

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



THURSTON COUNTY EXTENSION

TO: Grants Committee, Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program, Recreation & Conservation Office
 FROM: Erica Guttman, WSU Senior Extension Coordinator/Educator
 DATE: May 26, 2020

RE: Support of: **Reference Number 20-1504 Dev**/“McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2”

I am writing in support of the WWRP grant to Washington DNR’s Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Creek Nature Trail.

WSU Extension and our non-profit educational affiliate, the Native Plant Salvage Foundation, greatly rely on the rich educational opportunities provided by McLane Creek Nature Trail. This DNR property is an ecological gem in and of itself, but its close proximity to the urban core of Thurston County makes it an even more critical public resource. Our programs take advantage of the **astounding diversity of both flora and fauna** for educating people of all ages throughout the year about our local species and how individuals can do their part to protect local habitat.

We teach multi-season plant identification (including winter-twigh identification skills) to lay audiences using the large numbers of species of woody plants, ferns, and the ever-changing array of aquatic and terrestrial herbaceous perennials, emergents, and grasses. Together with the local chapter of Audubon Society, we have also co-hosted workshops at this location on local birds, mammals, and amphibians and their interactions with the native plant species.

We also rely on this site to teach winter-twigh identification skills for woody plants to Washington Conservation Corps members and other ecological professionals from the Departments of Fish & Wildlife, DNR, Ecology, local jurisdictions, and NGOs who need these skills to carry out habitat-protection activities.

Between the classes we offer to the public at large and the specialized workshops for agencies, an annual average of 200-300 adult learners receive this **critical training** by using this amazing trail system; for many, this is their first introduction to this site, and they return subsequently to practice new plant-identification skills and to enjoy nature walks.

This site is so critical to our work that we have made a commitment with our Stream Team partners to maintain the vegetation along the trails during the growing season by recruiting local volunteers seeking service to the environment, and we host additional annual revegetation service events at McLane to reduce social trails and enhance the salmon-bearing stream. Dozens of volunteers donate hundreds of hours annually to maintain the trails to prevent trail-widening/invasive species colonization, as well as complete the larger restoration projects.

This investment in the infrastructure of this critical recreation site will be money well spent! Muddy trails are difficult for people to navigate, and completely impassable to those with any physical disability. In addition to supporting more access to the system, these improvements will also be ecologically beneficial: Muddy trails encourage trail widening, which in turn promotes the colonization of more invasive species; trail widening also leads to destruction and erosion that can affect stream health.

Without financial support to replace the current, crumbling infrastructure, sections of this trail will necessarily be closed, greatly inhibiting the public’s capacity to engage with nature within minutes of our urban centers. **We urge funding** this very worthwhile proposal, and I welcome inquiries about our ongoing support of this site.

WSU Thurston County Water Resources Program &
 Native Plant Salvage Foundation
 3054 Carpenter Road SE * Olympia, WA 98503
 360.402.8879 * ericag@wsu.edu



May 27, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Grants Committee,

This is a letter in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

We are writing on behalf of Stream Team; this organization is cooperatively sponsored and funded by the storm and surface water utilities of the cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater and Thurston County. Stream Team fills a niche in South Sound for providing free, high-quality environmental education programs, activities and hands-on action projects.

One of Stream Team's most popular programs revolves around the return of the Chinook and chum salmon to South Sound streams and creeks every fall. One of these important sites is at McLane Creek Nature Trail. It serves as an important site for Stream Team volunteers and the community alike as it showcases the amazing natural run of chum salmon in South Sound. Part of Stream Team's mission is to promote activities that further a sense of place and connection to nature for people in our community with the hope of encouraging them to engage in stewardship activities that will protect and improve water quality and aquatic ecosystems in South Sound.

Additionally, McLane Creek Trail provides an opportunity for school groups across Thurston County to experience not only naturally spawning chum and coho salmon, but forest, stream and wetland ecology. The beaver-influenced wetland provides opportunities to study wetland associated plants and animals such as migrating nesting grebes and stillwater breeding amphibians. Throughout the fall of 2019, 686 students were able to visit the McLane Creek Nature Trail to observe naturally spawning wild salmon, an amazing opportunity to see classroom concepts brought to life in the real world.

Stream Team strongly supports this boardwalk improvement project, which will enable school groups, curious residents and Stream Team volunteers to continue to walk and view all the amazing wildlife safely without harming the fragile aquatic ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Emily Watts
Water Resources
Specialist
City of Lacey

Michelle Stevie
Senior Habitat
Biologist & Stream
Team Coordinator
City of Olympia

Meridith Greer
Water Resources
Educator
City of Tumwater

Ann Marie Pearce
Education &
Outreach Specialist II
Thurston County



South Sound GREEN

Connecting Community and Schools for Watershed Protection

Water Quality Monitoring • Student GREEN Congress • Nearshore Education • Action Projects

May 19, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Department of Natural Resources *McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2* application to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

South Sound Global Rivers Environment Education Network (GREEN) strives to connect communities and schools for watershed protection. McLane Creek Nature Trail is the perfect example of the type of outdoor classroom that allows us to engage students in hands-on science and connection to place. McLane Creek Nature Trail is utilized by students and teachers participating in South Sound GREEN as a water quality monitoring site as well as a place to view native chum salmon spawning in their natural habitat. These connections help students think more critically about their actions and home and how they can prevent stormwater runoff and protect these unique ecosystems.

With improved trails and boardwalk, this project will broaden access to students of all abilities and ages, encouraging more members of our community to visit the trail and learn about the relationships that exist in the natural world. I strongly support DNR's proposal for this work.

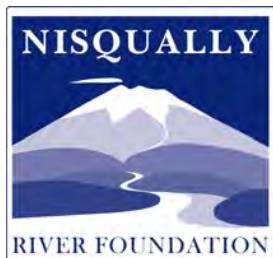
Sincerely,

Stephanie Bishop

South Sound GREEN Program Manager

sbishop@thurstoncd.com

southsoundgreen.org



Nisqually River Foundation

620 Old Pacific Hwy SE □ Olympia WA 98513 □ (360) 438-8715

Board Members

David Troutt, *Chair*

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Sheila Wilson
Education Project Director

Emily McCartan
Nisqually River Council Program Coordinator

Brandon Bywater
Water Quality Program Coordinator

Grants Committee

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia WA 98504-0917

May 20, 2020

Dear Grants Review Committee,

This is a letter in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. (Reference Number 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Boardwalk Replacement Phase 2)

Nisqually River Education Project (NREP) works to engage students and teachers throughout the watershed in service learning activities that link Washington learning standards to local environmental issues, fostering stewardship of the Nisqually watershed and the world. NREP implements watershed education with a network of 50 teachers in seven school districts from Mount Rainier to Puget Sound. We engage more than 1,000 students each year in water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, salmon carcass tossing, field investigations on Puget Sound beaches, at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and at McLane Nature trail.

McLane Nature Trail is a community treasure. It enables us to bring large numbers of students to view one of our most spectacular local, natural phenomena - the spawning Chum salmon. This year alone we were able to bring 230+ students to McLane to teach them the value of wetlands, water quality, and habitat to foster the lifecycle of our native salmon. It would be fantastic to see these proposed improvements completed so we could continue this traditional field trip without causing harm to the nearby aquatic ecosystems.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sheila Wilson

Sheila Wilson

Program Director

sheila@nisquallyriver.org

360.561.0203

Jean T. MacGregor
533 Olmstead Lane SW
Olympia, WA 98512

May 26, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear members of the WWRP Grants Committee,

I am writing in support of the WWRP grant proposal of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

I am writing from the perspective of two different roles with respect to the McLane Creek Nature Area: as a faculty member in the Masters of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College, and as a field trip leader for Black Hills Audubon Society.

For 25 years, I taught environmental education and interpretation at The Evergreen State College and in that capacity, I brought almost every class to the McLane Trail to demonstrate how a site rich in natural history, even a small site like McLane has important educational and interpretive potential. I asked students to observe and evaluate the trail layout, interpretive signs, and also to observe (unobtrusively) visitor engagement there. For many of my students, this site was a first-time discovery for them, and over the years, many have thanked me for introducing them to this "community treasure," as many put it.

Also, over many years, I have taught introductory birdwatching and "birding by ear" at McLane as part of Black Hills Audubon's field trips program. Occasionally I have partnered with experts with the Native Plant Salvage Project to lead "Birds and Botany" field trips. McLane is a perfect site for these classes: it's close in to Olympia, so participants can easily return there for review and practice; it offers relatively easy and short walks that work well for children and elders; and most importantly, it offers diverse habitats for learning about different species of birds and plants.

However, over the years, I have noticed dramatic increases in visitors to McLane, and consequently heavy trail-use. The improvements being made with boardwalks and bridges has been utterly essential to reducing and avoiding degradation to the wetland edges and forest floor. The current proposal, to improve the boardwalk along the west side of the pond, is an important one. This particular section of the trail is excellent for birdwatching and nature photography because the vegetation along the trail provides a natural blind; it's also environmentally vulnerable because it's prone to getting muddy in our rainy months. A raised boardwalk will be a much needed—and **much appreciated**—improvement to everyone's McLane Creek experience!

Thank you!

Jean MacGregor



NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bower Learning Center

4111 5th Avenue N.E. Tacoma, WA 98501
(360) 412-4473 • Fax (360) 412-4564

May 27, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Department of Natural Resources McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2 application to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

North Thurston Public Schools has incorporated the McLane Creek trail as a district wide middle school field experience to observe salmon spawning in early November as a core part of their Ecology unit. We have worked with our community partners South Sound Green, Nisqually River Education Project, and Thurston County Water Resources and have coordinated trips based on the small window of time so that half of our schools are out at McLane each year bringing hundreds of students in class groups over the past decade. Witnessing nature in such a beautiful pristine site is the highlight of many students middle school experience!

With improved trails and boardwalk, this project will broaden access to students of all abilities and continue to bridge the opportunity gap for our 14,500 students, the most ethnically diverse school district in the South Sound region, where over 42% come to us economically disadvantaged. It will also encourage students to return with their families to visit the trail and learn about the relationships that exist in the natural world. I strong support DNR's proposal for this work.

Sincerely,

Dixie Reimer

Dixie Reimer
Secondary Science Instructional Specialist
North Thurston Public Schools
(360) 412-4473 dreimer@nthurston.k12.wa.us

May 26, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Department of Natural Resources McLane Creek Boardwalk Replacement Phase 2 application to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

As a 7th and 8th Grade Science teacher at Komachin Middle School I can not tell you how important the McLane Creek Nature Trail is to our students, staff, and community. We utilize the Nature Trail at least once a year for curriculum based field experiences or service projects for our students. When we incorporate our trips to the trail it includes between 32 and 250 students, volunteers and staff members per field trip. These invaluable outdoor opportunities include learning about forest and wetland ecosystems, native plant identification as well as the breathtaking experiences of salmon spawning. McLane is one of the only magnificent places in our area which can support the learning of so many. Each visit is full of learning and memories we treasure! We depend on it being open, safe and available to us.

With improved trails and boardwalk, this project will broaden access to students of all abilities and ages, encouraging more members of our community to visit the trail and learn about the relationships that exist in the natural world. I strongly support DNR's proposal for this work.

Sincerely,

Jenna Glock
Komachin Middle School
7th/8th Science Teacher
jglock@nthurston.k12.wa.us



Westside Cooperative Preschool
202 Delphi Road SW
Olympia, WA 98502

May 22, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Grants Committee,

This is a letter in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

Every November, for the past 11 years, I have taken my preschool class of 4-5 year olds, and their parents, on a field trip to McLane Creek Nature Trail. Often, we meet a volunteer from the Stream Team, who guides us to the salmon viewing deck to observe the spawning fish. We also spend plenty of time observing the beaver pond and dams, to go along with our classroom learning about beavers. I even have a favorite cedar tree along the trail that we stop to admire and see how many preschoolers it takes to circle the trunk.

As a teacher, I treasure McLane Creek Nature Trail. It is just a few minutes drive from our preschool, and it offers the perfect conditions for learning about the plants and animals that live in all our backyards. The pond loop is just right for preschoolers; the distance matches their energy, there are lots of decks and benches along the trail to safely stop and observe, the signs depicting the beaver lodge, the birds and other animals, and even the train are very engaging. The picnic shelter is a welcome place for us to share a snack after our hike. Occasionally, our class returns in the spring to observe the seasonal changes and to look for rough skinned newts, ducklings, turtles and flowers.

Because of the proximity to our preschool, many families over the years report that they return again and again to McLane Creek Nature Trail. It's become a beloved spot for families to spend time in nature, as a treat before or after preschool, or on the weekend. I love to hear about our preschool families continuing to observe the plants and animals that we learn about in the

classroom. Just recently, as the Stay-at-Home orders were relaxed and parks re-opened, several of our families visited McLane Creek; one family even excitedly reported that they saw a beaver! I feel deeply that our preschool experiences at McLane Creek help to instill a love of nature and will inspire our students to enjoy and protect this and other precious wild places.

I strongly support the boardwalk improvement project at McLane Creek Nature Trail which will enable my preschool class and families to walk and view wildlife safely without harming the nearby aquatic systems.

Sincerely,

Kaylene Smith, MAT
Westside Cooperative Preschool Teacher
SPSCC Parent Educator





Westside Cooperative Preschool
202 Delphi Road SW
Olympia, WA 98502

May 22, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Grants Committee,

This is a letter in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

We are a preschool community that celebrates learning through play within a program that encourages self-expression and confidence. Our goal as educators is to provide our students with rich experiences that will inspire curiosity and deepen their relationship with the community and environment that they live in.

Our classes visit the McLane Nature Trail every year to see spawning salmon, beaver dams and all of the other incredible plants and wildlife that it has to offer. Field trips to places such as this one are so important for preschool children. Being out in nature allows them to use all of their senses to experience their environment. They learn to respect and care for nature. They learn to be aware of everything around them, from the very tiny things, to the tallest trees. They learn to ask important questions and they learn about the incredible value of nature.

McLane Nature Trail is very close to our school. Many of the preschool families visit the trail frequently and often meet up with other families to walk there outside of school hours.

Personally, my parents took me there as a child and I have walked the trail many times with my own children. It is an incredibly beautiful and special place! I strongly support this boardwalk improvement project because it will enable our members to walk and view wildlife safely without harming the nearby aquatic systems.

Caitlin Mason, WCP Teacher



Wednesday, May 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

McLane Creek Nature Preserve is an invaluable resource for environmental education and recreation in Thurston County. As a college professor at The Evergreen State College, I regularly bring my students to the site to observe salmon in the fall, watch birds in the winter, watch and band birds in the spring, and observe dragonflies in the summer.

Over the past 15 years, I have taken approximately 1000 students to the preserve. It is an excellent location to view waterfowl, and both resident and migrant songbirds (the eBird list for the site is 107 species). In the fall, students have the opportunity to view thousands of salmon spawning along McLane Creek. That experience is always transforming for many students and is an amazing spectacle that many people from the region come to observe. Winter is an excellent time to see waterfowl at the site, and mixed-species bird flocks are easily observed moving through the forest. For a number of springs, I demonstrated bird banding methods to my students during early morning outings. We always caught an interesting diversity of species including many Neotropical migrant songbirds. It is a great opportunity for students to learn about migration and breeding biology. I have also taken students there in the summer to observe and identify dragonflies and damselflies. I have found many very enthusiastic students who become passionate about dragonfly ecology, migration, and evolutionary biology.

Two key components of the preserve make it an ideal site for environmental education: (1) its placement along McLane Creek in Capital State Forest and in proximity to an impressive beaver pond. This placement exposes students to numerous microhabitats within a relatively small area. (2) its infrastructure: unlike most wetlands in the area, the boardwalks and trails allow for low-impact and relatively easy access to all of the habitats at the site. This infrastructure makes it possible to bring relatively large groups to the site while minimizing impact and maximizing student exposure to nature up-close. Continuing to repair and upgrade infrastructure is critical to the long-term ecological value of the site as well as its value for recreation and environmental education.

I have one additional comment to make about this site. In addition to bringing groups of students to the site, I also reside near McLane and visit the site at least once a week to take a walk, bring my children, and view the seasons of nature there. The site is always busy with people walking, picnicking, and exploring its many nooks and crannies. It is the busiest natural area of its size that I have been to in Thurston County and it is easy to understand why. Visitors love the site and keeping it safe and accessible is important to keeping it the gem that it is.

Sincerely,

Alison Styring, Ph.D., Faculty



Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

May 26, 2020

Dear Grants Committee,

This is a letter in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail.

The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

I have been a college professor at The Evergreen State College for 15 years. In that time, I have used the McLane Creek Nature Trail as a field trip site many times, with introductory, intermediate, and advanced college students (about twice per year). In addition, I have collaborated with WA DNR to perform ecological research in McLane Creek downstream of the beaver dam complex. Access to this field site is invaluable and I am excited about the possibility of building a boardwalk on part of the trail system that is in need of attention.

A boardwalk along the current "Railroad Grade Trail" will allow for better hydrologic connectivity between the current beaver pond and wetland areas west of the current pond. This is a fabulous site for wildlife observations. The functionality of the pond is paramount for associated wildlife.

As a parent of a school-aged child in the Olympia School District, I know that this site is also valuable for environmental education in the K-12 system.

I strongly support this boardwalk improvement project. The project will ensure access to the site for humans, while protecting the site and its sensitive hydrology for beaver and all beaver-pond associated organisms.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carri J. LeRoy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Freshwater Ecology
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98502



May 20, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2

Dear Grants Committee,

I am writing in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2.

I have taught botany at The Evergreen State College since 1996. In that capacity, I regularly bring students to the McLane Creek Nature Trail to study plants. Roughly once a year, I send or bring my students to McLane in the winter months to study twig identification or in the spring to practice sight recognition skills of common vascular plants. I strongly support this boardwalk improvement project, which will enable students of all ages to walk and view plants and other forms of wildlife safely without harming the nearby aquatic systems.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at bowcuttf@evergreen.edu.

Sincerely,

Frederica Bowcutt, Ph.D.
Member of the Faculty



May 26, 2020

Grants Committee
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Grants Committee,

This is a letter in support of a WWRP grant to Washington Department of Natural Resources' Capitol Forest for Boardwalk Replacement at the McLane Nature Trail. The Reference Number is 20-1504 Dev, McLane Creek Board Walk Replacement Phase 2. I am a professor at The Evergreen State College, where I teach interdisciplinary environmental science courses in the aquatic sciences at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Last year, I took about 70 students (spread over two field trips) to McLane Creek to observe salmon behavior during spawning, as well as to study water quality. As part of that field trip, the students measured conductivity, dissolved oxygen concentrations, and the carbon dioxide content of the water in both the pond, as well as the stream. I have also supported students doing internships to measure water quality at McLane Creek.

McLane Creek is a fantastic resource. It's very special to be able to show our students the ecological principals that we learn about in textbooks. Furthermore, there are a lot of different types of aquatic habitats, all with contrasting water chemistry. This opens the door for a really fun conversation for students to try to explain these differences. Furthermore, many of our students have never observed salmon spawning, and it's really rewarding to watch our students light up when they see the salmon for the first time!

I enthusiastically support the boardwalk replacement trail. I have been in situations where I have intended to walk the whole Pond Loop, but due to unforeseen circumstances (such as our measurements take longer than expected), we've needed to shorten our trip. As such, the Railroad Grade Trail is critical, and I am highly supportive of continuing to maintain the boardwalk. This will ensure that my students are safe, and consistent maintenance will also benefit the pond. As an aside, I am also the mother of twin babies and a three year old, and I frequently take my kids to McLane Creek by myself, and I depend on using double-wide strollers to bring the twins. I am so appreciative of all of the recent work that has been done to ensure safety for small children, and am really grateful that the boardwalks have been designed to be wide



enough to accommodate double-wide strollers. My kids absolutely adore seeing the salmon, newts, eagles, turtles, and the various waterfowl that live in the pond, and I am tremendously grateful that you have made this possible by ensuring double-wide strollers can get through the boardwalks. I whole-heartedly encourage you to keep this up on the Railroad Grade Trail.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Martin".

Erin Martin
Member of the Faculty,
Graduate Program on the Environment
The Evergreen State College
martine@evergreen.edu



May 26, 2020

TO: Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program
RE: McLain Creek and Nature Trail

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I'm writing to support upgrading the trail and resources at the McLane Creek Nature Area. The upgrade and extension, along the west side of the pond, will allow access via a boardwalk. This will avoid the muddiness and environmental damage that has been occurring in wet weather. At the same time, it will provide a close-to-the-pond trail with viewpoints and access for diverse communities.

I have been visiting the nature trail for 24 years, both as a community member and as an educator. It offers a unique riparian habitat, that supports a variety of plants and wildlife. I've taken students from the Evergreen State College to the site, and I've worked with diverse groups of all ages (children to adults) in exploring this important area. We've accessed this rich area year around on the boardwalks that border the lake, as well as through an intricate network of hiking trails.

It's important that to have continued access that protects the habitat while offering access to diverse people of all ages and abilities. Because it is such a rich and diverse riparian habitat, it also offers access to wildlife and conservation groups, birdwatchers, and others.

Thank you for supporting this project. Please contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Rebecca A. Chamberlain
chambreb@evergreen.edu
c. 360970-9992



We connect people, nature and communities through a world-class trail system

May 7th, 2020

To RCO Board and Staff Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to share our organizations enthusiasm for RCO Project #20-1538 for funding to improve the parking area/trailhead at Lewis Butte and Riser Lake.

As a 43 year old non-profit organization in the Methow Valley in Okanogan County that supports \$12.4 million annually into the local economy, over 150 FTE jobs, and 250,000 recreational experiences annually that inspire care and stewardship for the land, I am writing to express my strong support for this project.

The project is noteworthy because it represents a forward thinking and unique collaboration by the WDFW and local partners to address growing recreation use in a proactive way. Over the last 3 years Methow Trails and partner organizations in the Methow Valley Trails Collaborative have prioritized this project as our annual "Save a Trail" project. Ongoing support for this project is needed to finish the work that volunteers, donors, and partner organizations have started.

This projects builds upon significant previous public and private investments in trails and wildlife habitat in iconic landscapes here in the Methow Valley. I encourage RCO to support this project for the benefit of the local economy, people and wildlife of Washington State.

