



March 13, 2017

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership) recognizes that the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) plays a critical role in protecting and managing some of the state's most critical resources.

The Estuary Partnership is a 21-year old National Estuary Program created by the States of Oregon and Washington and US EPA when the lower river was designated an "estuary of national significance" and became one of 28 estuaries in the National Estuary Program. We work in Oregon and Washington, from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean, to protect and restore the lower Columbia River. Our work includes habitat restoration, land use, ecosystem monitoring, toxics reduction, environmental education, and community engagement.

DSL owns many of the islands in the Columbia River as well as most of the shorelands and bed in Oregon. DSL staff provide critical permitting functions that provide jobs and protect the river's resources, and DSL leases generate funding for the state's Common School Fund. Projects like the Historical Filled Lands project, the Portland Harbor Cleanup, and submerged lands enhancement fund are necessary and important work that will improve conditions in the lower Columbia River and resolve longstanding issues.

The Estuary Partnership has served on a number of DSL committees, and DSL and the Estuary Partnership have collaborated on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail and other projects.

The lower Columbia River and other important state owned lands depend on strong leadership and management from the Department of State Lands. We support their work and look forward to their ability to continue that work in the 2017 – 2019 biennium.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debrah Marriott".

Debrah Marriott  
Executive Director