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September 28, 2006

2006010007

Mark Walker, Dir of Public Affairs
NPCC
851 SW Sixth Ave., Suite 1100
Portland OR 97204

Dear Mr Walker:

I am writing in support of continued funding for the John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Project in Grant County, which provides implementation of Program Measure 703 (C)(1), Action Item 4.2 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (NPCC, 1987).

The Training and Employment Consortium Youth Programs have worked closely with ODFW in year round projects associated with this project. Our Youth Programs depend on meaningful projects provided by partners to help build work ethics and identify occupational opportunities for the youth of our community. The youth and a provided crew leader(s) work closely with ODFW staff to accomplish natural resource related tasks such as fence removal, fence repair and building, riparian plantings and bank stabilization as well as many other stream and spring projects.

This type of activity is crucial to the health of our very rural community where opportunities for youth are extremely limited. Involvement with this type of project allows the youth to observe various occupation opportunities within the ODFW and a to talk with existing staff about the education and experience required to become involved in the preservation of our lands and wildlife. Perhaps even more importantly, working with a government agency to enhance, propagate, and preserve the natural resources of our area build a future partnership that is invaluable. The youth build pride in their community and develop a new sense of stewardship based on their part in keeping forests, grasslands, streams, rivers, and wildlife healthy.

While your focus is on *wildlife*, mine is on *youth* - who are the future of Oregon Wildlife as we know it. We have a common goal and this program helps move toward the goal.

Please continue the funding of the **John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Project** in Grant County.

Sincerely,

Kathy Cancilla, Youth Programs
Workforce Development Supervisor

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