

Chair Marcy Grail and Councilmembers  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

March 17, 2023

Dear Chair Grail and Councilmembers,

NW Natural (NWN) is providing this letter to the Council to update the Council on the status of our mitigation measures for the North Mist Expansion Project (Project). As noted below, NWN is in close coordination with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) in order to achieve the objectives of the Habitat Mitigation Plan (HMP).

NWN, in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon ODOE, developed a final HMP for the North Mist Expansion Project in March 2017. The HMP identified two mitigation areas, totaling 10.75 acres, and enhancement actions to be implemented in those areas to compensate for permanent habitat impacts from the Project. Enhancement actions included removal of blackberry, installation of a standing snag and downed wood, and plantings.

NW Natural conducted monitoring in Years 2018, 2020, and 2022. In 2018, NW Natural replanted in an effort to increase survivability of plantings. By the last year of monitoring, it was clear that the success criteria for plantings and blackberry removal had not been met, and NW Natural coordinated with ODOE and ODFW to update the HMP. The revised HMP being presented by ODOE staff is a result of that coordination.

We look forward to working with ODOE and ODFW staff to ensure success of the revised HMP.

Sincerely,



Andrew Bauer  
NW Natural

cc: Todd Cornett, Siting Manager