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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

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Executive Director

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cc: Chris Hyland