship remains critical to achieving the Corps' fish and wildlife mission. We greatly appreciate the State's acquisition of additional conservation land around Fern Ridge.

The two proposed acquisitions, Coyote South II and III, support both intact and restorable oak, prairie, and wetland habitats. These habitat types are among the Corps' highest priorities for management due to their critical importance for rare and endangered plants, insects, and vertebrates. The geographic position of these parcels is outstanding: adjacent to protected lands managed by the Corps, ODFW and City of Eugene; within conservation planning areas such the West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area and the Rivers to Rivers Vision area; and in the Coyote Creek watershed, where several members of this dynamic and expanding partnership are engaged in vital conservation efforts.

We hope these acquisitions succeed, and we again encourage ODFW staff to call on the Project's environmental stewardship section for support whenever necessary. Please contact Wendy Jones, Environmental Stewardship Manager at (541) 688-8147 ext. 1020, if you have questions about our role in this project or our partnership with ODFW.

Sincerely,

ERIK S. PETERSEN
Operations Project Manager

Laura Tesler
WWMP Program Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Ave SE | Salem OR 97302

April 3, 2020

Dear Ms. Tesler,

On behalf of the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), I am submitting this letter in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed acquisition and subsequent management of the 140-acre (combined) Coyote Creek South II and Coyote Creek South III properties. These parcels contain a mix of rare and valuable habitat types including a mosaic of wet prairie, upland prairie and oak woodland.

Coyote Creek South II and III are contiguous with ODFW's Coyote Creek South property and connected to ODFW's Coyote Creek Northeast, both of which were acquired through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, and for both of which LTWC is joining in partnership efforts to help restore. If acquired, these parcels would become part of a complex of more than 8,500 acres of protected lands that make up the West Eugene Wetlands and Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. Collectively, this area includes the largest remaining acreage of wet prairie in the entire Willamette Valley, and has been prioritized highly by LTWC and by consensus of local and regional partners for additional protection and restoration (e.g. via the Spencer Creek Conservation Opportunity Area).

Habitat loss and fragmentation have been identified as the major limiting factors affecting most focal terrestrial wildlife populations and listed and at-risk species in the Willamette Valley. Within the Long Tom Watershed, prairie and oak are the rarest habitat types. The oak and prairie habitat surrounding Fern Ridge Reservoir and within Coyote and Spencer Creek sub-basins is considered the anchor for the entire Willamette Valley. Wet prairie habitat covers less than two percent of its former extent in the Willamette Valley; and bottomland wet prairie is thought to be the rarest plant community in the valley with less than one percent remaining. Today, roughly 1,000 acres remain in the Long Tom Watershed, more than half of which lies within Coyote and Spencer Creek sub-basins. Less than 20 percent of riparian, bottomland forest remains in the Willamette Valley. It has been similarly reduced in the Long Tom Watershed along with off-channel, slow-moving water habitats because of elimination of regular flooding, stream channelization, and conversion of riparian floodplains to agriculture or pastureland. Nonnative, invasive species, including reed canarygrass, English ivy, and Himalayan blackberry pose particular threats to riparian forest habitat where it remains intact. Restoration of oak, prairie, and wetland habitat is a top priority for the Long Tom Watershed Council because of the number of listed species these habitats host, the degree to which they have been altered and eliminated, and the limited dispersal ability of rare species, including Fender's blue butterfly.

The LTWC envisions a healthy watershed, including supportive social and economic systems that together provide the habitat conditions and ecological functions necessary to support excellent water quality and self-sustaining populations of the Long Tom Watershed's native biota, with sustainable economic activity for the whole community. ODFW is an integral partner in working toward our vision and strategy. We strongly support the ODFW's proposed acquisition of the Coyote Creek South II and III properties because of the tremendous opportunity they offer to conserve rare habitats and species, contribute to the more than 8,500 acres of conserved habitat, and further the shared ecological goals of the Rivers to Ridges Partnership.

Thank you and sincerely,



Clinton Begley | Executive Director





April 2, 2020

Laura Tesler
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program
4034 Fairview Industrial Ave SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Dear Laura,

On behalf of the McKenzie River Trust, I am submitting this letter in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) acquisition of Coyote Creek Phase II and Phase III, which collectively will protect an additional 140 acres on Coyote Creek.

This project is an opportunity to expand upon the protected lands to the south of Fern Ridge Reservoir that are high priorities to several organizations. In addition to being in the Oregon Conservation Strategy West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area, it is also highlighted as a core conservation area in the March 2020 Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan. The Prairie Cooperative is a newly formed partnership with a long-term vision to conserve and maintain prairie and oak habitats within the Willamette Valley through a regionally-focused, collaborative, and sustainable program.

The two parcels are also proximate to properties protected by the McKenzie River Trust (MRT), with Coyote Creek Phase III being adjacent to MRT's Coyote Creek Meadows conservation easement. This section of Coyote Creek has been an MRT priority area for over a decade and contains high quality wetlands, prairie, and oak areas.

ODFW is the appropriate organization to own, restore, and manage these two properties. They have a long track record of success in this area, both in ecological restoration and responsibly managing public access. They will ensure that the conservation values of this area reach their full potential and that the properties will provide benefits to the people of Lane County and the Willamette Valley.

