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Crook County
Community Development



October 15, 2021

David Butler
Butler Ranch, Inc.
5294 Lone Pine Rd
Terrebonne, Oregon 97760

To the Crook County Court:

I have been asked to speak about my experience working with Knife River when they mined our ranch fields for sand and gravel from 2001 to 2015.

I feel Knife River did a good job. They did what they said they would do, when they said they would do it. We were able to communicate and they were always responsive and willing to work together. There were some challenges. For example, groundwater was encountered in several locations. However, they were able to reclaim the excavation areas without causing significant issues for us farming the ground. When they completed reclamation and we started farming again we found that the soil was not as productive as before. However, after adding cow manure and a first year cover crop, the soil biology came back to life. Our land is more productive now than it was before mining. Also, because the sand and gravel layer below the soil is much thinner, the groundwater still passes through but the soil holds moisture from irrigation much better. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Butler".

David Butler