

[Letterhead]

(Date)

Lisa Clark - Field Manager
Deschutes Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
3050 N.E. 3rd Street
Prineville, OR 97754

Dear Field Manager Clark:

_____ strongly supports the conservation of the scenic 674-acre Paulina Meadows property along Paulina Creek and the Little Deschutes River. We support the Bureau of Land Management's request for \$5,000,000 from the Fiscal Year 2026 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to acquire this property, which includes two miles of the Little Deschutes River, a popular spot to float and explore. Conservation of this property will provide additional opportunities close to LaPine to hike, fish and float, ensuring that Central Oregon will continue to draw visitors to its natural beauty and outdoor adventures.

The property also includes the last unprotected over two-mile seasonal reach of Paulina Creek as it flows from Newberry National Volcanic Monument to its confluence with the Little Deschutes River. The property is home to some of the highest density of federally listed Oregon spotted frogs on the Little Deschutes, whose recovery is a focus of the USFWS and the irrigation districts in Central Oregon as part of a Habitat Conservation Plan. Restoration efforts on the property, along with preserving existing pristine wetlands, will lead to additional habitat for the federally threatened Oregon spotted frog, thus furthering this effort.

The area around the property, especially between La Pine and Sunriver, contains the largest mule deer migration corridor in Oregon and an important winter range for both elk and deer. Acquisition of Paulina Meadows will ensure protection of this critical habitat for wildlife.

We also support Western Rivers Conservancy's efforts to mitigate wildfire risk on the property during its interim ownership. We encourage BLM to continue its efforts to use grazing in the area, eventually including the property, to further manage for wildfire risks and as a tool for managing habitat.

This project will enhance recreational access to the river for rafters, anglers, hunters, hikers and birdwatchers while protecting critical habitat for threatened native species. Thank you for your request for funds from the LWCF to conserve this important property, and for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,