



## CITY OF COQUILLE

October 28, 2021

Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COQUILLE RIVER

Governor Brown,

The Coquille River is a vital natural resource for our City and County. The rich cultural heritage of the Coquille River plays a key role in our City and County's narrative. It is a narrative of a fall-run Chinook salmon revered by the Native people and cherished by all who call this place home. A narrative of a vital thriving river that has served as a highway, water source, a recreational playground, a provider of nourishment and a crucial economic asset. The rich cultural narrative of our river has been quickly changing to a tragic and alarming story of great loss.

Although the closing of our river to Salmon fishing in 2021 was a great disappointment, the shocking statistics of the radical decline of returning adult salmon over the last 10 years motivates our City to sound an alarm. The statistics prove that the efforts of ODFW are ineffective and require us to strongly urge you to support the Coquille Indian Tribe's recent proposal to partner with the department. Combining resources and involving a more vested local voice and action plan can prove to be very effective.

The Coquille Indian Tribe's narrative is deeply connected to the river as is our City and the surrounding area. The City of Coquille believes that the Tribe's partnership and direct involvement in changing the story from great loss back to a preferred future of a thriving Coquille River is the best immediate course of action.

We eagerly support the Tribe's co-management proposal. A cooperative effort of the Tribe and ODFW is our immediate and urgent request to take action for a changed narrative of the Coquille River. We urge you to put your full support behind this partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sam Flaherty'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sam Flaherty  
Mayor, City of Coquille