Sincerely,

Daniel Dietz
Conservation Director
541-844-6285

Protecting Special Lands

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April 14, 2020

Laura Tesler
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

RE: WWMP application for Coyote Creek II, ODFW

Dear WWMP grant review committees,

I'm writing to support the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposal to acquire the parcel called Coyote Creek II. This parcel would add to a connected aggregate of projects in this area southwest of Eugene that contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats and species. Other properties in the area are owned and managed for similar purposes by the City of Eugene, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as ODFW. This project would continue a history of successful work identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Strategy document. As partners in the R2R partnership, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space wholeheartedly supports ODFW in this effort.

The Rivers to Ridges vision describes a connected series of habitats, the restoration of this site supports that vision of connectivity from the eastern edge to the western edge of the planning area. The conservation and restoration of this site would add to a mosaic of wet and upland prairie in this area that the Corps, City, Long Tom Watershed Council and ODFW have been successfully collaborating on for several years.

For all these reasons, we recommend this project for funding without hesitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly A. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly A. Miller
Supervisor, Ecological Services and GIS Team
Rivers to Ridges Implementation Team Member



April 14, 2020

Laura Tesler
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

RE: WWMP application for Coyote Creek III, ODFW

Dear WWMP grant review committees,

I'm writing to support the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposal to acquire the parcel called Coyote Creek III. This parcel would add to a connected aggregate of projects in this area southwest of Eugene that contributes to the long-term protection and enhancement of Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats and species. Other properties in the area are owned and managed for similar purposes by the City of Eugene, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as ODFW. This project would continue a history of successful work identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Strategy document. As partners in the R2R partnership, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space wholeheartedly supports ODFW in this effort.

The Rivers to Ridges vision describes a connected series of habitats, the restoration of this site supports that vision of connectivity from the eastern edge to the western edge of the planning area. The conservation and restoration of this site would add to a mosaic of conifer, oak, and wet and upland prairie in this area that the Corps, City, Long Tom Watershed Council and ODFW have been successfully collaborating on for several years.

For all these reasons, we recommend this project for funding without hesitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly A. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly A. Miller
Supervisor, Ecological Services and GIS Team
Rivers to Ridges Implementation Team Member

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON
PO Box C, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761
Phone: (541) 553-2001



April 27, 2020

Laura Tesler
Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97032

Dear Laura:

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (Tribes) are writing this letter to document our support for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) grant request to the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program in interest of the purchase of the Coyote Creek III property located in Lane County near the town of Vaneta, Oregon. This property lies adjacent to Coyote Creek South, a property acquired in 2013 and the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. The 100 acres consists of 20 acres of oak woodland, 30 acres of mixed conifer, 26 acres of flowing water and riparian habitat, and 24 acres of wetland habitat. It supports a myriad of species of tribal significance.

The ecological characteristics of this property make this a strong candidate for long-term conservation. The piece of property provides important habitat connectivity to cultural significant species that inhabit the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area and will extend available habitat by 100 acres.

ODFW has a long history of successful restoration projects. The Tribes support ODFW's efforts to purchase and conserve the Coyote Creek III property in Lane County, Oregon. The Tribes look forward to a productive partnership with ODFW and appreciate their willingness to include us in the project. The Tribes are willing to provide technical expertise on conserving or restoring culturally significant species and/or to provide outreach and education on tribal natural resource management. If there are any further questions or concerns please contact Brittani Rosas at 406-214-5749 or brittani.rosas@ctwsbnr.org.

Sincerely,


Brian Cochran

Conservation Lands Program Supervisor
Planning Department
Branch of Natural Resources



Western Regional Office
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6116
(916) 852-2000 fax (916) 852-2200
www.ducks.org

May 12, 2021

ODFW Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Re: South Coyote II and III Acquisitions

Commission Members:

On behalf of Ducks Unlimited (DU), I am submitting this letter in strong support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) proposed South Coyote acquisitions through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). South Coyote II and III would add important connectivity to a growing conservation footprint with the adjacent Coyote Creek properties, as well as the larger Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.

DU recognizes these acquisitions as critical opportunities for protection and restoration of wetland and upland prairie habitats that are rare and increasingly threatened in the Willamette Valley. Most of these habitats are now only 2% of what was historically present, and are continuing to decrease due to development, urbanization, and changes in agriculture crops. Therefore, conservation actions to protect and restore these habitats are strongly supported by DU in our effort to ensure presence of migratory birds at North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals during critical migration and wintering periods. Additionally, DU fully supports these acquisitions for providing increased hunting and recreational opportunities for the public to connect with game and the native habitats of the region, now and in the future.

Since the late 1980's, DU has partnered with ODFW by providing funding and technical support for restoring numerous wildlife areas and tracts, and is dedicated to continuing this partnership for delivery of functional wetland habitats.

ODFW's acquisition of the South Coyote II and III parcels is a wise investment of public resources that will provide benefits for wildlife in the Willamette Valley and recreational opportunities for the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McCreary
Director of Operations