Sincerely,

James DeSalvo
Executive Director
Methow Trails



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

PO Box 1100- 111 Sherman Street • La Conner, Washington 98257 • (360) 466-4345 FAX (360) 466-0515

20-1292 D, Gothic Basin Trail and Camping Area Development

August 3, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Program
Olympia, Washington

Dear WWRP Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, I am writing to express my strong support for grant application # **20-1292 D, Gothic Basin Trail and Camping Area Development** proposed for the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). I have been a member of DNR's advisory committee for recreation in Morning Star since the committee's inception, representing the interests of fish and wildlife. As such, I've seen first-hand how carefully the DNR stewards the resources within the NRCA and how challenged they are to safeguard the fragile ecosystem that the NRCA represents.

Balancing the public's desire to experience the natural world while protecting delicate ecosystems is becoming difficult for all natural resource managers. As indicated in the application, the Morning Star NRCA has always been a popular destination and is under increasing pressure as more and more members of the public seek places to hike and camp. The Gothic Basin is particularly challenging because it's a gateway to steep, high elevation country where inexperienced hikers can easily exceed their outdoor skills. As such, the need to provide safe trails and suitable campsites and toilet facilities is crucial for the well-being of visitors and to prevent the damage caused to the NRCA when these are not provided and the public takes it upon themselves to create their own hiking and camping facilities.

Natural Resource Conservation Areas are designated when specific places on the landscape represent the best of what is left of special habitats. The funds awarded to this application will ensure that those values are protected so that current and future generations may visit the NRCA and have a safe and quality experience at Morning Star.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Milner".

Ruth Milner
District 13 Wildlife Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and wildlife



August 5, 202

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

RE: 20-1291 D, Boulder Lake Trail and Campsite Renovations, and

20-1292 D, Gothic Basin Trail and Camping Area Development

To Whom It May Concern:

The North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) lends its support for two Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant applications within the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The mission of N3C is to protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values. We believe these projects aligns with that mission and we urge your support.

N3C is pleased that these grants will address negative impacts to public resources that have resulted from significant public use. The investments in recreation infrastructure are much needed as significant visitation to the Morning Star NRCA has overwhelmed available resources. A renovated trail, improved campsites, and a new toilet will improve the user experience and protect water quality at Boulder Lake. Similarly, improvements in the Gothic Basin will improve public safety, minimize ongoing impacts to natural resources, and benefit backcountry visitors. These objectives make DNR's grant application worthy of your consideration.

The Morning Star NRCA provides opportunities for the public to experience nature in relatively undisturbed settings and to make personal connections to the natural world. The projects are particularly important given their close proximity to major transportation corridors. Getting outdoors is more popular than ever and this is an opportunity to meet that public demand.

We urge your support for DNR's grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Fenner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip Fenner

President, North Cascades Conservation Council

www.northcascades.org



Washington State Chapter

180 Nickerson St, Ste 202

Seattle, WA 98109

Phone: (206) 378-0114

Fax: (206) 378-0034

July 30, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application **20-1292 D, Gothic Basin Trail and Camping Area Development**

Dear evaluation committee members:

Over the years, the Sierra Club has been active in recreation and conservation issues throughout the South fork of the Stillaguamish River. Club members have a strong attachment to this area and many of our members recreate using the trails along the Mountain Loop Highway. Because of this reason, the Sierra Club was very supportive of the RCO Grant which was used to fund the Morning Star NRCA Advisory Board to which I was selected.

The board reviewed all the trails in Morning Star and we noted that each trail had significant issues due to the lack of funding over the years. The board was also very concerned with the resource damage done by visitors throughout the area.

The locations which occupied the greatest amount of discussion was associated with the Gothic Basin Trail. These issues included the poorly constructed trail, as well as resource damage occurring in Gothic Basin. At one time, most of the Board thought that the damage was so significant that a permit system should be implemented to limit the number of users. However, the Board ultimately concluded that with the Gothic Basin Trail reconstruction, along with modifications to campsites and waste facilities in the Basin, that future damage

might be minimized and permits would not be needed. That is why the Gothic Basin Trail project was selected as the highest priority for a Morning Star grant request.

The Sierra Club has strong concerns about damage to the ecosystem caused by off-trail travel, as well as overused campsites and the problems that human waste causes in the backcountry. The Gothic Basin Trail grant will attempt to address all three of these issues.

Therefore, the Sierra Club would like to express its support for this grant.

Sincerely
Mike Town
State Forest Chair
Washington State Chapter Sierra Club
mtown01@msn.com

Letters Submitted by the Public Regarding Project Proposals for the State Parks Category

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support and opposition) received by RCO during the grant evaluation process. The number in parenthesis represents the number of letters submitted for that project.

Letters are in Ranked Order

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • 20-1555A Green River Gorge Icy Creek Ridge (12) | Rank 1 |
| • 20-1433A Olallie State Park Mount Washington (1,252) | Rank 2 |
| • 20-1312D Willapa Hills Trail Pacific County Bridges (3) | Rank 3 |
| • 20-1556D Lake Sammamish Issaquah Creek Loop Trail (13) | Rank 5 |

Date *WWRP* 7/30/2020

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2020

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

Bob Meeks

Name strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)*- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant project will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge.

The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond and in south King County in general, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and connect the Green River Gorge Conservation Area to natural areas to the south managed by King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area and the nearby communities.

Sincerely,

RJ Meeks
Robert J. Meeks
37305 160th Ave SE
Auburn, WA 98092
253-202-6005

*B. We own a
small farm in
the AgZone &
strongly support
the conservation
project.
Thanks*



King County

Dave Upthegrove

Councilmember, District 5

Metropolitan King County Council

June 16, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's application for the Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555) through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

State Parks seeks to acquire 16 parcels totaling approximately 105 acres in King County, known collectively as Icy Creek Ridge. This acquisition will close an existing trail gap and enable development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge, between Kanaskat-Palmer State Park and Flaming Geyser State Park. Additionally, the property will provide a habitat connection between the Green River Gorge Conservation Area and properties owned by King County to the south in the Bass and Beaver Lake complex. This project is a multi-benefit project that will enable wildlife habitat to be enhanced while also contributing to our state's rich trail network.

I highly recommend this project and am excited to see State Parks implement its long-term vision for the area. I encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Upthegrove

King County Councilmember, District 5



King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks

Director's Office
King Street Center
201 S. Jackson St, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

May 1, 2020

Melinda Posner
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Subject: RCO Grant Application #20-1555
Acquisition Adjacent to Icy Creek in King County

Dear Ms. Posner:

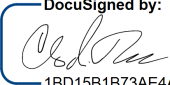
Thank you for your letter to King County Council dated April 1, 2020, informing our agency that Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is applying for a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to acquire the Icy Creek Ridge properties adjacent to the Green River Gorge in King County.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (KC DNRP) strongly supports the grant application for this acquisition. Acquiring the Icy Creek properties has been a long-term priority for Washington State Parks and KC DNRP, and is supported by our partners including the Green River Coalition and Washington Department of Natural Resources. This property is also an acquisition priority through King County's Land Conservation Initiative, which seeks to preserve important natural lands and trails.

If preserved, the Icy Creek Ridge parcels would facilitate the eventual development of a regional backcountry trail in an area of the county that does not have many passive trail hiking opportunities. As the population grows in the region, there is an increasing need for outdoor recreation spaces and protection of valuable landscapes. In addition, protecting the Icy Creek properties will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and expand the network of existing public lands in this area. The Green River Gorge is a spectacular natural feature, which deserves expanded protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important acquisition. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 206.477.4550 or email christie.true@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

1BD15B1B73AE4A0...
Christie True

Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

May 29, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

Enumclaw Plateau Community Association (King County Unincorporated Area CSA) supports robustly the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)*-application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant project will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge.

Myself and most of our members are very familiar with these parcels to be acquired and preserved, as we live close to the Gorge. The prospect of a trail and to preserve and enhance local habitat and recreation has been a dream for many of us for a long, long time. The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond and in south King County in general, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and connect the Green River Gorge Conservation Area to natural areas to the south managed by King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area and the nearby communities.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Brien, President, Enumclaw Plateau Community Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "O'Brien" clearly legible.

May 15,2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Grant Review Committee Members: :

This letter is to serve as a commitment of support by Friends of the Bass Lake (FOBL) for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)*- grant application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category. I am the current chair of FOBL and have been the Ambassador for this site since 2001. The Beaver Dandy Lake Complex, for which FOBL advocates, is situated along the Green River Gorge and is an important site ecologically for fresh water recharge, water purification and cold water sources to the Green River for critical salmon habitat parameters. FOBL works with neighbors, city, state and county governments as well as a 501c3 called the Enumclaw Plateau Community Association (EPCA)..

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant project will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels close to the Beaver Dandy Lake Complex, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge which will create critical wildlife corridors between the protected areas and opens up options for regional trails to connect to the Beaver Dandy Lake Complex which in turn expands recreation options in the state by identifying critical "gap" lands that when purchased will tie extensive trail networks together.

The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond and in south King County in general, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and connect the Green River Gorge Conservation Area to natural areas to the south managed by King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this grant that will enhance the Conservation Area and the nearby communities.

Sincerely,

Bernie McKinney/

Bass Lake Ambassador – King County

Friends of Bass Lake chair



Department of Natural Resources

5-29-2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Grant Review Committee:

This letter is to indicate the interest of Green River College department of Natural Resources in collaborating with State Parks and associated organizations in their efforts to apply for the Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge application for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category (20-1555).

Green River College as 155 Natural Resources students in training each year and as part of the Bachelors of Applied Science degree path, students must complete Capstone projects. We have been in discussion with Washington State Parks and fully support their efforts to work to piece together land along the southern rim of the Green River Gorge. Students that are specializing in Recreation Management, Wildlife, and Stream Restoration are eager to collaborate with WA State Parks on necessary projects such as trail mapping, recreation management planning, trail installation and maintenance, hazard tree abatement and research on new green spaces that could be acquired through this grant opportunity. This is a unique collaboration that can further students' applied knowledge and skillsets while propelling them forward into their careers and simultaneously providing critical man (and woman) power to implement planning and actions on the ground to make this goal a reality.

As the department head for Green River Colleges Natural Resources Department, we are committed to help with necessary work in the case of this grant proposal being successful. We look forward to the opportunity and synergy that will be created with this great project.

Sincerely,



Monica Paulson Priebe, PhD, Department Head
Green River College
Natural Resources Department
253-833-9111 ext 4509
mpriebe@greenriver.edu



GREENRIVERCOALITION.ORG

**SUBJECT**

Green River Gorge
Icy Creek Ridge 20-1555

DATE

May 17, 2020

RECEIVER

Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 9850410917

To Whom It May
Concern:

Green River Coalition strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Green River Gorge-Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555) application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category. The parcels making up this 105 acre acquisition have been a coalition priority for purchase as public lands for 20 years.

Life long conservationist Wolf Bauer, along with former Governors Dan Evans and Mike Lowry, helped drive an effort to have the Washington State Legislature establish the Green River Gorge Conservation area. In 1969, the Legislature adopted the conservation area, and directed State Parks to acquire property along the Green River. This grant project will continue this now 50-year effort through acquiring these additional lands on the south rim of the gorge.

The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond as well as growth in south King County in general, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, this acquisition will provide opportunities for both regional and destination trail connections such as the Enumclaw Foothills Trail, and a proposed trail system for the King County Parks owned Bass Lake Complex Natural Area, a more than 500 acre complex that will adjoin the parcels to be purchased with funding from this grant application. There are also other direct benefits resulting from purchasing this property including protection of valuable forest and wildlife habitat, protection of important groundwater resources, and increasing the protection of water quality in Icy Creek, but permanently protecting forested areas south of the creek.

We have collaborated with State Parks and King County on protection and enhancement of the Green River Gorge for most of the existence of our organization. Since 2013, we have received grants, raised funds and directed work of our intern program with Green River College to improve native plant habitat in the King County land to the south of this purchase area. Our intent is to engage in similar protection and enhancement of this proposed purchase by State Parks as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area, and improve opportunities for recreation and stewardship in nearby communities as well.

Best regards,

Greg Wingard,
President



May 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for the Green River Coalition's Green River Gorge – Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555) application

To Whom It May Concern:

American Rivers supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)—application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire additional property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge – one of the most important purchases in decades.

Sculpted by the Green River itself over thousands of years, the abstract rock formations of the Green River Gorge, deep pools, waterfalls and beaches provide a unique natural amenity in King County and the entire state. As development in nearby Black Diamond continues and in south King County in general, the demand for passive recreation is at an all-time high. This project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. This acquisition and the new south rim trail will link Flaming Geyser State Park and existing public lands held by the State of Washington and King County, including more than 500-acre Bass Lake Complex Natural Area – an important recreational and habitat corridor.

In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important cold-water inputs vital Green River salmon populations. This is an important project for the health of the entire watershed and surrounding communities and one that we whole heartedly support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy McDermott
Director, Puget Sound-Columbia Basin

May 16, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

Soos Creek Area Response (SCAR), a nonprofit organization helping provide environmental and historical education and advocacy primarily to citizens living in the southeast King County Soos Creek watershed area, strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)*- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant project will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge.

The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond and in south King County in general, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and connect the Green River Gorge Conservation Area to natural areas to the south managed by King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area and the nearby communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Guddat", followed by a horizontal line.

On behalf of the SCAR Board of Directors

Jeff Guddat, President, SCAR

May 17, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of rural Southeast King County, long active in the local heritage and environmental communities, I strongly support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant project will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge.

The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond and throughout South King County, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and connect the Green River Gorge Conservation Area to natural areas to the south managed by King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area and nearby communities.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Meador". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Meador
Soos Creek Area Response
Board Member

Neely Mansion Association
Board Member

May 28, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to express my support and enthusiasm for the *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)*- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

As you are aware, the Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. The identified 16 parcels closes critical property gaps along the rim that have been targeted for decades, and assures a seamless strip of undeveloped natural area along the Gorge – a priceless legacy to leave future generations. The vision of a trail complex along the south rim of the Green River Gorge is finally within the foreseeable future, providing recreational and educational opportunities for our region's growing urban and suburban populations.

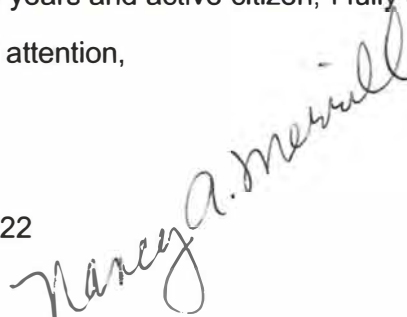
Recently I uncovered old photographs of relatives visiting the Green River Gorge Resort in the 1930's. It was truly remote from Seattle at that time and recognized as a gem to be appreciated. Even more so now. This is a chance, and the time, to seize the opportunity to conserve these valuable forests and wildlife habitat for future generations, as well as protect important groundwater resources we presently depend on.

As a former School Board member of 28 years and active citizen, I fully support this acquisition, and thank you for your time, service and attention,

Nancy A. Merrill

28308 SE 392nd St., Enumclaw, WA 98022

nancysmerrill@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy A. Merrill", is written diagonally across the bottom right portion of the letter, overlapping the printed name and address.

5/28/2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I, James Montgomery, strongly support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge (20-1555)*- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to acquire property along the river. Today, State Parks manages over 2,000 acres along the Green River. This grant project will continue that 50-year effort by acquiring 16 more parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres on the south rim of the gorge.

The project will close one of the last ownership gaps preventing development of a trail along the south rim of the Green River Gorge. With new home development in nearby Black Diamond and in south King County in general, the need for recreational trail experiences is increasing, and a south rim trail will allow park visitors to see one of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. In addition, protecting Icy Creek Ridge will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and connect the Green River Gorge Conservation Area to natural areas to the south managed by King County.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area and the nearby communities.

Sincerely,

James Montgomery



7/7/20

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept Si View Metropolitan Park District's letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. This area of Olallie State Park is adjacent to our District boundaries and provides immediate recreation opportunities to the residents of the upper Snoqualmie Valley.

Si View Metropolitan Park District is a special purpose district that provides recreation opportunity to roughly 40,000 residents in the upper and lower Snoqualmie Valley. The mission of our District is to work in partnership with the Community to provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life through the facilitation of recreation programs and parks in the Snoqualmie Valley. Through multiple statistically valid survey's of our residents, the preservation of open space and trails have routinely been prioritized in the top 3 needs. This acquisition aligns with our District's mission and our residents priorities.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic

landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

Si View Metropolitan Park District is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me 425-831-1900 or tstombaugh@siviewpark.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Stombaugh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis Stombaugh
Executive Director



July 27, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept our joint letter of support from 18 undersigned climbing organizations, guide companies, gear shops, climbing gyms, and outdoor industry partners for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. The property includes exceptional rock climbing opportunities that have been cherished by Washington climbers since the early 1990s.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or en route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking-only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Of great significance to our members and community, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

Access Fund and our local climbing organization and outdoor industry partners are pleased to support this keystone conservation project. Access Fund, the national advocacy organization that keeps climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment, has monitored past threats to the property's

scenic, recreational, public access, and natural resources for decades, and we now have a unique opportunity to protect this parcel as public land forever with leading WWRP support. In addition, our entities have gathered **1,311** letters of support from individual climbers, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts. Furthermore, **Access Fund, Ascent Outdoors, The Mountaineers, Mountain Madness, Stone Gardens, and Washington Climbers Coalition** are providing additional letters of commitment to provide matching funds towards WWRP funding.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

Together, the undersigned organizations are pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Joe Sambataro at (425) 218-8234 or joe@accessfund.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Sambataro, Northwest Regional Director
Access Fund
joe@accessfund.org
accessfund.org

Jonathon Spitzer, Director of Field Operations
Alpine Ascents International
jspitzer@alpineascents.com
alpineascents.com

Eddie Espinosa, National Volunteer Program Sr.
Manager
American Alpine Club - Cascade Section
eespinosa@americanalpineclub.org
americanalpineclub.org

Jason Martin, Executive Director
American Alpine Institute
jason@alpineinstitute.com
alpineinstitute.com

Sandeep Nain, Owner
Ascent Outdoors
sandeep@ascentoutdoors.com
ascentoutdoors.com

Tod Bloxham, Owner
Edgeworks Climbing
tod@edgeworksclimbing.com
edgeworksclimbing.com

Peter Hickner, President
Feathered Friends
juna@featheredfriends.com
featheredfriends.com

Mick Pearson, Owner/Founder
Kaf Adventures
mick@kafadventures.com
kafadventures.com

Betsy Robblee, Conservation & Advocacy
Director
The Mountaineers
betsyr@mountaineers.org
mountaineers.org

Mark Gunlogson, President
Mountain Madness
markg@mountainmadness.com
mountainmadness.com

Megan Fritz, Owner
Never Stop Moving
info@neverstopmoving.org
neverstopmoving.org

Kurt Hicks, Author & Founder
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info@obviousgully.com
www.snoqualmierock.com

Martin Volken, Owner and Founder
Pro Guiding Service and Pro Ski & Mountain
Service
martinvolken@proguiding.com
proguiding.com

Keith Magnuson, CEO and Founder
Stone Gardens
christian@stonegardens.com
stonegardens.com

Julie Gardner, Co-founder and Executive
Director
Vertical Generation
julie@verticalgeneration.rocks
verticalgeneration.rocks

Tami Johnston, Director of Operations
Vertical World
tami@verticalworld.com
verticalworld.com

Chelsea Sweetin, President
Washington Alpine Club
wacboard@googlegroups.com
washingtionalpineclub.org

Ashley Siple, President
Washington Climbers Coalition
ahsiple@gmail.com
washingtongclimbers.org



Mt. Washington Property. Photo by Scott Rinckenberger



Mt. Washington Property. Photo by Jeremy Allyn



July 22, 2020

20-1433 WWRP SP #2

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

The 24 undersigned conservation organizations, local businesses and elected officials are writing to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. This is an important opportunity to protect a popular climbing and hiking destination in the future and provide management for sustainable outdoor recreation, scenic values and wildlife habitat.

Many of our organizations have supported sustainable recreation opportunities on Washington's public lands including the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and within our state park system. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, each year in Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending and 200,000 direct jobs. The steady flow of visitors is critical to the economies of local communities like North Bend, Snoqualmie and Issaquah. Visitors stop to spend money on meals, buy groceries, purchase gear, sign up for paddling, horseback riding, backpacking, mountain biking or other recreational trips, and stay overnight at hotels and vacation rentals in towns that are the gateways to our public lands.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

We are pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding.

Sincerely,

Tom Uniack
Executive Director
Washington Wild

Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor
City of Issaquah

Barbara de Michele
Cit Councilmember
City of Issaquah

Amy Brockhaus
Deputy Director
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Rick McGuire
President
Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS)

Lara Zahaba
Co-Owner | Marketing & Communications
Stoup Brewing

Annalise Wille
Co-Founder
Women for Wild Lands

Kathleen S Gobush
Mt Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Lead
Conservation Northwest

Yvonne Kraus
Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Haley Keller
Co-Owner
Peddler Brewing Co

Mark Burr
Co-founder/General Manager
Jellyfish Brewing Company

Lindsay Frickle
Executive Director
Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Craig Nobley
General Manager
Lighthouse Roasters

Matt Larson
Mayor
City of Snoqualmie

Stacy Goodman
City Councilmember
City of Issaquah

Mike Town
State Forest Committee Member
Sierra Club- WA Chapter

Kelsey, Ben, Liz & Craig Curran
Owners
Watershed Pub & Kitchen

Phil Fenner
President
North Cascades Conservation Council

Jack Guinn
General Manager/Co-Owner
Hellbent Brewing Company

Mark Boyar
President
Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition (MidFORC)

Tony Ridgeway
Board President
Flying Bike Cooperative Brewery

Charlie Clark
Director of Impact
MiiR

Raymond Kwan & Barry Chan
Co-Founders
Lucky Envelope Brewing

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

Robert Brenlin
Latona Pub
General Manager

Tom O'Keefe
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Matthew R. Larson

38624 SE River Street
PO Box 987
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Office: (425)888-1555
Fax: (425)831-6041

www.ci.snoqualmie.wa.us
mayor@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us

July 14, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

*Re: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
Grant Application #20-1433*

Dear Evaluation Committee Members,

Please accept **The City of Snoqualmie's** letter of support for Washington **State Parks' acquisition of the** Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

The City of Snoqualmie values and supports local and regional outdoor recreation opportunities, seeing outdoor recreation as a vibrant part of our community. We recommend this project as it would support and improve the regional recreation opportunities for citizens of Snoqualmie as well as visitors to the area. The I90 corridor and the Snoqualmie Valley are home to countless recreational options, but with the current usage and inherent value there will always be a need to expand and improve. We constantly seek opportunities to support our local partnerships such as this project.


Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly **traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's** stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations.

This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the **area's** topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

The City of Snoqualmie is pleased to support **Washington State Parks'** acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me mlarson@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us . Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Matthew R. Larson
Mayor

CC: City Council

**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES****South Puget Sound Region**
950 Farman Avenue North
Enumclaw, WA 98022**(206) 375-3558**
KATIE.WOOLSEY@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

July 7, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear Evaluation Committee Members,

Please accept the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. This is an exciting acquisition opportunity as it will secure public ownership in a much beloved conservation landscape. Both of our agencies have worked together over the past decades to purchase conservation land and provide recreation opportunities in the I-90 corridor. The application continues this vision and legacy to ensure continued public access to extremely popular recreation opportunities. DNR's mission is to manage, sustain and protect the health and productivity of Washington's land and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

South Puget Sound Region

950 Farman Avenue North
Enumclaw, WA 98022

(206) 375-3558

KATIE.WOOLSEY@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

The Washington Department of Natural Resources is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me (206) 375-3558. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Woolsey". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Katie Woolsey
Natural Areas Manager and State Lands Steward
(206) 375-3558



June 18, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept EarthCorps' letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

EarthCorps has long supported and worked on recreational trails throughout the Greenway. Whether reconstructing the Rattlesnake and Twin Falls Trail, the Mount Si Trail, and numerous trails into the Alpine Lake Wilderness Area or the Mount Washington Trail, the value of providing low impact, sustainable trails to the recreational community is significant and we strongly support it.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

EarthCorps is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me steve@earthcorps.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Dubiel, Executive Director



July 16, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept our letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

Mount Washington, visible from North Bend, forms an important part of the mountainous backdrop of the Mountains to Sound Greenway that gives North Bend its character and identity, and is an important recreation destination for North Bend residents, as well as for the broader Puget Sound region.

Acquiring the 150-acre private inholding will benefit the North Bend community through securing additional recreation access to Mount Washington and expanding the opportunities available at Olallie State Park. Securing additional access and expanding recreational opportunities not only benefits North Bend residents, it supports the North Bend shops and restaurants that provide services for recreation users.

This acquisition will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat, so important to North Bend, is protected. The City of North Bend is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CITY OF NORTH BEND



Rob McFarland
Mayor

7/28/2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept the U.S. Forest Service's letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. We support this project and it aligns with our recreational opportunities on surrounding public lands.

Sincerely,



Alex Weinberg
I-90 Corridor Manager

Forest Service

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie
Ranger District**

p: 425-888-8770
alex.weinberg@usda.gov

902 S. E. North Bend Way
North Bend, WA 98027
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

North Puget Sound • Region 4 • 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296
Telephone: (425) 775-1311 • Fax: (425) 338-1066

July 14, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. WDFW supports this proposed acquisition not only due to the recreational management reasons outlined below – but also for the value in retention of the site and of the overall area in natural habitat; thereby supporting wildlife and ecosystem function within the greater Mountains to Sound Greenway Heritage Area (Greenway).

WDFW's mandate is to preserve, protect, and perpetuate the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities. The Mt. Washington Trail property is within the most urban area of the state; with a third of the state's human population found within King County. Opportunities to retain habitat and provide for recreation will greatly assist and support the management of people, habitat and wildlife throughout our exurban and wildland areas of the county. These natural spaces continue to see increases in recreational pressure and types of recreational use. The Mt. Washington Trail proposal would provide watchable wildlife opportunities and other related wildlife recreation. In my assignment as the District Wildlife Biologist for King Co., as well as a representative for WDFW and collaborator with Washington State Park staff in working with the Mountains to Sound Greenway, this proposal meets many of our collective efforts and overall vision of the Greenway. Successful acquisition of this property is win-win amongst all of us; if kept in habitat and providing for recreation in multiple forms.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only

route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, wildlife recreationists and other visitors throughout the region.

WDFW is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me
Christopher.Anderson@dfw.wa.gov. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Anderson".

Chris Anderson
District Wildlife Biologist - King Co.
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

June 18, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear Evaluation Committee members,

On behalf of Washington Trails Association, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 15,500 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year more than 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

Each season, thousands of hikers unknowingly traverse this section of private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking-only route to Mt. Washington's peak, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in the coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource in perpetuity.

This grant will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected.

WTA is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

**King County****Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

July 1, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear Evaluation Committee Members:

King County enthusiastically supports Washington State Parks' WWRP grant application and future acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. King County is committed to conserving important landscapes, scenic corridors, and forested ecosystems that mitigate climate change, protect wildlife habitat, and provide outdoor recreation. This acquisition is significant and helps to achieve these important goals. This property was identified as a priority for acquisition in King County's Land Conservation Initiative, a strategy to preserve our last, most important natural lands and green spaces within 30 years.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

July 1, 2020

Page 2

protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout King County.

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-9600. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4527 Fax 206-588-8011
TTY Relay: 711

June 16, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

King County Parks enthusiastically supports Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. King County is committed to conservation of important landscapes, scenic corridors and forested ecosystems that mitigate climate change protect wildlife habitat and provide outdoor recreation. This acquisition is an important step to achieving these important goals.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography.

Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity. With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique

within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

King County Parks and Recreation Division is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 477-6478 or Kelly.heintz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Heintz

Kelly Heintz
Program/Project Manager III
Open Space Team
King County Parks Division



Northwest Office
901 5th Ave, Ste 1520
Seattle, WA 98164
206.587.2447
tpl.org

**Northwest Advisory
Board**

Joshua Anderson
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Katie Young
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Northwest Office

David Patton
Northwest Director

Danny Rees
*Northwest Director of
Philanthropy*

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

August 5, 2020

Re: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept The Trust for Public Land's letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park.

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy communities for generations to come. For over three decades, we have been helping communities protect hiking destinations, scenic viewsheds, and critical wildlife corridors to preserve the integrity of this beautiful area. Today, we are delighted to work with the community to protect this critical piece of property. We look forward to bringing our stakeholder organizing skills and transaction expertise to this project to ensure this beloved treasure remains publicly accessible into perpetuity.

Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers visiting Olallie State Park unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

The Trust for Public Land has recently been made aware that the Mt. Washington property is within the ancestral lands of the Snoqualmie Tribe. We have discussed The Trust for Public Lands' role in this project with the Snoqualmie Tribe and respectfully request that State Parks consult with the Snoqualmie Tribe as this project continues to mature.

In conclusion, The Trust for Public Land is pleased to partner with Washington State Parks for their acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Patton
Northwest Director
david.patton@tpl.org
206.274.2916



King County Search and Rescue

Post Office Box 50721
Bellevue, WA 98015-0721

www.KingCountySAR.org

July 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear Evaluation Committee Members,

Please accept King County Search and Rescue Association's letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Putting this property under public land management will allow for safer and more responsible recreation, while also increasing options for public to spread out more in our already busy public lands.

King County Search and Rescue, in partnership with King County Sheriff's Office, responded to 198 callouts in 2019 – our highest on record. Despite COVID and the Stay Home order we are right on pace to match that in 2020. The public's appetite for outdoor recreation is insatiable right now and all the date we see supports this trend. This beautiful and rugged terrain comes with its challenges; with freedom comes responsibility. We strongly support adding the Mt. Washington Trail system into the existing land management system so we can work within the current framework to support safe and healthy recreation on this valuable land.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes.

King County Search and Rescue Association is pleased to support Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Olallie Thompson inholding. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me (425)301-0482. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenes".

Jennifer Brenes, President
King County Search and Rescue Association

**King County****Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

July 1, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear Evaluation Committee Members:

King County enthusiastically supports Washington State Parks' WWRP grant application and future acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. King County is committed to conserving important landscapes, scenic corridors, and forested ecosystems that mitigate climate change, protect wildlife habitat, and provide outdoor recreation. This acquisition is significant and helps to achieve these important goals. This property was identified as a priority for acquisition in King County's Land Conservation Initiative, a strategy to preserve our last, most important natural lands and green spaces within 30 years.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or on route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. Moreover, it provides access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls and wildlife habitat is

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

July 1, 2020

Page 2

protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout King County.

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-9600. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive



August 5, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433

Dear evaluation committee members,

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe ("Tribe"), a federally-recognized sovereign Indian tribe and signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855 with reserved rights thereunder, hereby submits this letter as its official comment on the proposed addition to Olallie State Park, which is directly within the ancestral homelands and ceded territories of the Tribe.

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe has lived in, stewarded, and protected the landscapes around Mount Washington for millennia, since time immemorial, and its reserved treaty rights and inherent sovereign rights as a Tribal Nation protect its privileged and sacred relationship with this irreplaceable landscape.

Despite the Tribe's inseparable connection with these lands, the Tribe was not contacted by any proponent of this acquisition for consultation or discussion. The Tribe was only informed of its existence days before this comment deadline by a third-party legislator who appropriately did due diligence and consulted with the Tribe on a project within its sacred ancestral lands.

It is the nonnegotiable position of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe that public sector acquisitions within its ancestral lands, which threaten to take Tribal lands into state government ownership in perpetuity and could abrogate the Tribe's reserved rights, requires robust and transparent consultation with the Tribe's elected government. As embodied in the Attorney General's Office of Washington's tribal consultation policy, this consultation should achieve the gold standard of obtaining the Tribe's "free, prior, and informed consent" before moving forward with such a project.

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe has not had sufficient time to analyze this project to provide a policy response on the proposal's merits. On its surface, we are concerned this project continues a troubling trend of commodifying sacred lands and ignoring the other ecosystem and cultural values they provide in order to prioritize to "trail access" for recreators, which is not a paramount priority to the Tribe.

On process alone, however, the Tribe currently opposes this acquisition until appropriate consultation with the Tribe is completed and will oppose all progress on this project until that time.



Furthermore, this letter must indicate for the record that the Tribe is becoming aware that other WWRP projects that have been proposed over the past few decades have been “evaluated” and “vetted” and greenlit in the Snoqualmie Tribe’s ancestral lands without any consultation with the Tribe whatsoever, potentially damaging its long-term ability to exercise its rights and duties and, in time, reclaim ownership of some its stolen and desecrated lands.

The Recreation and Conservation Office is formally requested to initiate Tribal consultation on this and all prior projects within the Tribe’s ancestral lands and to remedy this unacceptable practice of systematic disenfranchisement of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and the silencing of its voice on how tax dollars are spent managing its ancestral lands.

The Tribe reserves all rights. All communication in response should be directed to the Tribe’s Executive Director of Government Affairs and Special Projects, Jaime Martin, at jaime.martin@snoqualmietribe.us, and our state lobbyist and senior adviser, Matthew Randazzo, at MatthewRandazzoV@gmail.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime Martin".

Jaime Martin
Executive Director of Governmental Affairs & Special Projects
Snoqualmie Tribe

From: [Angelica Amesquita](#)
To: [Posner, Melinda \(PARKS\)](#)
Subject: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Grant Application #20-1433
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:30:21 PM

Dear WWRP Evaluation Comm WWRP Evaluation Comm,

Please accept my letter of support for Washington State Parks' acquisition of the Mt. Washington Trail property, an inholding in the Olallie State Park in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. The property includes exceptional rock climbing opportunities that Washington climbers have cherished since the early 1990s.

Olallie State Park is in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. Each season, thousands of hikers and rock climbers unknowingly traverse this private property on their way to Mt. Washington's stunning summit or en route to one of its many prized climbing destinations. This 150-acre inholding contains about one mile of the Mt. Washington Trail, whose summit offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Cedar River Watershed. In attracting hikers to this property, the trail relieves pressure on nearby popular hiking trails and provides a hiking-only route to the peak of Mt. Washington, reducing conflicts with mountain bikers on the adjacent Olallie Trail.

This property is of great significance to the climbing community, providing access to the Mt. Washington Climbing Area, one the most popular rock climbing areas in the region, with over 70 sport climbing routes. While the landowner currently allows public access, there is no formal agreement in place to ensure continued public access, nor is an alternative access point possible, due to the area's topography. Given that the property is expected to change hands in coming years, it is important to act now to ensure the protection of this public resource into perpetuity.

With this grant, Washington State Parks, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, will at long last secure permanent public access for the Mt. Washington Trail and the Mt. Washington Climbing Area for all Olallie State Park users. The project will ensure that this iconic landscape of forest, waterfalls, and wildlife habitat is protected. This project is truly unique within the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and it will benefit hikers, rock climbers, and other visitors throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Angelica Amesquita
15514 Burke Ave N
Seattle, WA 98133
rose.catkins@gmail.com



Office of the Mayor
P.O. Drawer 9
South Bend, WA 98586
Phone: 360-875-5571
FAX: 360-875-4009
TDD: 1-800-833-6388
E-mail: julie.struck@southbend-wa.gov
Website: www.southbend-wa.gov

August 6, 2020

To whomever it may concern:

I am in full support of the Washington State Parks and Rec Commission project to complete the Willapa Hills Trail. Once the final eleven miles of the trail are completed, hikers and bikers will be able to use it from the city of Chehalis in Lewis County to the city of South Bend in Pacific County. Most of the trail is already finished. Between Raymond and South Bend, it is heavily used daily by local citizens. Finishing the final portion will attract long distance hikers and bikers. The majority of the trail passes through pastures and forests making it a true nature trail where wildlife and wild flowers abound.

I believe this trail will become a tourist attraction for bike enthusiasts and will draw folks from many states to it. The resulting economic benefit to the cities adjacent to the trail will be welcome. The trail has the potential to draw new businesses and/or enhance existing businesses that cater to the tourist industry. People will come here just to use it.

Thank you for your consideration of the WA State Parks and Rec Commission's request. I believe this trail to be one of the best uses of RCO grant funds and definitely meets the goal of getting people outside and moving.

Respectfully,

Julie K. Struck



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917
July 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Woodland Trail Greenway Association Enthusiastically supports the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application "Willapa Hills Trail - Pacific County Bridges" (PRISM Project #20-1312).

Even though our mission is to advocate for and partner in the development of trails in Thurston County, this project is of such regional and state-wide significance that its completion would directly benefit the citizens of Thurston County.

As you know, the Willapa Hills Trail is an important segment of the Cross-State Trail, anchoring it to the Pacific Ocean. Once we close a few gaps such as this one, residents of Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey, Yelm, Rainier, Tenino, and unincorporated Thurston County will be able to ride a bicycle or use other means of active transportation to reach the Pacific Ocean!

We know from personal experience how important it is to close these gaps. Currently, trail users must exit onto SR6 to bypass these gaps. This narrow road with fast traffic and poor shoulders is a barrier to all but the most intrepid cyclists, thus excluding many under-served user groups such as families with children.

Completing this facility will result in nearly 40 continuous miles of trail, connecting the communities of Chehalis, Pe Ell, Raymond, and South bend to Rainbow Falls State Park and the Pacific Ocean. In so doing, it will complete a major segment of the State-Wide trail.

For these reasons, we urge you to fund Washington Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application "Willapa Hills Trail - Pacific County Bridges" (PRISM Project #20-1312).

Thank you,

Jack Horton

Jack Horton,

President, Woodland Trail Greenway Association

PO Box 7054 Olympia, WA 98507 info@wtga.org

**DAWN Y . MERCHANT
111 E PINE ST
CENTRALIA WA 98531
360.388.5875
dym9701@hotmail.com**

July 31, 2020

RE: Expansion of The Willapa Trail

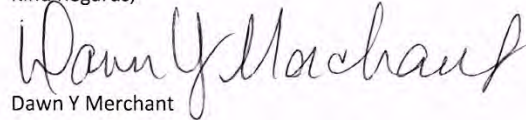
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Washington State Parks Proposed Project #20-1312 to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program for improvements to the Willapa Hills Trail and associated trestles in eastern Pacific County.

I have used the Lewis County portion of the Willapa Trail over the last several years including my participation of Ride the Willapa. As a local, small business owner of Dawn's Delectables located in Centralia, I have directly been impacted by the tourism generated through the Ride the Willapa event. The trail is an amazing asset to our county and the small communities that are located along the trail. I have seen a steady increase of trail use and to be able to continue improvement of the trail into Pacific County would be a major gain for everyone.

Trail users around our region appreciate the work of your staff, contractors, grant writers, and all associated with the Willapa Hills Trail development. I wholeheartedly support this project and continued efforts to move the trail project closer to completion.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Y Merchant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" being more prominent.

Dawn Y Merchant



June 1, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of 1 million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

FLSSP is committed to the success of this project and has already donated more than 2000 volunteer hours toward planning for the new trails. ***Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park will also donate \$10,000 and will fundraise for an additional \$100,000 in support.***

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Adut, Executive Director, FLSSP
director@flssp.org



Mayor's Office

130 E. Sunset Way | P.O. Box 1307
Issaquah, WA 98027
425-837-3020
issaquahwa.gov

May 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Review Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: WWRP Grant #20-1556: Lake Sammamish – Issaquah Creek Loop Trail

The City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail - Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of The park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the state park, the connectivity to our city trail system, and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor



Washington State Senate

Olympia Address:
415 Legislative Building
PO Box 40405
Olympia, WA 98504-0405

Senator Mark Mullet
5th Legislative District

Phone: (360) 786-7608
FAX: (360) 786-1323
Mark.Mullet@leg.wa.gov

May 6, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Issaquah community strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556-application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with nearly one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek and in the park is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many other partners. The goal is to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,

Senator Mark Mullet

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

May 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* project. State Parks is submitting grant Number 20-1556- in the Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest state park in Washington with more than one million visitors a year. This project will allow visitors to experience the park's natural areas, including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5-mile loop trail. Volunteers have already done extensive work on the trails plan in preparation for construction once funding is secured.

Currently, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed picnic areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas (about 80% of the 517 acres) as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide an opportunity to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City of Issaquah, Washington State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the park and upstream through the City of Issaquah to the state's salmon hatchery.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community. Please give top priority to the grant request.

Sincerely,

Rep. Bill Ramos

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* project. State Parks is submitting grant Number 20-1556- in the Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest state park in Washington with more than one million visitors a year. This project will allow visitors to experience the park's natural areas, including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail. Volunteers have already done extensive work on the trails plan in preparation for construction, once funding is secured.

Currently, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed picnic areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas (about 80% of the 517 acres) as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide an opportunity to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City of Issaquah, Washington State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the park and upstream through the City of Issaquah to the state's salmon hatchery.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community. Please give top priority to the grant request.

Sincerely,

Rep. Lisa Callan

April 27, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the city is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the city, and State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Lambert, King County Council Member



Greater Issaquah

Chamber of Commerce

Visitor Information Center
& Salmon Days
155 NW Gilman Blvd.
Issaquah, WA 98027
www.IssaquahChamber.com
425-392-7024
425-392-0661-Salmon Days
Kathy McCorry, CEO

Mission Statement

The Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce is the catalyst for business growth, the convener of leaders and influencers, and the champion for the business community.

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

Wright Noel

Past Chairman

Kari Magill

Chairman Elect

Nathan Bosseler

Secretary

Janet Kelly

Treasurer

Hernan Rubio Guerrero

Executive Member at Large

Alan Finkelstein

Directors

Tori Gaines

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Stewart Kelpie

Robert Quesnel

William Shaw

Christy Garrard

Megan Adams

Alvera Mandavia

Chairman's Circle

Costco Wholesale

Evergreen Ford/Lincoln/Chevrolet

Puget Sound Energy

Overlake Medical Clinics

Recology CleanScapes

Rowley Properties

Swedish Hospital

Umpqua Bank

Virginia Mason

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

May 6, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Issaquah Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail*-Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of The park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,

Kathy McCorry

Kathy McCorry
CEO, Issaquah Chamber of Commerce



President
Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Immediate Past President
Tod McDonald (*), Co-Founder, Valid8 Financial

Secretary
Josh M. Lipsky(*), Partner, Cascadia Law Group PLLC

Treasurer, Operations Committee Chair
Jason Broenneke (*), Partner, KPMG LLP

Fundraising Committee Chair
Ken Krivanec (*), President, Quadant Homes

Board Engagement Committee Chair
Marie Quakus(*), Senior Port Counsel, Port of Seattle

Program Committee Chair
Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers

Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

20-1556 WWRP SP #5

June 1, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's "Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail" (#20-2450) grant application to the Recreation and Conservation Office in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks category.

Located less than 30 minutes from the Seattle/Bellevue metropolitan center, Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with more than 1 million annual visitors. This project will expand and upgrade the park's trail network, creating a 1.5-mile trail loop that showcases the parks restored wetlands and Issaquah Creek. The project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and opens up trail access to the park's natural areas for people with disabilities. ADA accessible features are currently restricted to the developed areas of the park.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project, spearheaded by the Greenway Trust and State Parks, to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek. The trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work and salmon recovery with park visitors.

This project enhances the quality of life for park visitors and for our entire community. State Parks and its staff have been consistent advocates for sustainable recreation in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Efforts such as this loop trail are central to the Greenway Trust's goal to enhance all people's connection to nature, part of the organization's mission to conserve and enhance the landscape from Puget Sound across the Cascade Mountains to Central Washington.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Tor Bell

Stewardship & Operations Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Anderson, Partner, Van Ness Feldman LLP

Eic Artz, President & CEO, REI Co-op

Jim Becker, Retired, Founder, SmartLab Toys
and becker&mayer!

Laurie Benson (X), South Puget Sound Assistant Region
Manager for Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions,
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison,

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Mark Boyar (*), President, Middle Fork Outdoor
Recreation Coalition

Kevin Brown, King County Parks & Recreation

Susan Carlson, Board Chair, E3 Washington

Bill Chapman (*), Past President, Mountains to Sound
Greenway Trust

Dow Constantine (X), King County Executive

Kitty Craig, Deputy Director, Washington Program,
The Wilderness Society

Deloa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley Leadership Team

Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cystist

Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations,

Thomson Reuters; Alpine Lakes Protection Society

Kurt Fraese (*), Fraese and Associates

Hilary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands,

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Kari Glover, Retired, Global Integration Partner, K&L Gates

Matt Grimm, Investment Professional, BMGI

Don Hoch (X), Director,

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft

Andrew Kenefick, Senior Legal Counsel,

Waste Management of Washington, Inc.

