

Cascade Land Conservancy * Conservation Northwest * National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy * Trout Unlimited * The Trust for Public Land
Washington Environmental Council * The Wilderness Society

March 9, 2011

Derek Sandison
Washington State Department of Ecology
303 South Mission Street, Suite 200
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Wendy Christensen
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

Dear Mr. Sandison and Ms. Christensen,

This letter is to offer support from the undersigned groups for the next steps of the effort known as the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Plan). At your invitation, we have been working for the last several months to develop an upper watershed enhancement component for inclusion in the Plan. We completed this task, and Michael Garrity of American Rivers, who is the lead for us on this effort, will communicate to the Plan Working Group the results of our effort. We strongly believe the upper watershed enhancement component is needed to fulfill the key principles and objectives of the Plan. We understand that the next phase of this effort is for the Plan to undergo an Environmental Impact Statement analysis and program analysis. We strongly support conducting this next phase provided that the upper watershed enhancement component is formally included in the Plan and is an integral part of this analytic phase.

Like other interests who have helped develop the Plan, we realize that there are many steps to take, and many details to work out, before this Plan might come to fruition and be implemented. Those steps and those details remain of critical concern to us and their resolution will determine our continued support for this effort. We look forward to assisting you and the Plan Working Group to ensure that the Plan continues to meet the principles and objectives that have been developed to date as it evolves over this next phase.

We appreciate the opportunity to join the effort in this manner and look forward to other opportunities to contribute.

Sincerely,

Michelle Connor
Executive Vice President/Chief Program Officer
Cascade Land Conservancy

Mitch Friedman
Executive Director
Conservation Northwest

James Schroeder
Director of Freshwater Programs
The Nature Conservancy

Lisa Pelly
Director, Washington Water Project
Trout Unlimited

Mo McBroom
Policy Director
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Steve Malloch
Senior Water Program Manager
National Wildlife Federation

Mike Deller
Washington State Director
The Trust for Public Land

Peter Dykstra
Pacific Northwest Regional Director
The Wilderness Society