COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®
Clean Water ~ Healthy Rivers ~ Our Future

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DATE

Dear Adopt-A-River Coordinator,

Thank you for adopting a portion of the Columbia River or a tributary, and for choosing this fun and simple way to make a difference! Columbia Riverkeeper is pleased to be partnering with SOLV to support your efforts through the Adopt-a-River program. Your year-long commitment to check up on your adopted site regularly, pick-up trash at least twice a year, and send us quarterly updates brings the Columbia one step closer to a clean, healthy river that we and future generations may enjoy and thrive in.

Please review resources available to you on our website at columbiariverkeeper.org which include a basic field guide to Columbia Basin species, pollution and exotic species reporting forms, CRK's Adopt-a-River Guide Book, habitat assessment forms and much more. Also, go to SOLV's website www.solv.org for their Project Planning Guide. If you need any of these materials mailed to you, please contact us. In addition, review the opportunities (*optional) available to you to help protect and/or restore your part of the river:

- **The first step is to assess the health of your site** by completing a Habitat Assessment Form (kid friendly forms available too!) once a season, and sending it to CRK (Use CRK's Species Field Guide and Adopt-a-River Guide Book for help). By identifying and documenting plants, wildlife, river conditions and land-use activities you help scientists and others understand more of the river and create a historical record that may assist managers and elected officials in making land-use decisions. The guide also details what to do and who to call in the event of a toxic spill, harmful invasive species, or other river threat. The second step is to pick up trash at least twice a year and report the amount picked up in the Habitat Assessment Form. If the trash is too much for one person, then call us and we'll help organize a group clean-up.

- ***Plan a safe and effective clean-up** through SOLV's Project Planning Guide with information on how to contact private landowners, how to dispose of trash, and how to work with volunteers. Your adoption also entitles you to free cleanup supplies through SOLV (such as litter bags, vinyl gloves, stickers, sharps container and tongs). Before each clean-up, make sure volunteers sign the included volunteer waiver, and after every cleanup we just ask that you let us know how it went and how many people participated. You can also easily order supplies and report results online at www.solv.org. For Oregon residents, you may apply for a $100 reimbursable grant to help with beautification projects.

- ***Monitor for exotic aquatic species** through the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at Portland State University. Help prevent the introduction of dangerous zebra mussels by hanging a mussel colonizing substrate in the river and checking it monthly for nuisance species. Contact PSU at 503-725-9076 or invasivespecies@pdx.edu to sign up.

- ***Monitor Water Quality** at your site to collect baseline data on temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and turbidity. Sign up for Columbia Riverkeeper's next water quality monitoring training to learn how to use our high-accuracy equipment.

- ***See what other river adoptee's are doing up and down the river** on Columbia Riverkeeper's new Google Earth link. For instructions, look under "Adopt-a-River Resources" on our website www.columbiariverkeeper.org.

Thank you again for your interest and commitment. We look forward to working with you to protect and preserve this Great River of the West and her tributaries. Please contact us at any time with questions or for support.

Sincerely,

Lorri Eberle
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