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SEP 3 2007

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

July 30, 2007

Dave McClure  
Klickitat County  
228 West Main Street  
Goldendale, WA 98620

Dear Dave,

I am writing to express the support of Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Simmons Creek Restoration SRFB grant application submitted by the Underwood Conservation District. This project supports the Klickitat Lead Entity Strategy by addressing upper watershed conditions that lead to sedimentation, high peak flows, low summer flows in tributaries, and other habitat problems. Upper watershed projects, such as restoration of Simmons Creek, have an important role in salmonid recovery and improving the watershed processes needed to support salmonid populations in the Klickitat Basin.

Simmons Creek has been degraded by historic grazing practices. The creek is deeply incised and headcutting continues to move upstream, carrying additional sediment down into Snyder Creek and the Klickitat River. Simmons Creek was included as one of the sites targeted in Mid-Columbia Fisheries' "Klickitat Tributaries Restoration" grant from the Community Salmon Fund. With the support of that grant, Mid-Columbia Fisheries was able to maintain and repair the approximately three miles of exclosure fence at Simmons Creek. This fall, we are planning initial planting (in some of the areas with the fastest erosion rates) and installation of ten pilot sediment reduction structures. Our goal is to install these structures at areas of active headcutting and erosion. I am working closely with the Underwood Conservation District to plan the design of these structures. We are planning to try multiple design approaches. The structures will be monitored next spring and any results and improved design ideas will be incorporated into UCD's sediment control actions funded by the SRFB grant. The design of the structures is being modeled in part on similar successful work undertaken by UCD (and partly funded by Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) in nearby upper Snyder and upper Rattlesnake creeks in the late 1990s.

I am pleased that the UCD recognizes the importance of upper watershed restoration in salmonid recovery. I look forward to continuing to work closely with UCD on projects in Simmons Creek and other tributaries. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this or other projects that Mid-Columbia Fisheries' is involved in.

Sincerely,

Margaret Neuman  
Director, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group  
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