

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

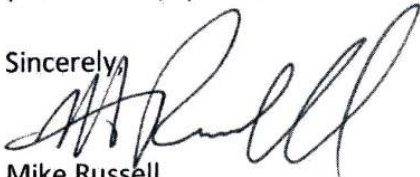
Dear Spirit Mountain Community Fund,

Please accept this letter in support of 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 and staff, along with restoration practitioners in a workshop to explore tribal participation in restoration and stewardship at Zumwalt Park, a 74-acre Lane County Park owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, leased to Lane County and managed in partnership with the Friends of Zumwalt Park.

The proposed project allows for important exploration of the role public and private lands could play in increasing land access for native people. Zumwalt Park offers a complex, but common, example of a public land site with multiple entities involved in management. The site is open to the public for recreation, offers an off-leash area for dog owners, and in summertime hosts thousands of campers during the Oregon Country Fair. Located along the shore of Fern Ridge Reservoir, Zumwalt Park holds great history, including prairie and oak savanna habitats, and elements of the Zumwalt and Ellmaker families' settlements, which date back to an 1852 Donation Land Claim.

The park supports remnant populations of native prairie wildflowers (including camas), as well as a state-designated Heritage Tree Grove that includes an Oregon white oak tree estimated at 300 to 400 years old. Lane County and the Friends of Zumwalt Park are interested in improving the quality of remnant savanna and prairie in the park and welcome the proposed workshop as an opportunity to further that interest, while learning a great deal from workshop participants about oak and prairie habitat, and opportunities for tribal engagement and stewardship. We are committed to hosting and participating in a workshop at Zumwalt Park, and supporting conversations between Lane County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff, and Friends of Zumwalt Park, and other stakeholders. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Russell

Lane County Parks and Animal Services Division Manager



Helen Oldfield

President, Friends of Zumwalt Park