



Amanda Roberts  
Field Manager, Central Oregon Field Office  
Prineville District  
Bureau of Land Management  
3050 NE Third Street  
Prineville, Oregon 97754

Dear Ms. Roberts:

We are writing to support the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to establish a public lands acquisition zone along the John Day Wild and Scenic River. The John Day Basin is a vitally important waterway for imperiled steelhead and other fish and wildlife, enjoyed by increasing numbers of visitors, and remains the lifeblood of local communities and economies in the region.

The Bureau's draft plan to thoughtfully, strategically work with willing landowners to expand and consolidate public lands ownership in the lower John Day River Basin is important for conserving and managing the public values and resources that Congress sought to protect in establishing the Wild and Scenic River. Land acquisition would also bolster other protective designations in the basin, including the Lower John Day Special Recreation Management Area, Bridge Creek Special Recreation Management Area, the Spring Basin Wilderness, the Oregon National Historic Trail and a number of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Cooperative Areas for the Management of Paleontology.

In addition to land acquisition, I also urge the agency to study land exchanges with non-federal landowners as part of this process to support potential future protections in the region. Congress is now and will likely continue to consider proposals to protect Sutton Mountain, Cathedral Rock and Horse Heaven where land exchanges would help to facilitate those legislative actions.

Thank you for this prescient proposal and for all you do to protect, conserve and restore public lands, waters and wildlife.