



Kittitas County, Washington
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District One
Paul Jewell

District Two
Gary Berndt

District Three
Obie O'Brien

July 1, 2013

Board of Natural Resources
Board Coordinator, Tami Ishler
P.O. Box 47000
Olympia, WA 98504-7000

Dear Board Members,

Kittitas County has been at the forefront of Washington water concerns for many years and has been working with Legislators, Department of Ecology, and other counties to bring to life the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan.

As Governor Inslee signed the Capital Budget he signed the momentous decision to take a large step forward towards permanent solutions for water needs in Eastern Washington. Kittitas County supports the Integrated Plan and the purchase of the Teanaway property by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The Department of Natural Resources is a trusted and experienced land manager. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife partnership can be an example of true governmental cooperation. Our county is advancing the goals of the three county water working group that will provide for agricultural irrigation during low rain and snow years. Agriculture is such a vital part of the state economy, as is protection and proper management of working forests for healthy environment and the local economy.

With the highest enthusiasm I support the action of buying the American Forest Holding property in the Teanaway and the plan to enhance the water storage needs for the Yakima River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Obie O'Brien", written over a horizontal line.

Obie O'Brien, Chairman
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners