

November 17, 2016

Spirit Mountain Community Fund
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Subject: Improving Long Tom Watershed Land Stewardship through Tribal Engagement

Dear Spirit Mountain Community Fund,

We are writing to express our commitment to and support for the Long Tom Watershed Council's Spirit Mountain Community Fund grant proposal focused on improving Long Tom Watershed land stewardship through Tribal engagement. We hope to engage interested tribal members in the restoration and stewardship of our property, the Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve.

Our property supports 283 acres of mixed species woodlands and oak and pine savanna, and 10 acres of upland prairie. In 2004, we purchased the property off Lorane Highway south of Eugene with the intent to restore the health of the forest and preserve valuable forestland from development. We soon learned from local conservation experts that the land contained valuable oak savanna/woodland and some rare, native prairie plants. The property had been in bankruptcy and had been neglected. Dozens of large oak were being overtopped by Douglas fir and Scotch broom occurred in varying degrees of density on over half the property along with blackberry.

For the next nine years we spent considerable time and money fighting invasives, securing some grant money to save the most threatened oak trees, burning abandoned slash piles, and planting barren areas to outcompete Scotch broom and blackberry. In addition, we planted native species to further enhance the prairie habitat, including tall camas, sticky cinquefoil, blue-eyed grass, clarkia, Oregon geranium, and showy milkweed. We planted showy tarweed (madia) in the lower meadow on the property and elsewhere. It has spread widely and we would welcome its harvest along with other plants. We now manage 142 acres for conservation and 151 acres as sustainable forestland, which we intend to selectively harvest from to help support stewarding the conservation area.

In 2015, McKenzie River Trust finalized the acquisition of a conservation easement on the property, recognizing that it supports some of the best remaining pine savanna and oak woodland/savanna habitat in the southern Willamette Valley. In 2016, the Long Tom Watershed Council was awarded an OWEB restoration grant to further restore 65 acres of open oak woodland, 15 acres of oak savanna, control invasives, and enhance 20 acres of prairie remnants which support great native plant diversity.

The proposed project would complement the oak and prairie habitat restoration by engaging native people, adults and youth, in workshops to talk about the proposed restoration, to share knowledge and understanding about oak and prairie habitat, and to

understand the interest of tribal members and native people in Eugene and Springfield in helping care for the property long term through harvesting and stewardship activities.

Our family has a long history of Tribal involvement. Linda started her career working for a decade on educational projects on the Cherokee and Sioux reservations along with some other communities. After serving as a teacher/teacher trainer for those ten years, Linda worked in local schools for 18 years, part of that time as Special programs Director, including the Indian Education program in Springfield. Her interest in Indian education led to her return to consulting on reservation schools on the Navajo, Hopi and Havasupai reservations until she retired. Doug directed two federal programs that provided consulting for early reading instruction for a number of native schools. Our daughters have continued this commitment to supporting First Nations. Our younger daughter, Leah, has worked over two years as a physician assistant at the Pascua Yaqui Health Center near Tucson, AZ (<http://www.elrio.org/locations/pascua-yaqui-clinic/>). Our older daughter has been part of the Black Mesa Indigenous Support network for nine years (<https://www.facebook.com/BlackMesaIndigenousSupport>).

We are committed to hosting and participating in two workshops on our property and look forward to learning from the proposed project. We are interested in learning more about the potential to formalize a mechanism for long-term tribal engagement. We look forward to hearing your decision and partnering with the Long Tom Watershed Council and tribal members on this project. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Carmine
Linda Carmine