



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Board of Commissioners

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10 South Oakdale, Room 214
Medford, Oregon 97501

May 19, 2022

Rogue Valley Family YMCA
522 West Sixth Street
Medford OR 97501

RE: Elk Trail Outdoor School Project

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, support the collaborative effort of the Rogue Valley Family YMCA and the Eagle Point School District 9 (District) to develop the old, abandoned Elk Trail Elementary School in Trail, Oregon, into an outdoor education center that will host residential outdoor school programs for local youth. The building and property were donated to the YMCA from the District, and the YMCA will lead this project and operate the program when complete.

The State of Oregon currently provides funding through an Oregon Lottery allocation that pays for all fifth and sixth-grade students to attend a week-long residential outdoor school program. Currently, Southern Oregon does not have many options or service providers for this experience, and the proposed Elk Trail Outdoor School project could benefit all students in Oregon and, primarily, those in Jackson County.

In addition to benefiting the youth of Jackson County, we are excited about the job opportunities that this project would create in a rural setting of the County. The YMCA expects to create a few year-round positions and many seasonal positions during the spring, summer, and fall. The YMCA intends to include natural resource management as a part of the curriculum, and promote the sustainable harvesting of these resources while supporting the outdoors.

Sincerely,

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dave Dotterer, Chair

Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

Rick Dyer, Commissioner

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