



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

8702 N. Division Street • Spokane, Washington 99218-1199 • (509) 456-4082 FAX (509) 456-4071

March 26, 1997

Lieutenant Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr.
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Curtis:

RE: Walla Walla Watershed Reconnaissance Study

The information provided to this office has been reviewed by our staff as requested; comments follow.

The draft list of problems and opportunities for the Walla Walla Watershed Reconnaissance Study does a good job of outlining our concerns with fish and wildlife habitat in the Walla Walla and Touchet River basins. As you know the current level of activity in the area is high as a result of repeat flooding in 1997. The issues presented are more important now than when they were developed.

We hope that activities undertaken by your agency as emergency fixes do not preclude acting on the outlined opportunities.

Your proposal to use Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lands along the Walla Walla River to breach existing dikes for riparian restoration has merit and should be discussed further. Please feel free to contact Mark Grandstaff (509-529-0260) for coordination.

You may also wish to contact John Easterbrook in our Yakima Screen Shop (509) 575-2734 to discuss specific fish passage and screening projects. There are several proposals on the table that affect these issues. Early coordination could help avoid duplication of efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bruce R. Smith
Regional Director

cc: John Andrews
John Easterbrook
Mark Grandstaff

Route 1, Box 84
Prescott, Washington
October 16, 1997

Chris Hyland
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers

Dear Sir:

The Board of Directors of the Bolles-Prescott Flood Control District wishes to inform you that the district supports the efforts of the Corps of Engineers to perform a feasibility study on the Touchet River regarding problems and possible remedies.

Sincerely,



Gene Gerkey, Secretary

Board: David McConnell, Chairman
Allen Ford, Director
Gene Gerkey, Director



CITY OF
MILTON-FREEWATER

P.O. Box 6, Milton-Freewater, Ore. 97862 • Phone 503-938-5531 • FAX 503-938-6909

Since 1889

February 6, 1997

Department of The Army
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
Attn: Chris Hyland
Planning Division
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Dear Chris:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the potential projects identified in the Walla Walla Watershed Reconnaissance Study, on January 19, 1997.

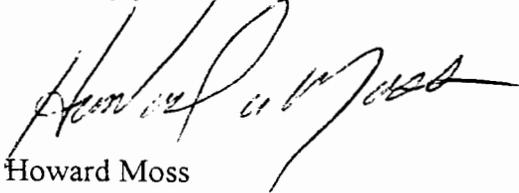
It would appear that all of the major projects within the watershed have been identified. The upper and lower Walla Walla basin as well as the discussion of the City of Milton-Freewater non-point flood/sediment from the agricultural hills is of direct importance to our City.

At this time, we will not ask for a feasibility study as a sponsor.

Please keep us posted on the progress of the study, and we may ask you to present the program to our City Council in the future.

If you have any questions, please call me at 541-938-5531, Ext. 141.

Sincerely yours,



Howard Moss

HM/be



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January 27, 1997

LTC Donald R. Curtis, Jr.
District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers
201 N. 3rd. Ave.
Walla Walla, WA. 99362

Dear LTC Curtis:

The Oregon Water Trust is a private, non-profit organization working to improve instream flows for salmon and other aquatic species using a cooperative, market-based approach. We work closely with farmers and ranchers in areas where low streamflows create a situation where there is not enough water to meet the needs of both irrigators and fish. The Walla Walla Watershed is one of our priority areas in Oregon.

Staff from the Oregon Water Trust has met with Chris Hyland on several occasions to discuss the Corps of Engineers' proposed watershed study for the Walla Walla Watershed. We are very interested in working with the Corps on aspects of the study focusing on ecosystem restoration. We are potentially interested in being a local sponsor for the Corps study. Our particular focus would be on developing a project or projects for acquiring water rights from willing landowners, and creating instream water rights that would enhance streamflow in important spawning and rearing tributaries. We feel that we could provide cost share and/or in-kind services during both the feasibility and implementation phases of a project.

We will be discussing these ideas with our Board of Directors at our next meeting. At that point we should have a better idea of the type and extent of sponsorship we can provide. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrew Purkey
Executive Director

cc: Chris Hyland

Andrew Purkey

Executive Director

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Phone 509-337-6157 — Fax (509)337-8089

February 13, 1997

David L. Reese
Chris Hyland
Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Sirs:

Waitsburg City Council held a special meeting in January to discuss the EWU Mitigation Study and to address your Problems and Opportunities/Reconnaissance Study draft.

We were disappointed that no one from the Flood Control District attended, but that is typical in a small town that has a host of competing organizations vying for time. The three members of that board, all Presbyterians, were attending the annual church meeting at 5th and Main.

One typo was pointed out in the report under item 7 of Touchet Valley problems. The park is officially the Lewis and Clark Trail State Park.

Under the City of Waitsburg we noted that a problem was the flooding of the local wastewater treatment plant which put that facility off line and discharged raw sewage into the Touchet River.

It was the feeling of our group that perhaps more emphasis could be placed on set-back levies along the Touchet, and less emphasis on dikes which always pose a problem for downstream riparian areas.

Another need to be addressed is the erosion of streamside ag land causing some sediment deposition downstream. In addition to causing some problems with farm land and native fish population, it can impact county roads and highways if the steam is allowed to cut new channels through fields.

Gentle, farmable berms appear to be a better solution along the rivers than ever-higher levees.

It was the feeling of the council members that the problems addressed were pertinent and on target.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Baker".

Tom Baker, Mayor