



June 4, 2008

JUN 12 2008

Patty O'Toole  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Ms. O'Toole:

The Walla Walla Watershed Alliance (Alliance) supports the amendment to the Northwest Power & Conservation Council's Fish & Wildlife Program submitted by the Stewardship Partners which will direct the Council to provide programmatic and funding support for promoting Salmon-Safe certification of both agricultural production and urban landscape management throughout the Columbia River Basin.

The Alliance believes the market-based incentive strategy employed by Salmon-Safe is an expeditious, cost-effective and sustainable approach to salmon recovery. Recently, Salmon-Safe completed the activities outlined in a grant from the Alliance which focused on certifying three large urban landscape managers in the Walla Walla, WA, area. This has resulted in Walla Walla Community College being the first urban site to be certified as Salmon-Safe on the eastside of the Cascade Mountains. In addition, City of Walla Walla Parks and Whitman College have been assessed and are reviewing steps recommended for certification.

The BPA Partnership Fund described in the amendment would be instrumental in helping Salmon-Safe access USDA Farm Bill Program funding to help defray assessment costs, provide access to project funding, help develop a cadre of vendors capable of implementing systems that are Salmon-Safe, and provide a potential venue to incorporate Salmon-Safe strategies into NRCS's Resource Management System planning process. This proposed working relationship, whereby BPA provides the non-Federal funding match required by NRCS programs, clearly exemplifies the power of effective partnerships, and would help provide institutional backing for Salmon-Safe.

Please consider the Alliance's support for this Program Amendment and contact our staff at 509.524.5192 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R.L. Rugar".

Bob Rugar, President  
Walla Walla Watershed Alliance