Jamie Kingsbury (X), Supervisor,

USFS Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Janet N. Knox, Principal Environmental Geochemist,

Pacific Groundwater Group

Ken Konigsmark, Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director,

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Danny Levine, Retired, President, NationAd Communications

Sharon Linton (*), Marketing Consultant, SL Connects

Loma Luebbe, Assistant General Counsel/Director

Environment, Program Services, Puget Sound Energy

Elizabeth Lunney (*), former Mountains to Sound

Greenway Trust Executive Director

Robert Manelski, Retired, Senior Director, 787 Program,
Boeing

Gordon McHenry, Jr. (*), President & CEO, United Way

of King County

Roger Millar (X), Secretary of Transportation,

Washington State Department of Transportation

Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement

Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific NW Stewardship Director,

American Whitewater

David Patton, Northwest Area Director,

The Trust for Public Land

Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates

Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project,

Sierra Club

Janet Ray, Retired, Assistant VP, Corporate Affairs &

Publishing, AAA Washington

Jim Reinhardtsen (*), President, Laird Norton Properties

Vik Sahney, The Mountaineers; American Alpine Club

Jill Simmons, Executive Director,

Washington Trails Association

Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Cole LLP

David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President, CH2M Hill

Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyft, Inc.

Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington

Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle

Alison Washburn, Store Manager, Bellevue REI Co-op

Joel Yoker, Principal Program Manager, Microsoft;
Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio (non-voting) Director



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

Trout Unlimited strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of The park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,



David Kyle

Lake Sammamish Kokanee Restoration Project Manager



May 5, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Lake Sammamish – Issaquah Creek Loop Trail: Grant Number 20-1556

To Whom It May Concern:

Eastside Audubon strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Lake Sammamish – Issaquah Creek Loop Trail grant application (Grant Number 20-1556). The bridge and trail enhancements proposed in this project would make a valuable addition to the recreational trails currently available at Lake Sammamish State Park.

Eastside Audubon Society has a service area that includes the City of Issaquah and Lake Sammamish State Park. We have 1,100 members in 11 cities and towns in northeastern King County from Lake Washington to the Cascade Crest. We value the habitat within Lake Sammamish State Park as it is important to birds and birders alike. Eastside Audubon sponsors monthly bird walks within the boundaries of Lake Sammamish State Park. Having a robust and accessible trail system is vital in our mission statement of connecting people and nature. Furthermore, this project will open up more of the park to members of the community with disabilities by being more accommodating to their needs. Currently, these individuals are confined to the more developed and less natural parts of the park.

The project covered under this grant proposal is being undertaken in conjunction with salmon habitat restoration work within Issaquah Creek. Eastside Audubon interests include rebounding salmonid populations within our Service Area, given their status as a keystone species and their symbol to the Pacific Northwest quality of life. Allowing for easier access to the creek for the community to view salmon, and the potential for interpretive events to share the story of conservation is too valuable to pass up.

Eastside Audubon encourages the Funding Board to fully fund Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Lucas
Conservation Chair
Eastside Audubon



Issaquah Alps **TRAILS CLUB**

— EST. 1979 —

April 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many

other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Frickle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lindsay" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Frickle".

Lindsay Frickle, Executive Director
Executive Director, Issaquah Alps Trails Club



Transforming lives through outdoor recreation

May 6, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Outdoors for All Foundation is pleased to support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

As you may know, Outdoors for All has a 40 years long history as a nonprofit here in the State of Washington. We're dedicated to our mission: *To enrich the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through outdoor recreation.*

As you may also know, Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently fully accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow individuals with disabilities and their families and friends to enjoy many more of the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City of Issaquah is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community – especially individuals with disabilities and their families. Outdoors for All is proud to endorse this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Ed Bronsdon
Executive Director

Cc Connor Inslee, Associate Executive Director
Thera Zylstra, Associate Executive Director
Alecia McConnell, CTRS, Program Director



April 29, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The YMCA of Sammamish strongly supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Lake Sammamish—Issaquah Creek Loop Trail* -Grant Number 20-1556- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

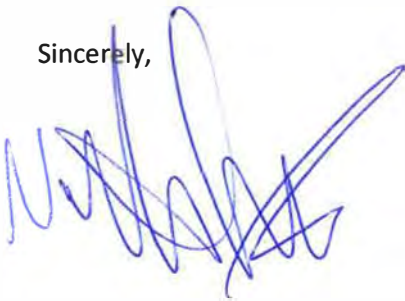
Lake Sammamish State Park is the busiest State Park in Washington with upwards of one million visitors a year. This project will allow park visitors to experience the park's natural areas including wetlands and Issaquah Creek on an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail.

Furthermore, the only areas of the park currently accessible to people with disabilities are developed areas. This project takes advantage of the park's gentle topography and would allow people with disabilities to enjoy the park's natural areas as well.

This project is being done in conjunction with another collaborative project to restore fish habitat in Issaquah Creek, so the trail and its bridge over the creek will provide a good place to share the story of that restoration work with park visitors. Restoration along the creek in the Park and within the City is a multi-year effort by the Greenway Trust, the City, and State Parks, and many other partners to improve habitat for salmon and all the other fish and wildlife that utilize Issaquah Creek from the Park upstream through the City of Issaquah.

This is a project that will enhance the park and the quality of life for our entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "N. H. Smith", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Letters Submitted by the Public Regarding Project Proposals for the Trails Category

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support and opposition) received by RCO during the grant evaluation process. The number in parenthesis represents the number of letters submitted for that project.

Letters are in Ranked Order

• 20-1494A Olympic Discovery Trail Forks to La Push (3)	Rank 1
• 20-1440A Colville Mountain Trailhead Land Acquisition (13)	Rank 3
• 20-1656D Whitehorse Trail Redevelopment (2)	Rank 4
• 20-1778D Race Street to Olympic National Park Shared Use Trail (3)	Rank 7
• 20-1867D Cushman Trail 14th Avenue to 24th Street Northwest (4)	Rank 8
• 20-1314D Phase 2 Yelm Prairie Line Regional Trail (1)	Rank 9
• 20-1282D Pipeline Trail Phase 1 (6)	Rank 10
• 20-1753D Scriber Lake Park Trail Rehabilitation (3)	Rank 11
• 20-1770D Eastrail to Mountains to Sound Trail Connector (4)	Rank 13
• 20-1495D Evergreenway Route Phase 1 North Bend Connection (5)	Rank 15
• 20-1650D Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail (9)	Rank 16
• 20-1419D Centennial Trail Phase 1 Barney Lake to Clear Lake (2)	Rank 17
• 20-1734D White River Pedestrian Bridge Trail Connection (1)	Rank 18
• 20-1511D Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Missing Link Depot Road to 8 (9)	Rank 21
• 20-1516D CrossTown Trail in Lake Boren Park (1)	Rank 23
• 20-1453C Jenkins Creek Trail Corridor (3)	Rank 25
• 20-1589D Silver Lake Trail (2)	Rank 26
• 20-1240D Boardwalk Reconstruction (1)	Rank 28



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, Washington 98362-6798

August 6, 2020

Grant Application Evaluators
Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o RCO WWRP – Trails Grant Review Committee
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear RCO WWRP - Trails Grant Review Committee:

This articulates my support of Clallam County's request for Recreation and Conservation Office funding to further progress on the Olympic Discovery Trail adjacent to and through Olympic National Park (ONP). This segment of the ODT will traverse ONP and complete the trail at the community of La Push. We have supported this project in Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grants for several reasons.

Firstly, it will provide a needed non-motorized path from La Push to Second and Third Beach Trailhead parking. The ODT will provide safe travel path from parking capacity in La Push to the trailheads. Currently, the walk from parking area to trailheads is in the road corridor and unsafe. The lack of safe path from parking capacity to trailheads also results in extensive shoulder parking along the road. The travel lane is limited with many pedestrians and very unsafe for pedestrians and motorists.

Secondly, this project will allow improvements to trailhead parking that increase parking capacity and improve pedestrian traffic safety.

Lastly, it completes the 135-mile ODT which will span the Olympic Peninsula from Puget Sound to the Pacific Coast. This last segment will again traverse Olympic National Park as does the spectacular Spruce Railroad Segment which will be completed this fall. The acquisition of trail corridor is essential to completion of this segment.

Again, Olympic National Park wholeheartedly supports this project. The Olympic Discovery Trail continues to provide access to many trail users and literally connects the Peninsula. The City has ensured that we have been included and able to provide input throughout the design process.

Sincerely,

MARY
CREACHBAUM
Digitally signed by
MARY CREACHBAUM
Date: 2020.08.06
11:33:16 -07'00'

M. Sarah Creachbaum
Superintendent



P.O. Box 1836, Port Angeles, WA 98362
 info@olympicdiscoverytrail.org
 OlympicDiscoveryTrail.org

Spearheading the Olympic Discovery Trail since 1988



Grant Application Evaluators
 WA Recreation and Conservation Office

26 May 2020

Dear Reviewers,

On behalf of the Olympic Discovery Trail's (ODT) leading, and enduring, advocate, I would like to convey our absolute and wholehearted support for Clallam County's application for RCO funding for acquisition of nearly the entirety of the ~15-mile corridor needed to complete the ODT between the community of Forks and the tribal community of LaPush on the Pacific Coast. This segment of the overall ~130-mile ODT is the largest single missing piece and, as the westernmost part of the trail, its completion will truly represent the realization of the ODT's vision as the "Pathway to the Pacific". There are so many strong reasons to give this project the highest priority for RCO funding that I must resort to the following bullets to make these major points:

- In May, 2019, the ODT was determined to be the western terminus/gateway for the Great American Rail-Trail (GART), which was announced and unveiled nationally at that time by the Rails to Trails Conservancy. This recognition means that the ODT, along with the other cross-state trails incorporated into the GART are part of the first designated fully cross-country non-motorized trail—a huge development.
- The ODT is the land-based project of the two Washington state projects identified in the 2011 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) "America's Great Outdoors" project. This represents a further indication of the national significance of the ODT.
- After years of careful nurturing and extensive dialog, the principal land-owning timber companies are amenable to the necessary realty conveyances—it is imperative to strike while the situation is ripe, because timber company priorities can easily change in the fluid timber economy.
- The opportunity to achieve this section of trail coincides with parallel action by Clallam County, Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC), and the Forks community (including substantial benefactor involvement) that is expected to achieve a vital connector link between Forks and the main ODT alignment that this project will complete. The synergy of these two projects will be transformative to the entire "west end" of Clallam County.
- The project will resolve the numerous, and serious, hazards that are present along the currently obligatory route for bicyclists and other non-motorized travellers—the winding, narrow length of WA State Route 110.

Clearly, RCO funding for the Forks-LaPush ODT Project is pre-eminently worthy of support. Successful funding of this project will represent a hugely significant step that will put completion of the Olympic Discovery Trail fully in sight. We overwhelmingly urge its approval and full funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey R. Bohman".

Jeffrey R. Bohman, Board President



**FORKS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.**

P.O. Box 1249 ❖ 1411 South Forks Avenue ❖ Forks, WA 98331
Phone (360) 374-2531 ❖ Fax (360) 374-9253

February 26, 2018

Re: Federal Lands Access Program grant application

Attn: Rich James
Clallam County Road Department

Dear Federal Lands Access Program Review Committee,

The Forks Chamber of Commerce has recently partnered with Clallam County to bring the Olympic Discovery Trail out to the West End, in our effort to aid the County in completing the 130-mile trail. We are very interested in all aspects of economic development and tourism on the West End and see the benefit to having the trail completed.

We also understand the importance of having a scenic, natural trail as opposed to a trail paralleling the road. Completion of the trail between Forks and LaPush would greatly increase non-motorized tourism to Forks making it a primary destination along the nationally known and recognized Olympic Discovery Trail. Completion of this segment would allow the Forks Chamber of Commerce or local event organizers to hold events on this segment of the trail such as marathons or fun runs which would also attract new tourist revenues to the Forks area. City residents of all ages and including younger people would have access to 15 miles of trail to provide for their recreational and health maintenance needs.

In summary, we are hopeful that Clallam County gets the support it needs from the Federal Lands Access Program to complete the Olympic Discovery Trail segment from Forks to LaPush.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lissy Andros
Executive Director



The **REST** of the Olympic Peninsula

Visitor Information: 1-800-44FORKS (800-443-6757)
chamber@forkswa.com ❖ www.forkswa.com



March 25, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) would like to lend its support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

As lead agency for the Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NEW RTPO), TEDD has been able to witness the development of the Colville Mountain area. This included the development of a recreation management plan and the development of over 4 miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails. These accomplishments are in part because of the large amount of volunteer effort local citizens have provided.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Tri County Economic Development District for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Koffel".

Jeff Koffel
Executive Director
Tri County Economic Development District

STEVENS COUNTY LAND SERVICES

May 19, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

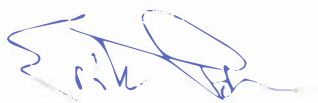
Stevens County Land Services would like to lend its support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for residents. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

The Colville area is an import component of the Stevens County area and has long been an economic hub within the County. Adding this important access property will enhance the recreational opportunities in the area and is consistent with Stevens County's Comprehensive Plan. Stevens County Land Services looks forward to working with the City of Colville and other stake holds to ensure this property is developed in a way that provide diverse recreational opportunities for the residents of Colville, Stevens County and all of our frequent visitors.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Stevens County Land Services for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,



Erik Johansen
Land Services Director
Stevens County

Building Divison: (509) 684-8325
FAX: (509) 685-0674

TTY: (800) 833-6388

Planning Division: (509) 684-2401
FAX: (509) 684-7525

MAILING ADDRESS: 215 S. Oak St. – Courthouse Annex • Colville, WA 99114
STREET ADDRESS: 260 S. Oak St. – Courthouse Annex • Colville, WA 99114

May 17, 2020

ROTARY CLUB OF COLVILLE

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

Rotary Club of Colville would like to lend its support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important and direct access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area. At present there is an easement through private land and no adequate place to park near the trailhead. With a steep climb to get to the trail.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. Many of our residents and club members access this trail on a daily basis. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area. At numerous times we encounter people from out of our area enjoying this beautiful trail with its spectacular Colville valley and nearby mountains views.

We appreciate all the hard work that has gone into making the trail and adding side trails to viewpoints. It is even more important as we are required to stay near home that we have natural areas close to the city for all to enjoy. In the future, we hope to also offer this trail to visitors and prospective residents who move into our area furthering the economic vitality of our area.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of *the Colville Rotary club* for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,
Leslie Waters, Colville Rotary president 2020-21



May 20, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

Providence Health Care Stevens Ministries would like to lend its support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

Physical activity is a crucial component of health and a healthy lifestyle. The beautiful Colville Mountain setting adds to whole person health by touching one's mind, body, and spirit. Often, hospitals and clinics care for the sick but we also believe strongly in prevention and health for a better world.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Providence Health Care Stevens Ministries for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Rehn, DHA".

Ronald G. Rehn, DHA, MPA, CMPE
Chief Administrative Officer
Providence Health Care Stevens County Ministries



MATT SCHANZ, ADMINISTRATOR
SAMUEL A. ARTZIS, M.D., HEALTH OFFICER

May 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO):

Northeast Tri County Health District would like to lend its support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a critical access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is an important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for a healthy community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

From a public health perspective, the further development of Colville Mountain recreation area will provide readily accessible opportunities for human powered activities such hiking, mountain biking, and snow shoeing. These recreational opportunities can have a direct and positive impact on the overall health of area residents. From a recent community health needs assessment completed in 2018/2019, availability of recreational opportunities for families and youth were identified by area residents as a key element for improvement in the area. In addition, the City of Colville Strategic Plan (2017) identified improvement to outdoor recreational opponents as a as a key goal.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Northeast Tri County Health District for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,

Matt Schanz, Administrator

☐ **Stevens County** - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114

☐ **Administration Phone:** 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-1002

☐ **Community Health Phone:** 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-9878

☐ **Environmental Health Phone:** 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-8506

☐ **Ferry County** - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166

Phone: 509-775-3111, Fax: 509-775-2858

☐ **Pend Oreille County** - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156

Phone: 509-447-3131, Fax: 509-447-5644

May 21, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

I am a 46 year resident of the Colville area and would like to lend my support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

Colville Mountain is beautiful. As you drive into town as I did 46 years ago, it immediately draws your attention and invites you to explore the mountain. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

More importantly, Colville Mountain is explored, hiked, and visited by many residents and visitors alike. I am currently the Chair of the Colville American Association of University Women and I know a number of our members are frequent visitors to the Mountain to take a hike or walk. As the retired Secretary of Health for the state, I know this area enhancement will add to the well-being of individuals and the community.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary C. Selecky
Retired Secretary of Health
1610 Highway 20 East
Colville, WA 99114

May 15th, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO):

As a citizen of the City of Colville as well as a local elected official, I would like to lend my support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain Recreation Area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for residents. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be a great asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

I have been hiking Colville Mountain for years and have seen the amazing improvements the City of Colville and the Colville Mountain group have made. From officially designating the Colville Mountain Recreation Area, to the amazing development of new trails; not to mention setting much needed guidelines (no hunting, no motor vehicles). Subsequently, the Mountain has become a highly frequented, and greatly loved outdoor recreation option for the citizens of Colville and the surrounding area; it's literally right out our back door! To be able to create a City-owned and managed access point for the Recreation Area would be a huge benefit to the continued development of the Mountain.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of the City and the citizens of Colville for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,



Mallory Conner
Citizen / City Councilor, Ward II
City of Colville

Colville School District 115

A Lifetime of Learning

May 18, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

As superintendent of the Colville School District, I am writing in support of the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for everyone. As the trail system improves it will continue to be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

Colville School District is interested in additional trail opportunities for our student staff and community members. Currently we have granted trail access on district property so that eventually the Rotary Trail and the Colville Mountain Recreation Area will tie into a comprehensive trail system.

I am pleased to submit this letter of support on behalf of the Colville School District for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Respectfully,



Pete Lewis

Superintendent
Colville School District



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Colville
National
Forest

Headquarters Office
765 South Main
Colville, WA 99114
509-684-7000
Fax: 509-684-7280

Date: April 23, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

To Whom It May Concern:

The Colville National Forest supports the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application for the Colville Mountain Recreation Area. The City of Colville and Colville National Forest work together with other land managers and recreation interests on the Northeast Washington Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Team (NEWSTART) in collaborating and coordinating recreation and tourism-related efforts in the area. NEWSTART is currently working on a sustainable trails strategy for Northeast Washington. During the early part of this effort, the need for front-country, low-elevation, community-based trails has been identified. Since most of the existing trails in Northeast Washington are high-elevation, backcountry trails; community-based trails such as those on Colville Mountain help fill the need for trails that can be more easily accessed earlier in the year.

If the City of Colville is successful in receiving the land acquisition grant it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area, establishing the only direct legal access to the property from town. Gaining a permanent access/trailhead is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow a wider variety of users of all experience levels to access the Colville Mountain Recreation Area more easily. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for residents. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

CRAIG E. NEWMAN
Recreation, Engineering, Lands, Minerals,
Heritage and Hydropower Staff Officer





May 21, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance would like to lend its support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

Protecting these spaces and allowing recreational access is critical to the quality of life in our area. As urban areas continue to expand we must all do our part to assure future generations have the same outdoor recreational opportunities as we do.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Conley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Conley

President – Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Eastern Washington Chapter

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

REPUBLICAN LEADER,
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMMERCE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COUNTIES:
ASOTIN
COLUMBIA
FERRY
GARFIELD
LINCOLN
PEND OREILLE
SPOKANE
STEVENS
WALLA WALLA
WHITMAN

April 15, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

I ask for a full and fair consideration of the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a step-in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Washington State Legislature

May 19, 2020

Director Kaleen Cottingham
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Director Cottingham,

It is our pleasure to lend support to the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. We are excited at the potential of creating a new access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area!

It is our understanding that this is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain in maximizing access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. We are grateful to city leaders for the commitment they've shown to enhance accessibility to Colville Mountain, an iconic area, rich in local history. Their planning efforts will ensure that this safe, non-motorized alternative will be enjoyed by so many for years to come. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an even greater asset for the community's quality of life and will contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

It is our pleasure to submit this letter of support for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly Short".

Shelly Short
State Senator
7th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Kretz".

Joel Kretz
State Representative
7th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacquelin Maycumber".

Jacquelin Maycumber
State Representative
7th Legislative District



March 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Colville Land Acquisition Grant Application

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO),

Colville Together supports the City of Colville's land acquisition grant application. If successful in receiving these funds it would allow for the purchase of a very important access point to the Colville Mountain recreation area.

This is an important step in the development of Colville Mountain as it will allow greater access to a wider variety of users of all experience levels. Colville Mountain provides a safe non-motorized alternative for residents and tourists to enjoy. This area enhances the community of Colville and is a very important step in developing assets to increase the quality of life for resident. As recreation tourism continues to grow, Colville Mountain will be an asset for the community and contribute to the overall economic development of the area.

Colville Together is a Washington State Main Street Community focused on the revitalization and preservation of downtown Colville. Colville Mountain is just steps away from downtown Colville and it's many amenities. Colville Mountain is already an amazing asset to the community and draw for our visitors. With the further development of its trail system and new and improved trailheads with amenities, it will further our goals for outdoor recreation as a driving force for our local economy.

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Colville Together for the purchase of land to make Colville Mountain more accessible.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Shaw
Executive Director
Colville Together



May 22, 2020

RE: RCO #20-1656 2020 Grant, Snohomish County Parks Application/ Whitehorse Trail, Arlington to Trafton

Dear Members of the Snohomish County RCO # 20-1656 Program Advisory Board:

On behalf of the Executive Horse Council of Snohomish County, please accept this letter of support for the Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism's 2020 grant application to RCO #20-1656 for completion of the Whitehorse Trail between the Centennial Trail and Trafton trailhead.

The Executive Horse Council of Snohomish County (EHC) is a citizen-driven volunteer group with a mission to foster a vibrant equestrian future in the county. Meeting regularly, the group supports and advises parks staff in matters related to recreation and tourism initiatives involving horses. With a goal of greater public engagement and inclusion, the EHC welcomes anyone to join its "membership" – even if they do not have a horse. Working with parks staff and public officials on the development of equestrian-related projects, the horse council has encouraged practical additions/changes in the planning phase of projects that will be used by horse owners and enthusiasts, such as the new horse campground being planned for the Whitehorse Regional Trail. The EHC brings together equestrian leadership from a variety of riding disciplines and interests to help conserve and maintain existing equestrian riding areas, whether it be the horse trails at various county parks or the facilities at the Monroe fairgrounds.

We therefore enthusiastically support and encourage the Parks, Tourism & Recreation's application to RCO #20-1656 to acquire funds to complete the section of trail that connects the Centennial Trail to the Trafton trailhead. This is an exciting proposition for the equestrian community and the county as a whole. The expansion of this trail will benefit local riders and those who travel to our county for recreation on horseback, strengthening an important network of connected trails and local economies.

Thank you for your consideration of this important grant application. It represents a vision for today and for future generations of equestrians of a system of connected trails that can be experienced and enjoyed by all residents of Snohomish County – many whom will enjoy our beautiful Pacific Northwest trails from the back of a horse.

Sincerely,

Catherine Collins
EHC Chair

Amy Schuldt
EHC Vice Chair

May 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Funding for Whitehorse Trail in North Snohomish County

I am writing on behalf of the Trail Coalition of Snohomish County in regards to grant funding to repair a landslide on the Whitehorse Trail, about two miles east of Arlington.

The Whitehorse Trail was largely completed in 2018 and 2019 as an economic development strategy for the North Fork Stillaguamish River Valley after the unfortunate catastrophic slide near Oso in 2014.

After work on the Whitehorse Trail was started, another, smaller slide now blocks the trail between Arlington and Trafton.

We understand that things have changed with the whole COVID 19 crisis, but we believe the Whitehorse Trail project should be completed as economic stimulus is even more critical now.

To truly benefit Arlington and Darrington, and the communities of the Stillaguamish Valley, the Whitehorse Trail needs to be open from Arlington to Darrington.

The completed trail would also serve the health and well-being of the communities along this beautiful long-distance trail.

Thanks for considering this project in your funding for 2021.

**Sincerely,
Sarah Arney
Chair, Trail Coalition of Snohomish County
29709 203rd Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**
OF THE OLYMPIC PENINSULACLUB LOCATIONS:
Carroll C. Kendall Unit
Port Angeles Unit

August 10, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o RCO WWRP – Trails Grant Review Committee
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear RCO WWRP- Trails Grant Review Committee:

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula, I am excited to voice my support of the City of Port Angeles' Recreation Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails grant proposal to develop the first of two phases of non-motorized trail to complete the Race Street Trail. The Trail will provide a safe connection for children attending the Club to Franklin Elementary School, the Olympic National Park, Civic Field, and the Dream Playground, proposed pump track, and skate park at Erikson Park.

The Boys & Girls Club is currently constructing a 16,500 square foot, \$8.4 million dollar Clubhouse on Lauridsen Boulevard in very close proximity to the proposed Trail. Once completed, the new Clubhouse will provide support to over 300 children in the Port Angeles community through after school and all day summer programs, and camps. A trail that is ADA compliant, surfaced, and illuminated connecting to and from the Boys & Girls Club and destinations such as school, the public library and home is an invaluable civic addition to our community and the children who attend our Clubhouse. The Trail will provide the ability for staff to chaperone children from school and to various ranger-led activities at the National Park and Visitor Center in addition to outdoor activities at Erikson Park and Civic Field.

The City of Port Angeles is currently seeing a renaissance of public development, including a new public pool facility, public assistance housing, and a proposal to redevelop the large "Dream Playground" in Erikson Park where the Club serves summer meals to children 18 and under. Further investment in a non-motorized recreational trail along the Race Street corridor provides essential safe access to these public and recreation developments. Our organization agrees that the Race Street Trail fulfills the goals RCO WWRP – Trails Program and will provide invaluable safe recreational and environmental access for children in Port Angeles for generations to come.

Sincerely,

*Mary Budke*Mary Budke,
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula

August 10, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o RCO WWRP – Trails Grant Review Committee
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917



Dear RCO WWRP- Trails Grant Review Committee:

As Chairman of Port Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee I am happy to voice my support of the City of Port Angeles' Recreation Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails grant proposal to develop the first of two phases of non-motorized trail to complete a spur of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) within city limits. The bicycle advisory committee has worked in concrete with the City of Port Angeles to secure a bronze designation as a bicycle friendly community through the League of American Bicyclists, and organize May's Bike-Month and bike-to-work events.

As a member of the League of American Bicyclists, the Bicycle Advisory Committee has been involved in the public outreach and organization for several multimodal projects within the City of Port Angeles, including Race Street. Our support is for attainment of safe and attractive bicycle facilities that our community as well as visitors can use for daily as well as recreational needs. The amount and diversity of bicycle related recreational facilities in Port Angeles is vast, yet there are still gaps in the system which prohibit many types and demographics of bicycle riders from utilizing these facilities in their entirety with a feeling of safety or enjoyment. Race Street is currently a major gap that is both heavily trafficked and full of destinations for recreational and commuter bicycle travel for all ages.

The City of Port Angeles acts as an important transportation gateway to the Olympic National Park, and many of our visitors and employees will benefit from the alternative access this trail provides. The Park appreciates the investment in our community's access to recreation and fully supports the City of Port Angeles as they seek funding that will provide a much needed non-motorized recreational trail along the Race Street corridor. Our organization knows that the Race Street Trail within Port Angeles fulfills the goals RCO WWRP – Trails Program and will further recreational and environmental access on the Olympic Peninsula and in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Randall McCoy

Chairman, Clallam County/Port Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee – Co-Founder, Port Angeles Likes Bikes – Founder, Active Transportation Advocacy of Port Angeles – Lifetime Member, Peninsula Trails Coalition – Fulltime Member, Cascade Bicycle Club



Spearheading the Vision of the Olympic Discovery Trail since 1988

P.O. Box 1836, Port Angeles, WA 98362
 info@olympicdiscoverytrail.org
 OlympicDiscoveryTrail.org



Recreation and Conservation Office
 c/o RCO WWRP – Trails Grant Review Committee
 P.O. Box 40917
 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

August 7, 2020

Dear RCO WWRP- Trails Grant Review Committee:

The Peninsula Trails Coalition enthusiastically and wholeheartedly supports the City of Port Angeles' RCO/WWRP Trails grant proposal to develop the first of two phases of non-motorized, multi-modal trail to connect the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) to the Olympic National Park (ONP) Visitor and Backcountry Information Center. The overall project will provide a critical direct link between two of the Olympic Peninsula's foremost recreation assets, the ODT and ONP, from within the Peninsula's largest city and in proximity to its international connection to Victoria, BC via the Blackball Ferry. Race Street is an important, but unsafe, transportation route for local bicyclists. But further, those traveling cyclists and hikers touring the ODT and the Peninsula currently have no safe route to the ONP Visitor Center from the ODT. The proposed trail will take users off the very busy Race Street corridor and onto an AASHTO and ADA compliant trail with virtually 360-degrees of scenic views of the Olympic Mountains, Peabody Creek, the Port Angeles Harbor and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The Port Angeles Waterfront and Olympic Discovery Trail averages 400,000 travelers per year and the City of Port Angeles has partnered with the Peninsula Trails Coalition since 1988 in its development. Port Angeles has shown its dedication to the development of the ODT through the City and the recognition of 400,000 travelers this trail sees regionally every year. Much of what has been achieved thus far is made possible through the partnership between our organization and the City, its staff, and our volunteers.

The ODT continues to see completion to many of the final remaining gaps in the trail. As those gaps close, expansion of the trail providing increased connection to the ODT within communities is the next logical step in the trail's progression. The Peninsula Trails Coalition fully supports the City of Port Angeles as they seek funding that will provide a non-motorized recreational trail along the Race Street corridor. Our organization knows that the Race Street Trail is a perfect fit for the RCO WWRP – Trails program and fully supports the City in its application for the grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Bohman".

Jeffrey R. Bohman, Board President



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, Washington 98362-6798

August 6, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o RCO WWRP – Trails Grant Review Committee
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear RCO WWRP - Trails Grant Review Committee:

It is my pleasure as Superintendent of Olympic National Park (ONP) to write a letter in support of the City of Port Angeles' (City) Recreation Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails grant proposal. The project is to develop the first of two phases of non-motorized trail along Race Street. The terminus destination of the trail will be the Olympic National Park Visitor and Wilderness Information Center.

The Port Angeles Race Street Trail will provide an important non-motorized connection between the park's primary Visitor Center and the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT), which also travels within the boundaries of Olympic National Park at several locations. This connection will maintain continuous safe connection for non-motorized users into the national park and local elementary school children. In 2019 125,000 vehicles were counted at the fee collection station at the Hurricane Ridge entrance that seasonally comprises a large portion of the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) traveling along Race Street.

This project will mitigate many of the difficulties experienced by pedestrians, bicyclists, and especially those with mobility impairments along Race Street and provide universal access to the ONP Visitor Center for all mobility types. Port Angeles has shown its support for the development of the ODT through the City and the value the trail brings to over 400,000 regional travelers every year. Much of what has been accomplished thus far was made possible through the partnership between ONP and the City. The City has ensured that we have been included and able to provide input throughout the design process.

This is a time of great momentum and there is a lot of community excitement for making this needed investment in our community. Olympic National Park fully supports the City of Port Angeles as they seek funding that will provide a non-motorized recreational trail along Race Street, Peabody Creek, and Olympic National Park. The Race Street project embodies what the RCO WWRP – Trails Program is seeking to deliver.

Sincerely,

M. Sarah Creachbaum
Superintendent



August 3, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

SUBJ: Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
WWRP Grant Application – Cushman Trail 14th Avenue – 24th Street
Letter of Support

Dear RCO Funding Board:

The City of Gig Harbor offers this letter of support for Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant application in the Trails Category for the extension of Cushman Trail from 14th Avenue to 24th Street NW.

The City of Gig Harbor and PenMet Parks each have a permit from Tacoma Public Utilities for the use of the Cushman Powerline that provides a recreation and transportation corridor through the Gig Harbor Peninsula, and we partner on the maintenance of the Cushman Trail.

The Cushman Trail is important to our community and is referenced in the City of Gig Harbor Parks and Recreation Plan.

PenMet's development of the Community Recreation Center will be a valuable community resource and routing the trail away from the traffic on 14th Avenue will be an important safety component.

The City of Gig whole-heartedly supports this grant application and looks forward to this new extension.

Sincerely,



Kit Kuhn
Mayor
City of Gig Harbor



Pierce County *Parks*

EVERYDAY ADVENTURES

Lakewood Community Center
9112 Lakewood Dr SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

August 6, 2020

Dear RCFB,

Pierce County Parks supports the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's grant application for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funding for the Cushman Trail extension from 14th Ave to 24th St. This project will improve regional trail connections and will provide sustainable transportation alternatives and healthy outdoor recreation opportunities for nearby communities.

Pierce County Parks strives to realize a vision of "a county of healthy people living happy lives" through parks, open space, and access to trails. Extending regional trails and opportunities for walking and hiking is consistently identified as a top priority for residents of Pierce County. Expansion of the Cushman Trail is identified in Pierce County's 2020 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan as a regional partnership need.

This Cushman Trail project represents an important next step in the continuing efforts to build the Cushman Trail. Pierce County Parks strongly encourages the funding and implementation of this project and we look forward to supporting the project as a partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brianne Blackburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brianne Blackburn
Trails Coordinator
(253) 798-4261

Brianne.Blackburn@piercecountywa.gov



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

August 6, 2020

Executive Officers

Terry Reid

President

Alan Carter Mortimer

Vice President/Secretary

George Walk

Treasurer

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: 20-1867D – Cushman Trail 14th Ave – 24th St

Board Members

Mary Dodsworth

Eric Guenther

Roxanne Miles

Bob Myrick

Shawn Phelps

Dear RCFB,

ForeverGreen Trails supports the Peninsula Metropolitan (PenMet) **Park District's** Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant application in the Trails Category for the extension of Cushman Trail from 14th Ave to 24th St NW.

Advisory Board

Chris Beale

Gary Cooper

Sarah Harris

Megan Jendrick

Chip Jenkins

Kirk Kirkland

Terry Lee

Kim Oman

Barbara Skinner

Shon Sylvia

Robert Thoms

ForeverGreen Trails works to facilitate development, use, and stewardship of a system of trails linking all the communities in Pierce County. We work closely with the municipalities and park districts in the county. Gig Harbor and PenMet Parks lease the Cushman Powerline Trail from Tacoma Public Utilities to provide a recreation and transportation corridor through the Gig Harbor Peninsula.

The trail extension in this grant application will enable the trail to reach the 24th St, Highway 16 overpass at the westbound exit ramp's traffic signal. The trail is important to help fill a gap between the existing Cushman Trail and the Scott Pierson Trail across the Narrows Bridge from Tacoma.

Staff

Dr. Jane Moore

Executive Director

Larry Leveen

Project &

Communications

Coordinator

This extension will provide access to **PenMet's developing** Community Recreation Center, a valuable community resource. Routing the trail away from the traffic on 14th Ave will be an important safety component.

ForeverGreen Trails and PenMet Parks have partnered to plan and extend the Cushman Trail in the past, and we look forward with support for this new extension.

We encourage and welcome the support of the RCFB, too. We urge you to consider this application favorably.

Sincerely,

Jane Moore
Executive Director

Kurt Grimmer
Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission
2903 65th Avenue Ct NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

August 14, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
(360) 902-3000

Subject: 20-1782 & 20-1798 – Narrows West Acquisition
Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (PenMet Parks) – Gig Harbor, WA

Dear RCFB,

The Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission (TNAAC) supports the PenMet Parks Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Applications for the acquisition of the Narrows West property, also known as Eagles Ridge, owned by Sound Built Homes.

The TNAAC provides a community voice and advice to the Pierce County Council on airport management, operations, and related activities.

The acquisition of the Narrows West property will be valuable to our community, providing open space, habitat protection, trails for a variety of users, other recreational opportunities including disc golf, and allow for connectivity from the airport down to Narrows Park's waterfront.

Parks and properly managed environmental conservation areas are some of the best possible land uses when considering compatible land use adjacent to airports to ensure appropriate noise buffers can be in place between airport activity and residential properties.

In addition, PenMet's development of the Community Recreation Center on 14th Ave NW will be a valuable community resource by routing the Cushman Trail through the site away from traffic. This will be an important safety component for those users either heading to the Narrows Park and the Airport on foot or bicycle.

The TNAAC has worked with PenMet Parks on past projects, and we look forward with support for this new acquisition. We believe it enhances the amenities at the Airport and will encourage the community to visit the Antique Airplane Museum, the airport restaurant, and the Rotary Aviation Zone platform.

We encourage and welcome the support of the RCFB.

Sincerely,

Kurt Grimmer, Chairman
TNAAC
253-312-3460



August 15, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
(360) 902-3000

Subject: 20-1867D – Cushman Trail 14th Ave – 24th St

Dear RCFB,

The Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club supports the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant application in the Trails Category for the extension of Cushman Trail from 14th Ave to 24th St NW.

About 1990 or so, I suggested to Claudia Peters, Pierce County Trails Coordinator, that we might have an opportunity for a trail along the Cushman Powerline. Claudia lived near Gig Harbor and had horses so she understood the importance of having a trail. I had mountain biked the easy part leading to Gig Harbor.

Claudia received permission from Jan Wolcott, Pierce County Parks Director, to pursue the trail. Claudia asked Tacoma Power five times for the Trail and she was rejected each time. She came to my office at Tacoma Water each time. We agreed she should go in and announce she was going to the Tacoma News Tribune to plead for a trail.

Tacoma Power granted the easement and required it to be 16 feet wide to accommodate the big Line Trucks. The rest is history. Claudia got her trail.

Very truly yours,

Bob Myrick
TWBC Director of Community and Government Relations



PARC Foundation of Thurston County

723 Eastside Street NE Olympia, WA 98506

www.parcfoundation.org

info@parcfoundation.org

EIN 91-1928020

April 25, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Yelm Prairie Line Trail Phase 2 development

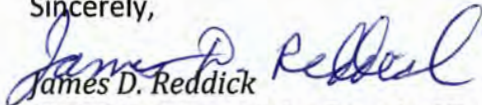
RCO WWRP Grant Review Team:

The PARC Foundation is writing in support the City of Yelm's 2018 RCO grant Yelm Prairie Line Trail Phase 2 development request. This project will develop about 1.25 miles of trail in Thurston County and cross the Nisqually River to Pierce County (and eventually, in a later phase, to the City of Roy). The need for, and value of, this trail corridor is supported by the following facts:

- Increased opportunities for physical activity in Yelm community and for other Thurston County residents
- Extends opportunities for physical activity from other Thurston County Trails to trails in Pierce County
- Besides recreational opportunities, the trail extension would provide conservation, economic development, and transportation benefits
- The trail extension is in the Thurston Regional Planning Trail Plan 2019 Update for Yelm and Thurston County
- The trail will provide consistency between trail use and land use
- It will provide User Safety and Trail Security by finishing the trail from Yelm, WA to Roy, WA
- This trail will continue multi-modal, ADA-compatible access from Yelm, WA to Roy, WA and other parts of Thurston County and Pierce County

Thank you for considering this worthy 2020 Yelm RCO WWRP grant application.

Sincerely,


James D. Reddick

Vice-President of the Board of Trustees
PARC Foundation of Thurston County, WA
723 Eastside Street NE
Olympia, WA 98506

www.parcfoundation.org

www.capitotobayrelay.org

info@parcfoundation.org

360-352-0980

360-338-1838

cc: Yelm Mayor J.W. Foster



E-mail:

foothills-trail@msn.com

Website:

www.piercecountytrails.org

Officers

President Stuart Scheuerman
 Vice President Bill Hilton
 Treasurer Loras Gassmann
 Secretary Jeremiah Meacham
 Past President John Downs

Remembered Presidents

Ernie Bay

Buzz Grant

Board Members

Bryan Bowden

Steve Brown

Dan Bucci

Dixie Gatchel

Pat Johnson

Nicole Martineau

Matt McCollum

John Peachey

Donald (Don) Rich

Dave Seago

John Selby

John Warhol

Ken Woolery

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

April 08, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
 PO Box 40917
 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: Support Letter to RCO for Pierce County's Pipeline Trail Design Project

Dear RCO Review Committee


I am writing on behalf of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC) to express our enthusiastic and appreciative support for Pierce County's referenced project to move forward with preliminary design for the Pipeline Trail. The proposed design addresses most of the dangerous safety and access issues on the trail segment between 72 St. E. and Waller Road and 94th to Heritage Recreation Center.

FRTTC is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our mission is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound. We have adhered to that mission faithfully, in partnership with Pierce County Parks and other trail supporters, starting with passage of the ordinance establishing the Foothills Trail in 1990.

If fully implemented, the proposed safety, equity and access improvements will be transformative, not only for the estimated 35,000 underserved eastside community residents, but also provide significant alternative mode of active transportation and health benefits for residents throughout the Puget Sound area.

Our members look forward to future plans to link the Pipeline, Tahoma to Tacoma and Foothills Trails to the 50-mile course of our 18th annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay which has been rescheduled for August 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus scourge.

Best Regards and Stay Safe


 Stuart "Stu" Scheuerman, President

Phone: (253) 405-5129

Email: snese01@msn.com



950 Pacific Ave, Suite 300 | Tacoma, WA 98402
253-259-9421 | kristinaw@downtownonthe-go.org

March 25, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Pipeline Trail

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing to express Downtown On the Go's enthusiastic support of Pierce County's funding proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the Pipeline Trail.

Downtown On the Go is the transportation advocate and resource for anyone whose life is in downtown Tacoma. We work across sectors to make Tacoma a better place to walk, bike, and take transit. We support the community to speak up for the transportation projects that are most important to them and the Pipeline Trail has long been a pivotal connection for the Pierce County region.

We are fully supportive of Pierce County's effort to complete the Pipeline Trail. In addition to completing a key connection for our region, this trail will further serve Salishan and the Eastside, which are some of Tacoma's most diverse communities. In Tacoma's Eastside, the American Native population is double that of the rest of Tacoma, and both the African-American and Asian communities have a larger representation there compared to the rest of Tacoma. This is also an area that is disproportionately impacted by traffic violence where more people are hit by cars while walking and biking compared to other areas of Tacoma.

A health and economic benefits report produced by the Puyallup Watershed Initiative in 2016, showed \$1 million in annual health benefits, \$2.4 million in annual transportation benefits and \$2 million in annual economic benefits if the Pipeline Trail were fully developed. An important part of these benefits will be in the connection to the Tacoma Dome Station. Improving equity of access to our current and growing transit system will improve daily life for all Tacomans and Pierce County residents.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Walker".

Kristina Walker
Executive Director
Downtown On the Go



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

Executive Officers

Terry Reid

President

Alan Carter Mortimer

Vice President/Secretary

George Walk

Treasurer

Board Members

Mary Dodsworth

Eric Guenther

Roxanne Miles

Bob Myrick

Shawn Phelps

Jackson Skinner

Advisory Board

Chris Beale

Gary Cooper

Scott Gallacher

Sarah Harris

Anders Ibsen

Megan Jendrick

Chip Jenkins

Kirk Kirkland

Terry Lee

Kim Oman

Barbara Skinner

Shon Sylvia

Staff

Dr. Jane Moore

Executive Director

Larry Leveen

Project &

Communications

Coordinator

April 2, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Grant Review Committee,

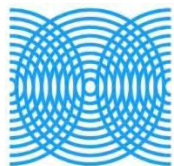
I am writing on behalf of ForeverGreen Trails to support Pierce County's grant application with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the Pipeline Trail.

This important project will extend a City of Tacoma trail into the unincorporated county, connecting several parks, and providing a greatly needed crossing of SR512. As one of the major spines of the planned regional trail network, the Pipeline Trail will provide improved non-motorized recreational access for all ages and abilities. It will also serve some of the most diverse and underserved communities in Pierce County. The Pierce County Parks Department, in its update to the ten-year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, made specific efforts to recognize and address longstanding inequities in recreation investment in such areas. ForeverGreen Trails has been a champion of improved equity-based investment throughout the plan update process and the Pipeline Trail is among the first projects since the Plan update to put this policy into practice.

We look forward to the project's completion and greater opportunity for people of all income levels and backgrounds to have convenient outdoor recreation options for their enjoyment and physical and mental health. Grant support from the RCO will go a long way toward helping this vision come true for the citizens of Pierce County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jane Moore,
Executive Director
ForeverGreen Trails



**Puyallup Watershed Initiative
Active Transportation
Community of Interest**

April 10, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Pipeline Trail

Dear RCO Review Committee:

The Puyallup Watershed Initiative's Active Transportation Community of Interest is writing to express their enthusiastic support of Pierce County's funding proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the Pipeline Trail.

