



A land trust to preserve, protect and restore Oregon's wetlands

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Northwest Power Planning Council

851 SW 6th Ave

Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Northwest Power Planning Council;

The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) is excited to partner with the Watershed Legacy Learning Community. TWC and Watershed Legacy have taken different routes and arrived at very similar and complimentary approaches to engaging citizens in watershed and wetland stewardship. Both groups share the common theme of exchanging stories and giving a variety of people a voice. Watershed Legacy brings communication, community building and expressive forms of chronicling success. TWC brings hands on experiences of land conservation and restoration.

The Watershed Legacy approach to citizen involvement and capacity building will provide a bigger picture framework and a new type of dialogue to the work TWC has been doing in the Tualatin Valley. TWC's recent publication, *Heroic Tales of Wetland Restoration*, profiles 12 rural landowners who changed their farming practices to reclaim wetlands, streams and rivers. The stories are of passionate people who have overcome obstacles. We are very excited to bring together the people featured in the book and the farmers that have been involved in Watershed Legacy's Walla Walla Project. We feel the people from both projects have a lot to share. This group can also serve as the technical advisors to farmers and rural landowners in the Tualatin Basin.

The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) is one of Oregon's first land trusts. Founded in 1981, TWC was the first organization in Oregon to dedicate itself to preserving, protecting and promoting the wildlife, water quality and open space values of these long neglected habitats. TWC began as a dedicated effort by school children, businesses and neighbors to save a 1.2 acre wetland in Hedges Creek Marsh in Tualatin, Oregon. Today our 500 members and staff are working with others to conserve more than 800 acres in 23 preserves stretching from the Portland Metropolitan area to the southern Oregon Coast. The mission of The Wetlands Conservancy is to conserve, protect, and restore the physical and ecological values of wetlands, other aquatic systems and related uplands. We accomplish our goals through education, research, acquisition, and promotion of private and public stewardship.

TWC has served as a catalyst for building a lasting legacy of community stewardship. Working hand-in-hand with citizens, schools, businesses, neighborhoods, TWC has dedicated itself to conserving and enhancing the wildlife, water quality and open space values of healthy wetlands, streams and watersheds.

The Wetlands Conservancy is pleased to be a partner and an active participant in the Watershed Legacy Learning Community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

*Esther Lev*

Esther Lev

Executive Director

The Wetlands Conservancy