



February 24, 2023

Joseph Sciarrino
1415 West Rose Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Subject: Tiger-Mill Project Letter of Support

Mr. Sciarrino:

The City of Walla Walla is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Tiger-Mill project.

The City of Walla Walla's State and Federal legislative priorities support funding for the US Forest Service to improve wildland fire fighting capacity and fire prevention through fuel reduction in the Walla Walla Watershed. As approximately 85-90% of the City of Walla Walla's drinking water supply comes from the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed, we are a very supportive partner for this proposed work that will help protect the Mill Creek Watershed.

The City of Walla Walla has been in partnership with the Forest Service since 1918. The City's Water Treatment Plant is not equipped to handle turbid water that may occur after a fire. We are very supportive of this action to prevent a future catastrophic fire, but we will be encouraging caution, especially during the first controlled burns in the watershed. During a controlled burn it is important to take steps to protect water quality around the creeks. Some actions that can be taken to help protect water quality are:

1. Establish buffer zones - Establish buffer zones around the creek to prevent runoff of ash and other debris from entering the water.
2. Limit the size of the burn - Limit the size of the burn to a manageable area and avoid burning near the creek.
3. Monitor water quality - Monitor the water quality of the creek before and after the burn to ensure that the burn did not have any negative impacts on water quality.

The City of Walla Walla strongly endorses the Tiger-Mill project and if any additional information is needed, please reach out to Frank Nicholson, the City Utility Engineer. Thank you for protecting the drinking water source for the City of Walla Walla and for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Chamberlain".

Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Manager