



KATE BROWN
Governor

April 26, 2019

Mayor Henry Balensifer
City of Warrenton
PO Box 250
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Matty Brown
City of Gearhart
PO Box 2510
Gearhart, OR 97138

Commission Chair Sarah Nebeker
Clatsop County
800 Exchange St., Suite 410
Astoria, OR 97103

I am pleased to learn that Clatsop County and the cities of Gearhart and Warrenton have requested that the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative be designated as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing your request and the assessment conducted by Oregon Solutions staff, I believe this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives.

By this letter, I am designating the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative as an Oregon Solutions project and appointing *Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer and Seaside Mayor Jay Barber* as the project co-conveners. Co-conveners lead the multi-agency and stakeholder process in evaluating and prioritizing strategies and sequencing implementation measures to mitigate the growing public safety hazards related to elk and their encounters with individuals, vehicles, and properties.

A combination of factors, including new development in areas where elk have historically roamed; and, both intentional and non-intentional attractants and altered landscapes, have resulted in greater human contact with elk. Uninformed tourists magnify the safety risks. Oregon Solutions is in a unique position to manage a process that will include residents and business owners within the Clatsop Plains. This approach brings together partners in a neutral and collaborative way to develop solutions that can be implemented to reduce public safety risks.

I am pleased to see your enthusiasm in working collaboratively. While there have been years of discussion on the subject, establishing a collaborative process with all of the necessary stakeholders working together will realize the positive results desired. By integrating and leveraging resources, this project has the potential to ensure success. Please keep the Governor's office updated on this effort and thank you for your work and commitment thus far.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

cc; KB: jl, rd

