

20 December 2007

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Governor of the State of Oregon
State Capitol, Room 160
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047



Dear Governor Kulongoski,

The purpose of this letter is to request your designation of StreamBank as an Oregon Solutions project and to appoint Ken Bailey, CFO of Orchard View Farms and Member of the State Board of Agriculture, as the convener.

The development of StreamBank, a software tool, has been led by Oregon Trout. The tool seeks to accelerate the restoration of freshwater ecosystems, enabling landowners, restoration professionals, agencies and private funders to take effective action on a meaningful scale within a meaningful timeframe. It advances ecologically needed restoration projects in a way that benefits the rural workforce and empowers local landowners and communities to better control their future. The impetus for the StreamBank tool comes from the current situation where, despite growing threats to already compromised freshwater resources and rural communities, a system of long planning, funding and permitting cycles can discourage landowners from undertaking projects. By using technology to address systemic barriers to restoration, Oregon can send a strong signal that it remains committed to environmental innovation.

In alignment with the StreamBank project, the Department of State Lands is also streamlining its authorization process for restoration projects. The Department sees the potential for restoration proponents using StreamBank to, at the same time, access a streamlined web-based process resulting in good projects receiving expedited approvals.

We have talked with Oregon Solutions staff, your Natural Resource Policy Advisor Mike Carrier and staff from your Economic Revitalization Office to discuss how we might work together using StreamBank to improve the effectiveness of stream restoration project planning, permitting, funding and monitoring. Our plan is to implement a menu of restoration actions in 2008 to demonstrate that the program can work at scale. We believe that with a collaborative process framing StreamBank-facilitated demonstration projects in 2008, we can better align and leverage public, private and not-for-profit resources for restoration projects going forward.

The success of StreamBank relies on collaboration among a number of key partners, including state and federal agencies, private landowners, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, private philanthropy, and not-for-profit organizations. We believe collaborative development of StreamBank can result in a tool that serves as a model for other restoration efforts in this state and other parts of the country. Your support, demonstrated by this designation, will be especially helpful in keeping the diverse partners at the table and achieving results.

Sincerely,

A green ink signature of Joe S. Whitworth, consisting of a stylized "J" and "W" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Joe S. Whitworth
Executive Director, Oregon Trout

A black ink signature of Louise Solliday, written in a cursive style.

Louise Solliday
Director, Oregon Department of State Lands

cc: Mike Carrier, Natural Resources Policy Director, Governor's Office
Ray Naff, Economic Revitalization Director, Governor's Office
Pete Dalke, Oregon Solutions

Attachment: StreamBank synopsis