



Lane County Board of Commissioners

W. S. B.

Bill Dwyer
Bobby Green, Sr.
Faye Hills Stewart
Anna Morrison
Peter Sorenson

December 13, 2006

James A. Wildish, President
Wildish Land Company
P.O. Box 7428
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Subject: Acquisition of Wildish Properties Adjoining the Howard Buford
Recreation Area

Dear Mr. Wildish:

Thank you for your letter of November 2, 2006, in which you offer Lane County the opportunity to purchase most of the land owned by the Wildish Land Company situated south of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, adjoining the Howard Buford Recreation Area.

We believe this acquisition is an historic opportunity. The property you are offering, together with existing county, state and federal lands in the area will create a park and nature preserve unrivaled in the State of Oregon and will benefit Lane County residents and visitors for generations.

The Board of County Commissioners has discussed your offer extending to Lane County the opportunity to purchase the land and have asked me to express their sincere interest in continuing discussions with the Wildish family and beginning the formal acquisition process with you. The Board also greatly appreciates your willingness to donate \$5.5 million based on a proposed purchase price of approximately \$31.6 million.

Your letter mentions two contingencies: 1) that the entire property be dedicated in perpetuity as public park land and natural open space; and 2) that the entire property be formally named in memory of the founder of the corporation, T.C. Wildish and his wife Verna. Although we have a number of issues to resolve prior to formally accepting your offer and finalizing the purchase, the Board's initial reaction is that the two contingencies seem reasonable and we would be pleased to work on the details as part of our negotiations.

The Board also appreciates your willingness to negotiate mutually agreeable purchase terms, including a reasonable time frame. Both formalizing offer acceptance terms and completing the acquisition will take some time. No discretionary General Fund revenues will be used for this purchase; instead, the County will rely on dedicated park revenues, along with potential funding from a variety of local, state, and federal sources. A multi-year private fundraising effort may also be part of the funding mix ultimately utilized by Lane County. Your offer to allow for a reasonable time frame is very important to us, as it may take a number of years for us to acquire the funds to complete the purchase.

We have taken steps to form a project team that is engaged in fulfilling logical and necessary due diligence requirements involved in negotiating an agreement on an acquisition of this magnitude. Some of our efforts in the next few months will involve working with local, state, and federal partners to identify potential funding for the acquisition. County staff will also contract for an appraisal that will meet the standards of our potential funding partners.

Again, on behalf of the citizens of Lane County and the Board, thank you for your offer and considerations. We have a strong interest in continuing our discussions and working with you on the details of this acquisition.

Sincerely,

Bill Dwyer, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners