



**Friends of Rinearson Creek**

4900 Rinearson Rd.  
Gladstone, Oregon 97027

December 22, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of Rinearson Creek has been working for more than 3 years to protect and restore a section of privately owned urban creek, and a wetland area in Meldrum Bar Park owned by the City of Gladstone. This sensitive area borders the Willamette River and offers one of the few urban areas of refuge for fish, birds, and reptiles within the urban growth boundary.

Our work has been to remove invasive plants and replant natives. So far we have re-planted more than 1500 new plants. Our work has been along privately owned Rinearson Creek. The need in the natural area of the park is far larger.

The support of Wilderness International is a significant step for this project. We look forward to joining with Wilderness International to continue our efforts to improve and protect the park area. Meldrum Bar Park is one of the most heavily used parks on the Willamette River, but it has no financial and physical support other than the resources of the small suburb of Gladstone. This means that Gladstone must triage their park resources, and as a result much of the park land is being overrun with invasive plants and abusive human activities. Wilderness International is the first regional non-profit to offer support in re-establishing the natural park area.

The Friends of Rinearson Creek looks forward to joining with Wilderness International in the important work of promoting and preserving nature in the urban area. Your support of Wilderness International will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

Carl Poston  
Friends of Rinearson Creek