

# DRAFT

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

RE: National Water Trail Designation for the Tualatin River Water Trail

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Tualatin River Watershed Council (TRWC) strongly endorses the National Water Trail designation for the Tualatin River.

The Tualatin River Watershed Council links land, water and people. We bring together all interests in the basin to promote and improve watershed health. We work together through cooperation, collaboration and communication.

Access to the river is a primary tool for engaging the public and community organizations in watershed protection. Over the past quarter century, public access to the Tualatin River has grown from two developed sites to a dozen. Cooperation between local cities, counties and the Metro Regional Government has made this happen. During this time, The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge was established and water quality in the river has improved dramatically. This kind of watershed action is fueled by the public enthusiasm generated by recreation on the Tualatin River. The Tualatin River water trail aids TRWC Action Plan Item #10: *Promote recreational experiences that foster watershed stewardship.*

The National Water Trail designation would help continue the public passion for watershed monitoring, protection, and restoration that are the mission of the Tualatin River Watershed Council and our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

April Olbrich, Director  
Tualatin River Watershed Council