The Puyallup Watershed Initiative's Active Transportation Community of Interest is a broad and inclusive partnership of many individuals and organizations interested in improving the health of the Watershed's people, environment, and economy. Our mission is to increase access to safe, healthy, and affordable active transportation options for people throughout the Watershed. We speak up for the transportation projects that are most important to our community and the Pipeline Trail has long been a pivotal connection for the Pierce County region.

We are fully supportive of Pierce County's effort to complete the Pipeline Trail. In addition to completing a key connection for our region, this trail will further serve Salishan and the Eastside, which are some of Tacoma's most diverse communities. In Tacoma's Eastside, the American Native population is double that of the rest of Tacoma, and both the African-American and Asian communities have a larger representation there compared to the rest of Tacoma. This is also an area that is disproportionately impacted by traffic violence where more people are hit by cars while walking and biking compared to other areas of Tacoma.

A health and economic benefits report produced by the Puyallup Watershed Initiative in 2016 showed \$1 million in annual health benefits, \$2.4 million in annual transportation benefits and \$2 million in annual economic benefits if the Pipeline Trail were fully developed. An important part of these benefits will be in the Trail's connection to the Tacoma Dome Station. Improving equity of access to our current and growing transit system will enhance daily life for all Tacomans and Pierce County residents.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,
Puyallup Watershed Initiative Active Transportation Community of Interest
Administrative Work Group



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

March 26, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Pierce County's Pipeline Trail Construction

Dear RCO Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of Pierce County's proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to develop the next phase of the Pipeline trail system.

Washington Trails Association represents 24,500 member households who work, play and volunteer on Washington state's recreation lands and trails. In 2019, 4,700 volunteers contributed 169,933 hours of trail maintenance on federal, state and local lands, roughly \$5 million in donated labor. WTA advocates on behalf of the hiking community to protect trails, public lands, and those that use them.

We are fully supportive of Pierce County's plan to continue development of the Pipeline Trail through final design and construction. This is the next step in implementing a comprehensive community driven trail plan for the Pipeline Trail. When completed the system will be a safe, paved, non-motorized, multi-use trail that will serve the communities of Tacoma and the South Hill area of Pierce County. This trail will provide new opportunities for commuters and recreationist alike by creating a connection between the Nathan Chapman Trail in South Hill and the already existing Pipeline Trail in Tacoma. It will also allow users to travel quickly and easily between several Tacoma and Pierce County parks including Swan Creek, Orangegate, and South Hill Community Park which all provide access to unique natural environments in the middle of busy urban areas. This project is a great opportunity to provide for the health, enjoyment and connectivity of these deserving communities.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrea J. Imler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director

**E-mail:**

foothills-trail@msn.com

Website:

www.piercecountytrails.org

Officers

President Stuart Scheuerman
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Dixie Gatchel

Pat Johnson

Nicole Martineau

Matt McCollum

John Peachey

Donald (Don) Rich

Dave Seago

John Selby

John Warhol

Ken Woolery

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

April 08, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
 PO Box 40917
 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: Support Letter to RCO for Pierce County's Pipeline Trail Design Project

Dear RCO Review Committee

I am writing on behalf of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC) to express our enthusiastic and appreciative support for Pierce County's referenced project to move forward with preliminary design for the Pipeline Trail. The proposed design addresses most of the dangerous safety and access issues on the trail segment between 72 St. E. and Waller Road and 94th to Heritage Recreation Center.

FRTTC is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our mission is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for all people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound. We have adhered to that mission faithfully, in partnership with Pierce County Parks and other trail supporters, starting with passage of the ordinance establishing the Foothills Trail in 1990.

If fully implemented, the proposed safety, equity and access improvements will be transformative, not only for the estimated 35,000 underserved eastside community residents, but also provide significant alternative mode of active transportation and health benefits for residents throughout the Puget Sound area.

Our members look forward to future plans to link the Pipeline, Tahoma to Tacoma and Foothills Trails to the 50-mile course of our 18th annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay which has been rescheduled for August 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus scourge.

Best Regards and Stay Safe

Stuart "Stu" Scheuerman, President
 Phone: (253) 405-5129
 Email: snese01@msn.com



May 21, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept EarthCorps' enthusiastic letter of support for the renovation of the Boardwalk Trail at Scriber Lake Park in the City of Lynnwood.

EarthCorps is a 27-year-old nonprofit conservation corps working with communities throughout western Washington to restore parks and natural areas. Our crews are passionate young adults that live locally, nationally and from around the world, and join EarthCorps for 6-10 month periods of time to serve the Puget Sound communities while learning valuable job skills in the field of ecological restoration. In addition, crew members learn valuable leadership and community building skills that they in turn practice amongst themselves and when leading volunteer events.

This project will transform Scriber Lake Park, a run-down and under-programmed greenspace in the city's most underserved neighborhood, into an outdoor oasis suitable for families of all ages and abilities. To ensure the park renovations meets the community's needs, the City of Lynnwood has partnered with EarthCorps for vegetation management planning and community engagement to begin volunteer service to help establish a stewardship program. The result will be a well-loved park that fosters active lifestyles and builds community for generations to come.

EarthCorps is pleased to support the renovation of the Boardwalk Trail in Scriber Lake Park. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at steve@earthcorps.org Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Dubiel, Executive Director



June 16, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept the Verdant Health Commission's letter of support for the renovation of the Boardwalk Trail at Scriber Lake Park in Lynnwood. As a partner of the City of Lynnwood's, we recognize the significant needs of this park trail and look forward to future collaborations in this space after renovation is complete.

The Verdant Health Commission is the program of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, and our mission to improve the health and well-being of our whole community focuses on health access, education, prevention, and advocacy. Lynnwood is part of our service area and also the physical location of our office and community wellness center. We collaborate with the City of Lynnwood on a number of programs including South County Walks, a summertime community walking program in which we utilize the Boardwalk Trail at Scriber Lake Park as a portion of our route. I can personally attest to the need for improvements in this space and look forward to seeing the City take a step forward with this work upon receiving the grant.

With this grant, the City of Lynnwood has the opportunity to transform an under-utilized greenspace in the city's most underserved and fast-changing neighborhood into a community treasure reflective of current needs. Within the 10-minute walkshed of Scriber Lake Park, 68% of households are low-income, 80% of residents are minorities (53% are Hispanic), and 25% of residents are children. The park's vital trail system is in dire need of renovation: the existing wood and soft-surface trail is decaying and sinking into the lake, the trail connections to the overwater boardwalk are uneven, frequently flooded and often impassable, and the lookout locations have been closed for safety reasons. By rebuilding this amenity into the Boardwalk Trail, the park will reconnect the community to their local greenspace, promote active lifestyles, and strengthen community ties.

Verdant is pleased to support the renovation of the Boardwalk Trail in Scriber Lake Park. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 425-582-8558 or jennifer.piplic@verdanthealth.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Piplic
Interim Superintendent



July 1, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear evaluation committee members:

Please accept the Lynnwood Parks & Recreation Foundation's letter of support for the renovation of the Boardwalk Trail at Scriber Lake Park in Lynnwood.

As the chief partner with the City of Lynnwood's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department, we support and facilitate fundraising for program scholarships and capital project improvements to Lynnwood's Parks. Our core mission is to promote and support parks, trails and recreation programs in Lynnwood through public/private partnerships. We have been a key partner with the City of Lynnwood on several capital projects by leveraging local support. For example, we recently used a major gift from a family trust as a local match for state historic grant allowing the City to complete the renovation of the water tower at Heritage Park.

Our support at Scriber Lake Park will be on-going as we have established a dedicated fund for the "Friends of Scriber Lake Park" which will support fundraising efforts for a variety of projects needed at the park. The new Friends group will be a cadre of park stewards, volunteers, and donors who support making the park the best it can be to provide access to nature and physical activity in a densely populated and growing neighborhood.

With this grant, the City of Lynnwood has the opportunity to transform an under-utilized greenspace in the city's most underserved and fast-changing neighborhood into a community treasure reflective of current needs. Scriber Lake Park is a green oasis of nature providing tree canopy, shade, trails, and exploration for the neighborhood residents. The children of the families that live around this park all attend Cedar Valley Elementary which is the lowest income school in the entire school district with 79% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. The park's vital trail system with floating dock and overwater lookouts are in dire need of renovation. This system provides the only public water access and fishing in all of Lynnwood. The park's bog-lake, wetlands, and forested areas offer unique biodiversity and habitat in Lynnwood. By improving this park and creating a universally-accessible trail with overlooks, the park will reconnect the community to their local greenspace, promote active lifestyles, and strengthen community ties.

Our Foundation is pleased to support the renovation of the overwater lookouts in Scriber Lake Park. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 425-670-5501 or lsordel@lynnwoodwa.gov. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn D. Sordel".

Lynn D. Sordel
Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation



President
Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Immediate Past President
Tod McDonald (*), Co-Founder, Valid8 Financial

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Program Committee Chair
Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers

Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

May 26, 2020

Washington State Recrea
P.O. Bx 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

va

Dear WWRP Project Evalua

ee members,

Please accept strong support from the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust for the request from the City of Bellevue for funding to construct a trail segment east of Mercer Slough Nature Park on 118th Avenue SE. This trail segment between SE 32nd Street and Interstate 90 in Bellevue is the key element needed to create a planned c between the Eastrail - which King County Parks is developing - and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail.

The Eastrail is a 42-mile former rail corridor that runs north-south from Renton through Bellevue, Kirkland and Woodinville to Snohomish County, with a spur to Redmond. Developmen al corridor will transf e transforma ough the rapidly-growing c t of Lake Washington.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspir o conserve and enhance the landscape from Sea oss the Cascade Mountains to Central Washingt al part of this mission is our strong support for a comprehensive transporta ystem with connected regional trails and pedestrian walkways, in order to improve transporta op ork environments and quality of life, incr or recrea improve public health and reduce tra onges eenhouse gas emissions.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail represen al east-west route from the Sea aterfront, along Interstate 90 over Lake Washington to Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Issaquah, with future c o the rural c eston and Snoqualmie. From there, recrea ers and commuters can travel on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, and eventually head to Ellensburg and across Washington State.

Filling this missing link in Bellevue is essen o major trails via the proposed SE 32nd St./118th Av w users to move legibly, safely, and rela ely e tly between the two major trails and thus grea ails.

Trails separated from tra astrail and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail, a act a range of users, from daily bicycle commuters to families on week o nearby residents out for walks. Separa om vehicle tra acteris these f ey element of their appeal. The 118th Ave. SE trail proposed by Bellevue will link these two regional trails and their associated c omfort, separated facility suited to users with a rang vels. The trail c along 118th Av tanding gap in the internal trail system for Mercer Slough Nature Park and the City of Bellevue's Lake to Lake Trail.

We urge your though onsidera ant and well-conceived trail c at Mercer Slough Nature Park and 118th Avenue SE in Bellevue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Brockhaus, Deputy Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DeLoa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley Leadership Team
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David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President, CH2M Hill
Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyft
Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington
Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle
Alison Washburn, Store Manager, Bellevue REI Co-op
Joel Yoker, Principal Program Manager, Microsoft; Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director





King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Division of Parks and Recreation

King Street Center Building

KSC-NR-0700

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4571

Fax 206-588-8011

May 28, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

1111 Washington St SE

Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Evaluation Committee members,

King County Parks strongly supports the request by the City of Bellevue for funding to construct a trail segment east of Mercer Slough Nature Park on 118th Avenue SE. This trail segment between SE 32nd Street and I-90 is the key element needed to create a planned connection between the Eastrail that King County Parks is developing and the Mountains to Sound Trail. This is an important connection for the overall Regional Trails network and will make it more accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

The Eastrail is a 42-mile former rail corridor that runs north-south from Renton through Bellevue, Kirkland and Woodinville to Snohomish County, with a spur to Redmond. The Mountains to Sound Trail is a 100-mile route that runs east-west from the Seattle waterfront along I-90 to Mercer Island, Bellevue, Issaquah, Preston, Snoqualmie, North Bend and across Snoqualmie Pass to Thorp. Linking these two major trails via the proposed SE 32nd St./118th Ave. SE Connection will allow users to move legibly, safely, and relatively efficiently between the two major trails and thus greatly enhance the utility of both trails.

Separated trails, such as the Eastrail and the Mountains to Sound Trail, attract a range of users, from daily bicycle commuters to families on weekend outings to nearby residents out for walks. Separation from vehicle traffic is a defining characteristic of these facilities and a key element of their appeal. The 118th Ave. SE trail proposed by Bellevue will link these two regional trails and their associated communities with a high-comfort, separated facility suited to users with a range of abilities and skill levels. The trail connection along 118th Ave. SE will also fill a long-standing gap in the internal trail system for Mercer Slough Nature Park and the City of Bellevue's Lake to Lake Trail. We urge your thoughtful consideration of this important and well-conceived trail connection at Mercer Slough Nature Park and 118th Avenue SE.

Sincerely,

Jean E. White

Jean White

Regional Trails Program Manager



7787 62nd Avenue NE Seattle, 98115-8155

May 29, 2020

P: (206) 224-9252 - www.cascade.org - info@cascade.org

Project Evaluation Committee
Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails Category
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Re: Support for Bellevue application to the RCO grant for Eastrail to MST Connector

Dear Evaluation Committee Members:

I am pleased to write in support of the City of Bellevue's Washington State Recreation and Conservation (RCO) grant application to construct a trail segment east of Mercer Slough Nature Park on 118th Avenue SE. Cascade Bicycle Club is the nation's largest statewide bicycle nonprofit, and we serve bike riders of all ages and abilities throughout the State of Washington. With a mission to improve lives through bicycling, we teach the joys of bicycling and advocate for safe places to ride. Connecting the Eastrail to the Mountains to Sound Trail is a long-term high priority for Cascade.

This trail segment between SE 32nd Street and I-90 is the key element needed to complete a planned connection between the Eastrail that King County Parks is developing and the Mountains to Sound Trail. Linking these two major trails will provide a multi-use path for bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, walkers, and movers of all ages and abilities while allowing those that don't feel comfortable riding in traffic a comfortable experience. Separation from vehicle traffic is a defining characteristic of these facilities and a key element of their appeal. The 118th Ave. SE trail proposed by Bellevue will link these two regional trails and their associated communities with a high-comfort, separated facility suited to users with a range of abilities and skill levels. The trail connection along 118th Ave. SE will also fill a long-standing gap in the internal trail system for Mercer Slough Nature Park and the City of Bellevue's Lake to Lake Trail.

Thanks for this opportunity to voice our support for the trail connection at Mercer Slough Nature Park and 118th Avenue SE.. Cascade strongly supports the completion of this project and we urge the state's RCO to fully fund your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicky Clarke', with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.

Vicky Clarke
Policy Director
Cascade Bicycle Club

May 29, 2020

Project Evaluation Committee
Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails Category
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Dear Evaluation Committee members,

Eastrail Partners writes today in strong supports of the request by the City of Bellevue for funding to construct a trail segment east of Mercer Slough Nature Park on 118th Avenue SE. This trail segment between SE 32nd Street and I-90 is the key element needed to create a planned connection between the Bellevue section of Eastrail that King County Parks is developing and the Mountains to Sound Trail. This trail connection is a key component to rural-to-urban trail connections both east-west with the Mountains to Sound Trail and north-south with the Eastrail.

Championing urban greenspace, transportation alternatives, and economic development, Eastrail Partners brings together communities, the private sector, governments, and nonprofits to make the vision for the completed Eastrail a reality. The Eastrail is a 42-mile former rail corridor that runs south-north from Renton through Bellevue, Kirkland and Woodinville to Snohomish County, with a spur to Redmond.

The Mountains to Sound Trail is a 100-mile route that runs east-west from the Seattle waterfront along I-90 to Mercer Island, Bellevue, Issaquah, Preston, Snoqualmie, North Bend and across Snoqualmie Pass to Thorp. Linking these two major trails via the proposed SE 32nd St./118th Ave. SE Connection will allow users to move legibly, safely, and relatively efficiently between the two major trails and thus greatly enhance the utility of both trails.

Separated trails, such as the Eastrail and the Mountains to Sound Trail, attract a range of users, from daily bicycle commuters to families on weekend outings to nearby residents out for walks. Separation from vehicle traffic is a defining characteristic of these facilities and a key element of their appeal. The 118th Ave. SE trail proposed by Bellevue will link these two regional trails and their associated communities with a high-comfort, separated facility suited to users with a range of abilities and skill levels. The trail connection along 118th Ave. SE will also fill a long-standing gap in the internal trail system for Mercer Slough Nature Park and the City of Bellevue's Lake to Lake Trail.

We urge your thoughtful consideration of this important and well-conceived trail connection at Mercer Slough Nature Park and 118th Avenue SE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Katherine Hollis", is positioned above the typed name.

Katherine Hollis,
Executive Director, Eastrail Partners



August 6, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

**RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
Trails Project #20-1495A – Evergreenway Route – Phase 1 North Bend Connection**

Dear WWRP Advisory Committee and RCO Funding Board,

On behalf of the City of North Bend, I am writing to clearly state our support of the Department of Natural Resource's grant to develop a 5.65 mile new community trail connection, linking the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to downtown North Bend, to Tennant Trailhead Park, and further to the Raging River State Forest trail system. The City of North Bend's economy is heavily driven by outdoor recreation tourism. The hiking and biking community represents a large portion of our visitors. This grant opportunity will provide significant enhancement of the trail system that will heavily benefit hiking and mountain bike recreation and help establish the I-90 corridor as Puget Sound's outdoor recreation destination. This also provides connection for neighborhoods and citizens of North Bend to access the thousands of acres of public land in the Snoqualmie Valley and soon to be 45 miles of the Raging River State Forest Trail system.

Funding this proposal will increase the quality of recreation experience for visitors accessing trails from Interstate 90, Exit #27, Snoqualmie Point Trailhead, increase Tourism/visitation, and increase economic development for the local community, including North Bend.

After the opening of the Raging River Trail system, our City noticed a benefit in outdoor recreation tourism as a result of the new trail system opening and we look forward to building a connection to this trail system to the City of North Bend.

We look forward to DNR being awarded this grant and our city securing funding for Phase 2 of the Evergreenway Route and connecting to Phase 1 of the Evergreenway Route. Thank you for the opportunity to support this proposed project.

Sincerely,

CITY OF NORTH BEND

Rob McFarland
Mayor



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4527 Fax 206-588-8011
TTY Relay: 711

August 7, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
Trails Project #20-1495A – Evergreenway Route – Phase 1 North Bend Connection

Dear WWRP Advisory Committee and RCO Funding Board:

I am writing on behalf of King County Parks and Recreation Division to express our enthusiastic support for Washington Department of Natural Resources' (WADNR) grant application to construct the highest priority missing connection of the Evergreenway Route connecting downtown North Bend to Tennant Trailhead Park and the Raging River State Forest.

King County Parks and Recreation Division of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) co-own the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. Our two agencies have been working together at Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area and the Snoqualmie Valley for more than thirty years. This partnership has been very successful in creating recreation opportunities and access in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. King County recently purchased critical conservation lands that were added to the RMSA and provides an opportunity for public access and a connection from the City of North Bend to the public land in the Scenic Area and the Raging River State Forest. The trail connection enhances recently acquired land by King County Parks and future trailhead development.

The proposed connection will help link a future 70-mile length Evergreenway Route, a regionally significant path with connectivity to future 45-mile trail system to the City of North Bend. This route links to King County Park's Snoqualmie Valley Trail, which is almost 32 miles long and meanders past working farms and preserve open space as well as provides connection to the cross-state Palouse to Cascades Trail. Over the last two decades the efforts in the Snoqualmie Valley have been transformed through land conservation acquisitions, cleanup, and recreation planning carried out via partnerships with government agencies, recreation groups and non-profits. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Kelly Heintz

Kelly Heintz



Issaquah Alps
TRAILS CLUB
— EST. 1979 —

20-1495 WWRP TR #15

August 8, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
Trails Project #20-1495A – Evergreenway Route – Phase 1 North Bend Connection

Dear WWRP Advisory Committee and RCO Funding Board:

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club strongly supports the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources “Evergreenway Route – Phase 1 North Bend Connection 2020 WWRP Trails Category, RCO #20-1495A” grant application which has been submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Office.

We are dedicated to engaging the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps for present and future generations. From our earliest days, the IATC had been a voice for the protection of not only trails but the open space through which they run, achieving many unprecedented conservation victories.

DNR will use this grant to develop a new community trail connection, which links the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to downtown North Bend, to Tennant Trailhead Park and the Raging River State Forest trail system. This segment is the highest priority of the 5 Evergreenway Route missing links which will connect the Raging River State Forest Trail system and make it even more accessible from the City of North Bend. The proposal will also eventually link to Issaquah with transit options in Preston, which will reduce trailhead congestion and improve adjacent community connectivity. This is a high-priority project identified for implementation during the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Planning Process completed in 2015.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club are consistent supporters of sustainable recreation in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. We have worked with the DNR to advocate to acquire and protect open space and promote the priceless value of the Issaquah Alps by leading hikes, maintaining trails, and partnering with other land management agencies.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this important project.

Sincerely,

David Dunphy, President
david.dunphy@issaquahalps.org

Lindsay Frickle, Executive Director
exec@issaquahalps.org



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Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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Program Committee Chair
Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers

Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

August 7, 2020

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American Whitewater
Amanda O'Rourke, CPA, Partner, Greenwood Ohlund & Co.
David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land
Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates
Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club,
Washington State Chapter
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AAA Washington
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Joel Yoker, President, Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and
Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

Washington State Recrea va CO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recrea ogram (WWRP)
Trails Project #20-1495A – Evergreenway Rout

Dear WWRP Advisor ee and RCO Funding Board:

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust strongly supports the Washington State Dept. of
Natural Resources “Evergreenway Rout
Trails Category, RCO #20-1495A” grant applica ed to the
Recrea va

Less than an hour from the Sea vue metropolitan center, the Ra e Mountain
Scenic Area and Raging River State Forest provide year-round, accessible recrea
for a growing popula ecrea vels in the Interstate 90 corridor are some
of the highest in the state, and this project helps address public demand and provide
trail c tween c der to reduce automobile
transporta o trailheads, reduce emissions by pro e transporta utes,
and contribut ely to public health by providing safe, out ail
c onnect c ove access to over 140 combined trail miles.

DNR will use this grant to develop a new community trail c s the
Snoqualmie Valley Trail to downtown North Bend, to Tennant Trailhead Park and the Raging
River State Forest trail system. This segment is the highest priority of the 5 Evergreenway
Route missing links which will connect the Raging River State Forest Trail system and the
system even more accessible from the City of North Bend. The proposal will also eventually
link to Issaquah with transit op eston, which will reduce trailhead conges
improve adjacent community c .

