

January 24, 2003

Senator Ted Ferrioli
OSU Range Working Group

Dear Friends,

Dr. Thayne Dutson, dean of the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences, today joins your Working Group to share news of what I believe to be a positive resolution to what has been the matter of principal concern to you, the future of Rangeland Resources at Oregon State University.

As you well know, like so many other public agencies, we at Oregon State University are being asked to find ways to fulfill our mission obligations to our students and the State of Oregon despite declining resources. Against that backdrop, we have engaged in on-going planning processes at the University and unit levels and, from those, have made decisions that would allow us to work within those fiscal constraints. The "OSU 2007" process at the University level, and the more-than-year-long planning process of the College of Agricultural Sciences, have contributed to many informed decisions. In fact, it is vital that we continue to have rich, engaged and properly informed dialog leading to programs that are responsive, nimble, innovative, and sustainable in a fast-changing future environment—and that build on our University's unique strengths.

I believe we must take what we have learned from this recent experience regarding Rangeland Resources and foster continuing, constructive engagement that will assure we are in real communication with one another about what we have had in common all along: that is, the sustained delivery of excellent teaching, research, and outreach programs focused on rangeland resources and rangeland ecology.

You and others have made clear that it is essential to assure a continuing supply of well-educated men and women to address important land and water management issues in the American West and elsewhere; and you have made clear how vital it is to have research-based information from which to make informed decisions and to have means by which that new knowledge is disseminated.

I support Dr. Dutson and Dr. Krueger and their colleagues in the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Department of Rangeland Resources as they pledge not only to honor that commitment to programs but, in partnership with stakeholders, develop a shared vision and design for a robust future and a sound investment for limited University resources.

I trust you agree that the solution being outlined today by Dr. Dutson and Dr. Krueger is advantageous to the future of the State and its natural resources, and that you will join me in supporting them in the important work ahead.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. White
President, Oregon State University