



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

October 8, 2012

Brian Carroll, Director
Linn County Parks & Recreation

Roger Nyquist, Chair
Linn County Board of Commissioners

Dave Furtwangler, President
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.

Eric Hartstein, Executive Director
South Santiam Watershed Council

Brian Hoffman, Executive Director
Sweet Home Economic Development Group

Craig Martin, City Manager
City of Sweet Home

Cynthia Glick, Sweet Home District Ranger
Willamette National Forest

Erik Petersen, Operations Project Manager
Department of the Army Corps of Engineers

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your request for the designation of the “South Santiam Community Forest Corridor” project as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing your letter and conferring with Oregon Solutions staff, I feel this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives and addresses important priorities for enhancing both the economic and environmental health of our rural resource-dependent communities. By this letter I am designating this as an Oregon Solutions project and appointing *Thomas Maness*, OSU Dean of Forestry, and *Cynthia Solie*, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments, as the co-conveners who will lead a team of public, private and civic partners working towards innovative solutions to address the objectives outlined in the project assessment summary and in your request letter.

The Oregon Solutions approach helps bring together potential partners in a neutral and collaborative way to address issues and opportunities. The proposed project is innovative in its “all lands” approach, the focus on the “Community Corridor Forest,” and the desire to identify and prioritize projects in the corridor including the potential transfer of the Cascadia Cave to public ownership. These projects will have many benefits including improving watershed health and wildlife habitat, promoting sustainable forestry practices, protecting heritage sites, and enhancing recreation and tourism access and use. I also support your desire to develop a governance structure which will provide your community with enhanced collaborative capacity.

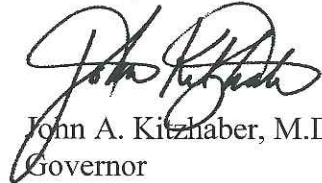
I am pleased to see that you are working collaboratively to bring together partners to address the opportunities at hand. By integrating and leveraging resources, this project has the potential to strengthen the ties among the public, private, and civic sectors and to reinforce the current

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coordinated efforts and cooperation of the varied interests of the team members and the surrounding community. Please keep my office updated on this effort and thank you for your work and enthusiasm thus far. You possess some of Western Oregon's most iconic natural assets along the South Santiam River corridor. Your collaborative efforts around those assets will have long-lasting benefits to Oregonians. I wish you well!

Sincerely,



John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

cc via e-mail: Beverly Stein

JAK:gw/lrh