DNR and its sta ve been consistent supporters of sustainable recrea tural
resource management in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and con e
partner in a broad c t invites tribes, land management agencies, conserva
and recrea terest groups, business representa es, loc ens and volunteers,
to work together to conserve and enhance this na -recognized landscape for an
ecologically healthy, resilient future.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ques t 206.327.1732 or
amy.brockhaus@mtsgreenway.org.

Sincerely,

Amy Brockhaus, Deputy Director



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

August 6, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of support for WWRP Trails Project #20-1495A – Evergreenway Route – Phase 1 North Bend Connection

Dear WWRP Advisory Committee and RCO Funding Board:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) proposal to develop a new community trail connection in the popular Snoqualmie Corridor.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

DNR will use this grant to fund develop a new community trail connection, which links the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to downtown North Bend, to Tennant Trailhead Park and the Raging River State Forest trail system. This segment is the highest priority of the five Evergreenway Route missing links, which will connect the Raging River State Forest Trail system and make the system even more accessible from the City of North Bend. The proposal will also eventually link to Issaquah with transit options in Preston, which will reduce trailhead congestion and improve adjacent community connectivity.

Continuing successful project collaboration between DNR and nonprofit trail advocacy and user groups in the Snoqualmie Corridor will ensure high quality trail opportunities meeting targeted user experiences are delivered. This project is supported from the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan, a public planning process completed March 2015 with widespread support from user groups, recreation non-profit organizations, public advisory committees, local jurisdictions, and nearby communities.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington trails Association
aimler@wta.org



www.evergreenMTB.org
Sustainable trails. Rider powered.

July 29, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
Trails Project #20-1495A – Evergreenway Route – Phase 1 North Bend Connection

Dear WWRP Advisory Committee and RCO Funding Board:

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (Evergreen) strongly supports the Department of Natural Resources WWRP grant application to develop a new community trail connection, linking Snoqualmie Valley Trail to downtown North Bend, to Tennant Trailhead Park, and further to the Raging River State Forest. Evergreen is Washington's largest mountain bike organization with over 5,400 members and over 38,000 supporters statewide. We are dedicated to trail building and maintenance, as well as volunteerism, education, advocacy, community building, and youth participation.

This proposed segment is the highest priority of the 5 Evergreenway Route missing links and connects the community of North Bend by improving their access to eight soft surface trail systems, with over 140 combined trail miles. This will improve in-town trips and neighborhood connectivity for biking and walking to amenities. Raging River is becoming a core riding area for Puget Sound mountain bikers, as well as statewide and regional visitors. It offers some of the closest riding on state lands to the Seattle Metropolitan area, where we have seen significant growth in our sport and a doubling of our membership numbers in the past 3 years. There continues to be a need for more comprehensive and connected trail systems.

This project is strongly supported by the Mountain to Sound Greenway. It is also a key deliverable of the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan, a public planning process completed 2015 with widespread support from user groups, recreation non-profit organizations, public advisory committees, local jurisdictions, and nearby communities. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with DNR and commend the agency for its strong vision to create a comprehensive and connected trail system in the crowded Snoqualmie Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Kraus", written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne Kraus
Executive Director



President
Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

May 14, 2020

Washington State Recreation
Recreation
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant - #20-1650(D)**
Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail

Dear WWRP Grant Reviewer,

Please accept our strongest support from the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust for a WWRP grant for the Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail.

The public conservation of Meadowbrook Farm was one of the early success stories in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. King County, The Trust for Public Land, the Greenway Trust, and the residents of the valley collaborated to ensure this historic farm and meadow, with its classic views of Mt. Si, would belong to the public in perpetuity.

The proposed Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail will build on this legacy of conservation and collaboration to ensure that future generations can enjoy this spectacular place. The Loop Trail will celebrate the rich human history of this place as the original prairie managed by the Snoqualmie People for thousands of years. The Loop Trail will also ensure equitable access to recreation and provide accessible access to and from the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center, picnic areas, walks through a meadow and along wetlands, interpretive facilities, and viewing areas for elk and other wildlife. The Loop Trail will connect two schools and the new Y. The Loop Trail will provide access for people of all ages. A connection to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail provides a link between the Loop Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley.

This Loop Trail is an important part of the site plan for Meadowbrook Farm. This WWRP grant, with matching funds from the King County Parks Levy and from Meadowbrook Farm Preservation, will provide state investments at a very important regional and cultural site. This project represents a perfect example of the type of collaborative partnerships that are integral to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. The Loop Trail will be a natural extension of the Trust's work, as well as Si View Metropolitan Park District and local volunteers, working together to complete a project that achieves significant public benefit.

Please accept our strongest support for the WWRP grant for the Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail, which will build on a strong foundation of collaboration and efforts to preserve regional heritage and ensure healthy, accessible public lands for our thriving community.

Warmly,

Amy Brockhaus

Amy Brockhaus, Deputy Director

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Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist
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David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land
Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates
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Vik Sahney, The Mountaineers; American Alpine Club
Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association
Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President, CH2M Hill
Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyft
Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington
Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle
Alison Washburn, Store Manager, Bellevue REI Co-op
Joel Yoker, Principal Program Manager, Microsoft; Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director



Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association

Adam Osbekoff 425-888-6551
Snoqualmie Tribe
 Mary Norton (Pres) 888-4813
Snoq. Valley Historical Society
 Margaret Ullman Hess 206-382-5565
Mountains to Sound Greenway
 Kelly Heintz 206- 205-3067
King County

Bill Whitaker 425 888 1723
Citizen At Large
School District #110
 Ryan Goodman 425 831 1900
Si View Metropolitan Parks Dist.
 John House (Treas.) 425 888 9609
Citizen At Large

Tim Noonan 425 219 8002
Citizen At Large
 Dave Battey 425 785 2741
City of Snoqualmie - Citizen
 Ron Crouch 425 888-1314
City of North Bend -
 Ryan Kolodejchuk 206 947 4024
Citizen At Large

May 11, 2020
 PO Box 1462,
 Snoqualmie, WA 98065

To: Washington State Wildlife and Recreation Funding Board

Dear Grant Review Team,

On behalf of the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association, I am writing to enthusiastically support the grant application from Snoqualmie and North Bend, to finish and pave the Prairie Loop (Baq(w)ab) Trail at Meadowbrook Farm Park.

The Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization contracted to maintain and operate the Meadowbrook Farm Park historic public open space owned jointly by Snoqualmie and North Bend. Our board includes members of the public as well as representatives of both owner-cities, the Mountains to Sound Greenway, Si View Parks, King County, the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society, the Snoqualmie Valley School District, and the Snoqualmie Tribe. Over the past 24 years, we have maintained the park property, constructed an Interpretive Center building, planned and initiated a trail network, and offered public classes and events. For the past 9 years, we have maintained a cooperative and successful contractual relationship with Si View Parks to schedule and manage the use of our Interpretive Center as a classroom and rental venue.

Meadowbrook Farm Park is a unique 460-acre property, the central remnant of a vast open prairie maintained for thousands of years by the Snoqualmie Tribe. It offers opportunities for cultural, historic and natural history interpretation, wildlife habitat and agricultural observation, iconic views, and multifaceted public recreation. Our trail system is key to providing public access to these possibilities, and our planned Prairie Loop (Baq(w)ab) Trail route has been a highest priority in our Master Plan adopted by both city councils. The MFPA has funded archaeology and wetland work for the trail, and has committed an additional \$25,000 to the trail completion effort.

The completed Prairie Loop (Baq(w)ab) Trail will offer visitors an extraordinary ADA- accessible two mile paved loop route that connects two schools, a city park, and the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, while traversing an historic and scenic route through open meadows, forested woodlands and riparian wetlands. Wildlife viewing commonly includes members of the resident elk herd, deer, coyotes and a myriad of birds. Existing connections to the trail route allow access to King County's regional Snoqualmie Valley Trail, the valley's Youth Activity Center, and a third school.

We believe the Prairie Loop (Baq(w)ab) Trail will provide both an unparalleled visitor experience as well as a useful transportation route for residents that will enrich the lives of everyone who uses it! We very much hope you will find our grant application for this trail worthwhile. Thank you for your consideration!

Mary Norton

Mary Norton President, Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association



May 21, 2020

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of Encompass, I am writing to provide our support for the Washington Wildlife and Conservation Program grant application from North Bend, Snoqualmie, and Si View Metropolitan Park District for the Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail.

Encompass is a nonprofit, comprehensive early childhood development center. Through early learning, pediatric therapy, and family enrichment programs, we give children the foundation they need to get the right start—and thrive for a lifetime.

The completed Prairie Loop Trail will offer local residents and visitors an extraordinary ADA-accessible 2.6 mile paved loop route through Meadowbrook Farm that connects two schools, a city park, and the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, providing a great connection between North Bend and Snoqualmie, opportunities for hiking, biking and wildlife viewing, and access through some of the more remote areas of Meadowbrook Farm, remnants of the original Snoqualmie Prairie.

Our Early Learning Center is just down the road from the proposed Prairie Loop Trail. At this location, Encompass offers a nationally accredited preschool that includes free preschool for low-income families through the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP). We also offer toddler groups and summer camps. Outdoor exploration, science, and environmental education are part of the early learning curriculum at Encompass and we are excited about the potential for walking field trips this project will offer.

Please accept our enthusiastic support for your consideration of the WWRP grant application for the Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail.

Sincerely,

Nela Cumming
Executive Director



May 20, 2020

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of Compass Outdoor Adventures, I am writing to provide our support for the Washington Wildlife and Conservation Program grant application from North Bend, Snoqualmie and Si View Metropolitan Park Districts for the Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail.

Compass Outdoor Adventures provides corporate outdoor experiences for companies from all over the world. The groups connect and engage with one another while getting outdoors, biking or hiking in our beautiful region.

The completed Prairie Loop Trail will offer an extraordinary ADA- accessible 2.6 mile paved loop route through Meadowbrook Farm that connects two schools, a city park, and the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, providing a great connection between North Bend and Snoqualmie, opportunities for hiking, biking and wildlife viewing, and access through some of the more remote areas of Meadowbrook Farm, remnants of the original Snoqualmie Prairie.

This new trail would provide an opportunity for clients that request ADA accessible outdoor adventures for their group. Many stay at the Salish Lodge in Snoqualmie and it would allow their group to start and end their bike or hike adventure from there.

Please accept our enthusiastic support for your consideration of the WWRP grant application for the Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Luke Talbott'.

Luke Talbott

CEO

Compass Outdoor Adventures

luke@compassoutdooradventures.com



Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of The Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group, I am writing to provide our support for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant application from North Bend, Snoqualmie and Si View Metropolitan Park District for the Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail.

We are a citizen organization (501c3) doing research on elk in the Snoqualmie Valley. We have captured and collared multiple elk on this property as part of our ongoing research. We work closely with our partners in this area, notably the City of North Bend, The City of Snoqualmie, The Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association and the Washington Department of Wildlife.

The completed Prairie Loop Trail will offer local residents and visitors an extraordinary ADA- accessible 2.6 mile paved loop route through Meadowbrook Farm that connects two schools, a city park, and the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, providing a great connection between North Bend and Snoqualmie, opportunities for hiking, biking and wildlife viewing, and access through some of the more remote areas of Meadowbrook Farm, remnants of the original Snoqualmie Prairie.

The elk in the Snoqualmie Valley became extinct during the westward expansion of settlers to the west and were reintroduced in 1913 and again became extinct by 1944. The current elk began a natural immigration into the valley back in the 1950 via low passes in the Cascade Range near Stampede Pass from the east. At this time, they lived mostly in the mountains of the Cedar River Watershed moving to the South Fork of the Snoqualmie and then by the 1970s into the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The changes in logging practices brought on by concerns for the Spotted Owl and the purchase of the all the US Forest Service properties in the Cedar River watershed in the mid 1980s, stopped all commercial logging in and by 2000, the clear cuts in those areas had overgrown and there were not foraging areas left for the elk and they moved to the lower Valley.

These elk are an attraction for visitors to the Snoqualmie Valley and in the early mornings and early evenings can, often be seen foraging in the fields of Meadowbrook Park. Visitors to Meadowbrook Park often get the opportunity to view these magnificent creatures in their wild areas. In addition, Meadowbrook Park is home to most of the nocturnal wildlife mammals in western Washington such as, racoons, coyotes, bears, weasels, rabbits and bobcat to name a few. This is exception property with a variety of habitats, including marshes, sloughs, forest edges, meadows and riparian areas. In addition to the mammals, birds abound in the area. It would not be uncommon to see Eagles, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, Bullock's orioles, Ruffed grouse, Band-tailed pigeons, Willow flycatchers, Lazuli buntings, Ravens, crows Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds and warblers such as Black-throated grey, Yellow, Townsend's, Wilson's, MacGillivary's and Orange-crowned to name a few. Other attractions are butterflies, dragonflies salamanders, frogs, lizards and toads. This is a wonderful educational and study area for adults and children alike.

Please accept our enthusiastic support for your consideration of the WWRP grant application for the Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail.

Sincerely,

Harold M Erland, II

Biologist

Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group

12510 461st Ave SE

North Bend, WA 98045

May 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of Meadowbrook Farm and as accessibility advocates, we are writing to provide our support for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant application from North Bend, Snoqualmie and Si View Metropolitan Park District for the Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail.


It is our personal interest that the Meadowbrook Trail loop is made ADA accessible. We have lived in North Bend since 2005 and are the parents of a disabled son who is unable to walk and must be in a wheelchair or a stroller when we want to get out of the house and go for walks.

Currently there are very few areas for us to walk locally with our son that are not on the road or in housing developments with sidewalks, as dirt or rough gravel pathways are impossible for us to navigate his wheelchair and/or stroller. As you can imagine, this environment creates an extreme danger as we are constantly on the lookout for cars and the ever-present construction tractor trailers and various delivery trucks.

Paving the Meadowbrook trail loop would give us the exciting chance to walk in a more natural, quiet, back-county surrounding without the dangers of automobile traffic we encounter when walking on our current routes through neighborhoods.

Please accept our enthusiastic support for your consideration of the WWRP grant application for the Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail.

Sincerely,


Ryan and Teresa Kolodejchuk
13814 - 457th Avenue SE
North Bend, WA 98045

May 22, 2020
41502 SE Reinig Rd.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Dear Wildlife and Recreation Funding Board,


I would like to express my support for the grant application from Snoqualmie, North Bend and Si View Parks, to complete and pave the Prairie Loop Trail at Meadowbrook Farm Park.

When completed, this Prairie Loop Trail will be an amazing asset to our valley, and to out of town visitors: an ADA accessible, paved loop winding 2.6 miles through fields and woods, with wonderful views of Mount Si. The trail goes between Snoqualmie's Centennial Fields Park and Snoqualmie Elementary School, to Snoqualmie Middle School (where I teach) to the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center, and returns through hidden wetlands and open fields where elk may be seen. Meadowbrook Farm Park is what remains of the original Snoqualmie Prairie, maintained by the Snoqualmie Tribe for thousands of years, and this trail loop lets visitors really explore the park.

As a middle school science teacher and sports coach, I know how important it is for young people to have safe and accessible opportunities to get outdoors for both fun and learning. Time in the woods helps people value wild areas more. This trail offers our school a unique and exciting natural world – woods, wetlands, fields, wildlife-- right next door, and accessible to all. For me personally, as a runner, hiker and naturalist, and to my family, this trail will give something new to see and experience every time we use it.

The Prairie Loop Trail is an unusual chance for people of all abilities to experience a special and historic place. See elk from a stroller, or a wheelchair! This trail will be amazing! Thank you for your consideration of our Prairie Loop Trail!

Thank you!


Annie McElroy Johnson

Museum Location:
320 Bendigo Boulevard S
North Bend, WA 98045



Mailing Address:
PO Box 179
North Bend, WA 98045

425.888.3200

info@snoqualmievalleymuseum.org

Date: May 26, 2020

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

IN FAVOR OF MEADOWBROOK PARK TRAIL EXPANSION

The Snoqualmie Historical Society is pleased to back the proposed expansion of trails on Meadowbrook Prairie to provide a full loop from the SR-202 side to the Boalch Avenue side that includes a trail link to the Snoqualmie Middle School.

The Society has partnered with the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association since its beginnings in 1994, and several of our board members have also served on the Meadowbrook Board. Many interpretive discussions and Powerpoint presentations given in the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center over the years were created wholly or in part with data and pictorial assistance from the Society's archives, and enlargements of historical photos from our collection grace the walls of the Interpretive Center.

The additional interpretive options gained with the full loop trail are significant and will also draw many more visitors to the Interpretive Center and park. Historically, the new trail crosses an internal bridge placed exactly where one of the original farm bridges was placed and offering access to the historic Camas meadow on Meadowbrook.

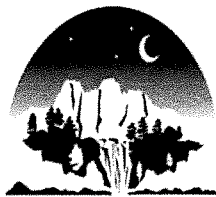
Please accept our heartfelt positive input to this project.

Sincerely,

Gardiner Vinnedge

President – Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society

Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum Board Members:
David Battey, Vicki Bettes, Kevin Burrows, Brian Davis, Jan Gifford, Dick Kirby, Kris Kirby, Katie Klahn,
Fay Rene, Fritz Ribrary, Nonda Sims, Gardiner Vinnedge



Snoqualmie Valley

School District

Superintendent, Robert W. Manahan Ed. D

8001 Silva Ave SE, P.O. Box 400, Snoqualmie, WA 98065 | Phone: 425-831-8007 | Fax: 425-831-8040 | www.svsd410.org

August 3, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Snoqualmie Valley School District, I am writing to provide our support for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant application from North Bend, Snoqualmie and Si View Metropolitan Park District for the Meadowbrook Farm Prairie Loop Trail.

The proposed trail provides a direct connection from Snoqualmie Middle School to Meadowbrook Farm, offering excellent field learning opportunities at the wetlands and prairie habitats of Meadowbrook Farm, opportunities for on-site learning about the history of the prairie and its management for thousands of years by the Snoqualmie People, as well as an opportunity for a 2.6 mile loop pathway that would serve as an excellent cross-country route for the Snoqualmie Middle School and Mount Si High School Cross Country Teams. The trail also provides an additional off-street pathway connection between Snoqualmie Middle School, Centennial Fields Park, and Snoqualmie Elementary School, increasing opportunities for student and classroom connections between these communities and education facilities.

Please accept our enthusiastic support for your consideration of the WWRP grant application for the Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail.

Sincerely,

Rob W. Manahan
Superintendent

The Otos Group, LLC

Washington State, Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington
98504-0917

Regarding: RCO Application, WWRP Trails category

Applicant: Skagit County Parks and Recreation

Project: Skagit County Centennial Trail Phase I

Dear folks,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my enthusiastic support for the proposed trail project along Centennial Trail corridor. The Centennial Trail project planned for the Barney Lake area will provide a beautiful section of trail in a location that will serve neighboring communities in both a practical and recreational capacity. As a former director who helped write numerous comprehensive plans over the years, I recognize this section of trail as an amenity that will serve our community well.

The trail corridor is located centrally and strategically, providing a connection to towns, parks, churches, lakes, streams, schools, and private businesses. When fully completed, the Centennial Trail will enter the City limits of Mount Vernon--benefitting our community in a healthy and sustainable way--providing an important north/south non-motorized transportation route for commuting between Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley.

As a former parks director and local school board President, I am an enthusiastic supporter of this trail and look forward to hiking this beautiful pathway, just a short distance from my home! We believe this section of trail will fuel excitement in the community, leading to future extensions and one day providing similar benefits achieved with the recent completion of the corridor in Snohomish County. I truly hope you all embrace this worthwhile trail project! It will provide an incredible asset to our fine community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LOtos', is positioned above the printed name.

Larry Otos, Principal

The Otos Group, LLC


Skagit Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1101

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

March 18, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Skagit Audubon Society to express our support for Skagit County Parks & Recreation receiving a grant to further construction of the Centennial Trail in our county. Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department hopes to construct Phase I of the trail, 2.3 miles from Gunderson Road to the Clear Lake-Beaver Lake Road near Clear Lake Beach Park. Eventually this trail will run entirely across the county and link to the completed Centennial Trail in Snohomish County. Constructing this 2.3 mile section neatly coincides with Skagit Public Utility District's plan to replace a major water supply line from Mount Vernon to Judy Reservoir by running the pipe below the route of the Centennial Trail. The Utility District will cover most of the engineering cost for the trail, thus leveraging what RCO funds can accomplish.

Skagit Audubon is one of 25 National Audubon chapters in Washington State. We have 274 member families, mostly residents of Skagit County. Our members share an interest in the protection and restoration of wildlife habitat with particular, but not exclusive, emphasis on birds. We are also very involved with outdoor recreation such as hiking and bicycling. Our chapter has a very active hiking program open to the general public with one or more organized and very well attended hikes almost every Wednesday of the year.

Our interest in the Centennial Trail is both as a location for hiking near where we live and also as access to good habitat for birding. From Gunderson Road to Clear Lake the Centennial Trail will pass by or through excellent habitat for a great variety of birds.

Many Skagit residents have long looked forward to the extension of the Centennial Trail from Snohomish County through Skagit County, and we appreciate the efforts our county parks department has been making to bring this dream closer to reality.

Thank you for your consideration. You can reach Skagit Audubon Society at P.O. Box 1101, Mount Vernon, WA 98274 or conservation@skagitaudubon.org or 360/333-8985.

Sincerely,

Timothy Manns

Conservation Chair

Skagit Audubon Society

~ to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity ~



September 21, 2020

Auburn School District
Office of the Superintendent
915 4th Street NE
Auburn, WA 98002

Re: White River Pedestrian Bridge Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members:

I am pleased to support the City of Auburn's grant application as it relates to the White River Pedestrian Bridge project in south Auburn. We have many students that use the White River Trail as a means to travel to and from School at Auburn Riverside High School. In addition Auburn Riverside Cross Country practices and has home meets along the existing trails. The trail connection that the bridge will create will provide better access for kids in the surrounding neighborhoods to have a safe route to school.

As Auburn continues to grow, we recognize an increased need for quality outdoor space. The Auburn School District has grown tremendously and the student demographics now represent over 40% students of color. Auburn has a large population of single parent families and many kids are transplanted here from other areas. These kids need a safe place to play and develop the skills both athletic and social that are attained with a visit to a park or a walk along a trail. Teamwork, success and failure are all realized in a park setting. Parks are also critical in helping youth develop identity and combats gang activity and unsafe behavior.

The Auburn School District and the City of Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation Department have been fundamental partners in implementing comprehensive education/recreation services. Examples include history at the Historic Mary Olson Farm, Golf at the Auburn Golf Course and Environmental Education at numerous park sites. Thanks to the existing trails and the proposed bridge in the vicinity of Auburn Riverside High School, we envision a safer route an increased number of kids to walk to school, and expanded uses by our Cross Country team and physical education classes.

The Auburn School District supports this grant opportunity and highly recommends its funding.

Sincerely,

Alan Spicciati, Ed.D.
Superintendent


whatcom council of governments

314 East Champion Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225

☎ 360.676.6974

☎ 360.738.6232

🌐 wcog.org

May 1, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504

RE: **City of Lynden's Application for RCO Grant Funding for the Jim Kaemingk, Sr. Trail Extension, Depot to North 8th Street**

To whom it may concern:

The Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) enthusiastically supports the City of Lynden's request for RCO funding to extend the City's well-used Jim Kaemingk, Sr. Trail from Depot to North 8th Street. This extension will enable pedestrians and bicyclists to make greater use of the Trail, which will result in benefits to the City's transportation network, its recreational opportunities and the health of its citizens.

This project is consistent with *Whatcom Mobility 2040*, the adopted long-range regional transportation plan, which was adopted unanimously by WCOG's Transportation Policy Board in 2017 and has been accepted by both the State of Washington and the U.S. Department of Transportation as the official transportation plan for the Whatcom County metropolitan planning area.

Thank you for your consideration of Lynden's request and the Whatcom Council of Governments' recommendation.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

Copies: Whatcom Council of Governments Board
Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
The Hon. Scott Korthuis, Mayor, City of Lynden



May 1, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation, I am pleased to write a letter of support for the City of Lynden's Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) grant application to continue the expansion of the city's trail network. Expanding and connecting trails in Lynden has been a long-term vision for the city and they are slowly but surely making progress towards that end. Additionally, their trail network has been a part of their comprehensive plan for 20+ years.

In addition to the recreational benefits, the expansion of the trail system in Lynden will have economic benefits on the entire community. Surrounding property values will also be positively affected by the growing trail system. The proximity of this trail network to a number of schools will also mean safer routes to schools for Lynden's children.

Lynden's trail network is also proposed to ultimately connect to Whatcom County's' Nooksack Loop Trail which is a planned 45 mile trail loop connecting the major communities of Whatcom County including Lynden, Bellingham, Everson and Ferndale. Planning and development of this project is on-going and the trail will ultimately connect over 75% of Whatcom County's population and allow for continued expansion of trails throughout Whatcom County and its communities long in to the future.

Thank you for considering Lynden's grant application to help fund its trail network expansion. With your support Lynden will be well on its way to having a tremendous community asset that it can be justly proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Tepper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Tepper
President

WPRF
PO BOX 29963, BELLINGHAM, WA 98228
(360) 389-3803 info@wprfoundation.org
www.wprfoundation.org



Lynden Regional Park & Rec. District
8770 Bender Rd.
Lynden, WA. 98264

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA. 98504-0917

April 28, 2020

To Whom it may concern:

We are writing to express support for the City of Lynden's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant application for the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail in Lynden. Currently there is a 5,000-foot gap in this city-wide trail, preventing pedestrians and bicyclists from utilizing the trail as a continuous route. RCO grant funding would close that gap, offering many benefits to the Lynden community.

The proposed project will lengthen the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail by 1 mile and create a continuous 4.5-mile route through the city of Lynden. The current gap in the trail is between the existing trail at City Park on Depot Road and the newly constructed Safe Route to School Trail (2018) at Fisher Elementary School adjacent to Main Street. Closing this gap, and adding the additional mile will provide additional recreational educational opportunities to Lynden schools, the citizens of Lynden and northern Whatcom County residents. The trail will be open to cycling, hiking, walking, mountain biking and other non-motorized activities.

In addition to the recreational benefits, the expansion of the trail system in Lynden will have economic benefits on the entire community. Surrounding property values will also be positively affected by the growing trail system.

Lastly, the proximity of this trail network to a number of schools will mean safer routes to school for thousands of children.

We hope you will give full consideration to Lynden's grant application to fund the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail.

If you have questions, please contact Mark Sandal, Public Works Programs and Environmental Coordinator, with the City of Lynden at (360) 354-3446.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Van Soest", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Lynden Regional Park and Recreation District
Ron Van Soest, Chair

Cc: Sen. Doug Ericksen, Rep. Sharon Shewmate, Rep. Luanne Van Werven



May 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Lynden business community, I am writing to express the support of the Lynden Chamber of Commerce for the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Extension Project grant request.

The citizens of Lynden and the surrounding communities have a strong appreciation for outdoor recreation. Diverse activities such as soccer, softball, bocce, horse riding, cricket, and lacrosse, among others, are a sample of the healthy outdoor entertainment options enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. None, however, compare to the use of a public trail in reaching people of all ages, physical abilities, lifestyles, and health status.

The Jim Kaemingk Trail has become a well-used alternative transportation corridor within the Lynden community during the current world-wide health situation. The young to the no-as-young have taken to walking, sometimes to alleviate boredom, often to relieve stress, many to improve their overall health. Some spend time alone, many more chatting with family members. By bike, wheelchair, scooter, on foot both running and walking, area residents now more than ever are making use of the trail system, and reaping the benefits.

A grant from the WSRCO would allow the City of Lynden to continue to place the trails in safe proximity to those most likely to use and benefit from them. The extension will allow families, students, the older members of our community, and those with physical challenges to avoid a busy industrial area, and directly access the current trail, allowing them the same wonderful benefits without the concerns of safety heavy commercial traffic brings.

Thank you for your kind consideration, and we look forward to showing the residents of our community and Washington State how beneficial and rewarding the wise investment of taxpayer funds can be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Vis".

Gary Vis
Executive Director
Lynden Chamber of Commerce



Lynden Christian Schools

"Linking head and heart, home and school, child and God"

May 15, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express our support for the City of Lynden's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant application to expand the Jim Kaemingk Trail in Lynden. This trail could be expanded from Depot Road west through to Main Street, allowing the trail to continue more safely and beneficially for Lynden residents. RCO grant funding would be extremely helpful in completing this section of the trail.

I see many benefits to the expansion of this trail:

1. Educational: Students and families will be able to use them to travel to and from school by bike or on foot.
2. Recreational: The continuation of this trail through Lynden enhances our trail system for those who use it for exercise and getting outdoors.
3. Personal Safety: Keeping people away from vehicle traffic improves human safety.
4. Economic: Trails, parks, and natural features enhance the appeal of towns. They also increase property values and access to local businesses.

With these reasons in mind, I hope you will give full consideration to Lynden's grant application to fund the expansion of the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail. If you have any question, please contact Mark Sandal, Public Works Programs and Environmental Coordinator, with the City of Lynden at 360.354.3446.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Bootsma, Superintendent



May 20, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

100 5th Street
Lynden, WA 98264
360.746.8597
innatlynden.com

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee;

On behalf of the owners of the recently renovated Waples Mercantile Building and The Inn at Lynden in the historic downtown district, we enthusiastically support the City's efforts to extend the Jim Kaemingk, Sr. Trail in Lynden. The proposed project to complete another section of the trail through the heart of the community will be a welcome addition to a growing list of outdoor activities for residents and visitors alike.

In 2015, the partnership group I represent, undertook the renovation of an historic landmark in Downtown Lynden with the purpose of revitalizing the downtown core with new retail and a boutique hotel. Part of the unique brand of our hotel is to connect our guests with the quality of life that is represented in the small town charm of Lynden. With its beautifully manicured homes, and well-maintained surrounding farms, Lynden typifies the can-do spirit and strong work ethic that is the lifeblood of rural America. We encourage our guests to experience the community either by participating in a walking tour or by borrowing one of the Inn's bicycles and cycling through its tree-lined neighborhoods. Completion of the trail system is a high priority, since it supports this very important theme.

We feel the expansion of the trail system will have tremendous social and economic benefits. Thank you for your consideration of the grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. McClure", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey L. McClure
Co-owner
The Inn at Lynden



April 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lynden Public School District (District) is writing to express its support for the City of Lynden's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant application for the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Extension growth. A new middle school has been built and the district is re-purposing the former middle school site for special needs programs, early childhood education, administrative offices and the use for other community educational and recreational needs. Additionally, this extension directly compliments the Fisher Elementary School Trail/Safe Routes to School project that the City has constructed adjacent to our elementary school. These District campuses will benefit from the safe bike and pedestrian access this trail extension currently provides and will provide with its extension.

By removing this one (1) mile gap in the existing portion of the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail, a continuous 4.5 mile route will be accessible through the City of Lynden. Such a City-wide trail system provides invaluable recreational and educational opportunities to the students of the District and to the greater Lynden Community; including cycling, hiking, walking, mountain biking, and other non-motorized activities.

We hope that you will give full consideration to Lynden's grant application to support the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Extension.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Sandal, Lynden Public Works Program Manager at sandalm@lyndenwa.org or (360) 354-3446.

Sincerely,

Jim Frey, Superintendent
Lynden School District

1203 Bradley Road | Lynden, WA 98264 | lynden.wednet.edu | 360-354-4443 | Fax: 360-354-7662

Jim Frey
Superintendent

David VanderYacht
Assistant Superintendent

Tim Metz
Special Programs

Elizabeth Hamming
Teaching & Learning

Pattie Fairbanks
Finance & Operations



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

May 13, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The YMCA is writing to express its support for the City of Lynden's 2020 Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) grant application for the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Extension in Lynden. Our Lynden YMCA facilities in Lynden are adjacent to the existing Kaemingk Trail and to City Park where the trail currently ends. With our commitment to healthy communities, we clearly understand the benefit of trails in a community. We are excited about the prospect of this extension potentially bringing bike and pedestrian customers along the new trail from the west side of town to our Lynden facility.

The proposed 1-mile extension would close a 5,000-foot gap in this city-wide trail and would create a continuous 4.5-mile route through the City of Lynden, with City Park and the Lynden YMCA at the central core. This extension would also close the trail gap between City Park and Fisher Elementary School and would provide valuable recreational and educational opportunities to the greater Lynden Community for cycling, hiking, walking, mountain biking, and other non-motorized activities.

As you can see, the RCO grant funding for this project would reap many benefits to the Lynden Community and we hope you will give favorable consideration to Lynden's grant application to fund the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Extension.

Sincerely,

Bill Ziels

Bill Ziels
CEO Whatcom Family YMCA
Bellingham, WA 98229
bziels@whatcomymca.org
360.255.0085

Whatcom Family YMCA, 1256 N State Street, Bellingham, WA. 98229

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



May 29, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the City of Lynden's 2020 Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) grant application for the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail in Lynden. Currently, there is a 2500-foot gap in this city-wide trail, preventing pedestrians and bicyclists from utilizing the trail as a continuous route. RCO grant funding would close that gap, offering many benefits to the Lynden community.

The proposed project will lengthen the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail by one mile and create a continuous 4.5-mile route through the city of Lynden. The current gap in the trail is between the existing trail at City Park on Depot Road and the recently constructed extension of the trail network at Fisher Elementary School. Closing this gap and adding the additional mile will provide additional recreational and educational opportunities to Lynden schools, the citizens of Lynden and northern Whatcom County residents. The trail will be open to cycling, hiking, walking, mountain biking and other non-motorized activities.

In addition to the recreational benefits, the expansion of the trail system in Lynden will have economic benefits on the entire community. Surrounding property values will also be positively affected by the growing trail system. Lastly, the proximity of this trail network to a number of schools will mean safer routes to school for thousands of children.

We hope you will give full and fair consideration to Lynden's grant application to fund the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Missing Link. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Sandal, Public Works Programs Manager, with the City of Lynden at (360) 354-3446.

Sincerely,

Sharon Shewmake
State Representative
42nd Legislative District, Position 2

Newcastle Trails

May 28, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing you as president of Newcastle Trails, a 501(c)3 nonprofit citizens group with over 350 members, to express our strong support for a grant to construct a boardwalk in Lake Boren Park around the south end of Lake Boren. The boardwalk will serve the public in at least five ways:

- It will complete the CrossTown Trail from NW Newcastle to Cougar Mountain Park.
- It will complete the Lake Boren Trail around the lake.
- It will connect the west and east sides of Lake Boren Park.
- It will serve as a major recreational asset offering lake and wetland views.
- It will protect extensive wetlands and the birds and animals they harbor.

Trails have strong public support. Preserving our network of informal trails and open space was a major reason we founded Newcastle in 1994. Residents emphasized their desire for parks and trails in a series of well-attended public meetings. Public input ensured that the CrossTown and Lake Boren trails appeared in the first Comprehensive Plan, and in all subsequent versions. In polls of residents, trails were the number one recreational choice. Trails benefit everyone: they provide safe, healthy recreation to folks of all ages and abilities, and they're a useful alternative to cars, traffic, and pollution.

Volunteer hours are another measure of public support. Newcastle Trails has logged over 1700 volunteer trail-building hours per year since 2008, including work by at least 8 Scout troops, from Newcastle and from nearby cities from Kirkland to Renton. The hours would more than double if we included time spent at meetings and hearings, and on the computer doing letters, maps, trail guides, and other publications. Volunteers have organized and led numerous trail walks and trail runs. The local YMCA has led family trail walks. Two Volkssport groups, the Northwest Striders and the Interlaken Trailblazers, have both led Volksmarches in Newcastle; in some years these have attracted over two hundred walkers from the Pacific Northwest region.

Lake Boren Park is Newcastle's central park, by far the most important and most-used park in the city. It's within easy walking distance of downtown and the dense population living north of the lake in apartments, condos, and retirement homes. When the City acquired the land at the south end of Lake Boren, plans were made to extend the park along the east shore of the lake. Public input in meetings and polls strongly supported the development of this new area. The boardwalk will extend the park around the lake, expanding the usable waterfront by a factor of 5 or 6.

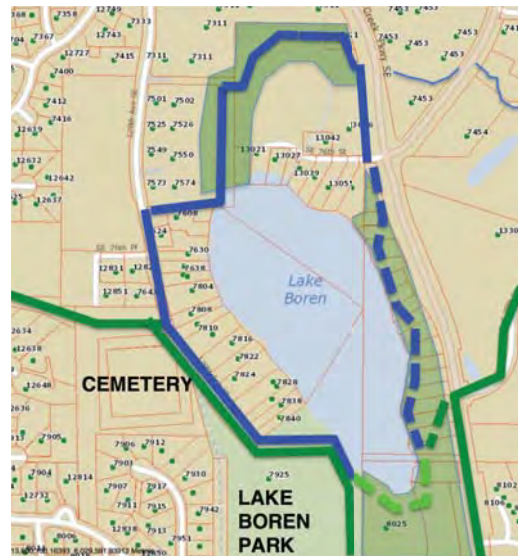
Wildlife is another concern of Newcastle citizens. Over years of public meetings, I've been impressed by the passionate support of residents for wildlife in our community. The elevated boardwalk will preserve the existing wetlands as a sanctuary for waterfowl and small animals, free of ground-level trails and pedestrians.

The board of Newcastle Trails voted unanimously for the following resolution:

Newcastle Trails strongly supports the proposed boardwalk around the south end of Lake Boren. It is an extremely high priority trail and park project that will serve thousands of people. It will complete the CrossTown and Lake Boren trails and provide an essential connection between the west and east sides of the park.

Figure 1 shows how the boardwalk will provide a passage over the wetlands at the south end of Lake Boren, completing the park and two trails. Figure 2 highlights the CrossTown Trail and its proximity to Downtown and the retirement homes and apartments north of Lake Boren.

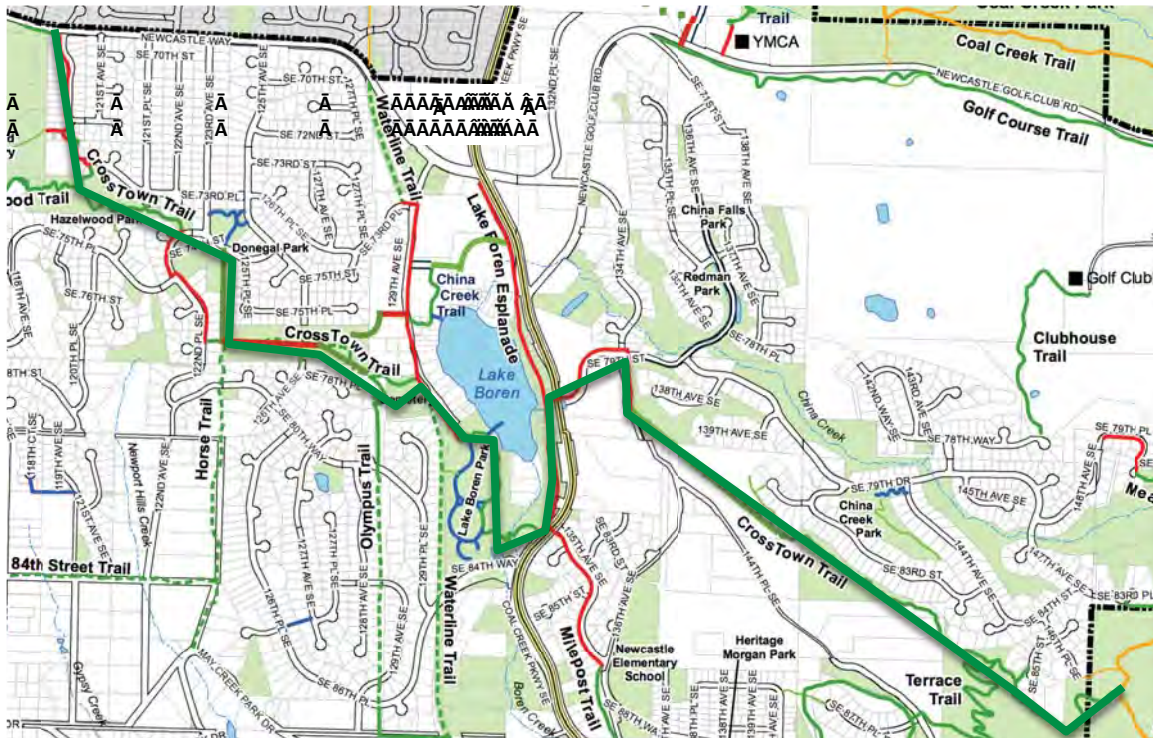
Figure 1. Boardwalk (bright green).



Yours Truly,

Garry Kampen, president
Newcastle Trails
12601 SE 75th Place
Newcastle, WA 98056
www.newcastletrails.org

Figure 2. CrossTown Trail (dark green)





315 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
PO Box 5299 MS: 315-P8-CHV
Tacoma, WA 98415

pulseheartinstitute.org

May 6, 2020

Ms. DeAnn Beck
Outdoor Grants Manager
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Jenkins Creek Park and Trail Activation

Dear Ms. Beck,

Pulse Heart Institute supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the continued development of Jenkins Creek Park and the Jenkins Creek Corridor. The already protected passive park space and trail easements at the geographic center of Covington are positioned to significantly contribute to several initiatives in open space preservation, public recreation activation, regional trail programming and enhanced access to recreation opportunities.

The planned trail and park improvements, in coordination with adjacent development plans, compliment the two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population. Funding for this project will specifically connect the existing Jenkins Creek Park trails across the adjacent MultiCare Covington campus and to a planned underpass of the nearby state highway, activating a regional network of public parks and trails.

Our organization is particularly excited to partner with you on this project and create Pulse Park. The health of the community is so important to our well-being and having this kind of trail will assist the residents in their pursuit of becoming more active.

It is a great pleasure to support this project and to join the State of Washington WWRP efforts in the delivery of community services, per our own mission, as well as state, regional, and local public recreation plans.

Sincerely,


Jason Parks
President

/le

Three horizontal bars of varying lengths and colors (red, orange, and dark red) are positioned at the bottom of the page.



**Mid Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group**

7400 Sand Point Way #202N
SeaBle, WA 98115

June 19, 2020

DeAnn Beck

Outdoor Grants Manager

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support, City of Covington, Jenkins Creek Park and Trail Corridor,
WWRP Projects 20-1857, 20-1453 and LWCF 20-1858

Dear Ms. Beck,

The Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group supports the City of Covington's grant applications to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the continued development of Jenkins Creek Park and the Jenkins Creek Trail Corridor. The already protected passive park spaces and trail easements at the geographic center of Covington are positioned to significantly contribute to several initiatives in open space preservation, public recreation activation, regional trail programming and enhanced access to recreation opportunities.

The planned trail and park improvements, in coordination with adjacent development plans, compliment the two goals of the WWRP: to acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands and to develop recreation areas for a growing population. Funding for this project will specifically provide outdoor public recreation, reflecting the mission of the LWCF. It is exciting to connect the existing Jenkins Creek Park trails across the adjacent MultiCare Covington campus and to a planned underpass of the nearby state highway, activating a regional network of public parks and trails.

Our organization has been partnering with the City of Covington to restore salmon habitat in Jenkins Creek which is a high priority tributary for salmon restoration in the Green River Chinook Salmon Recovery strategy. These acquisitions and funds to restore habitat will be a significant advancement in those efforts by expanding the amount of the creek corridor that is in public ownership and be helping to restore these sections of the corridor.

It is a great pleasure to support these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Dorner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeanette Dorner
Executive Director



GREENRIVERCOALITION.ORG

**SUBJECT**

Letter of Support,
City of Covington,
Jenkins Creek Park

DATE

June 22, 2020

RECEIVER

Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 9850410917

Dear Ms. Beck, Outdoor
Grants Manager:

Green River Coalition strongly supports the City of Covington's grant application to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the continued development of Jenkins Creek Park and the Jenkins Creek Corridor.

These trail and Park improvements will compliment other development plans and efforts, to meet critical WWRP goals, of acquiring valuable habitat and recreation lands, and developing recreation areas for Covington's growing population.

Funding for this project will connect the existing Jenkins Creek Park trails across the adjacent MultiCare Covington campus, and to a planned underpass of the nearby state highway, tying together a network of public parks and trails.

Our coalition has long partnered with the City of Covington in its Jenkins Creek Park, and Jenkins Creek corridor projects to support the increase of habitat functions and values by suppressing non-native plants and replacing them with native trees, shrubs and plants. We have successfully applied for and received federal, county, and private foundation funds to support this work at three sites in the Covington Jenkins Creek corridor, including a grant award we were just notified of last week. We are engaged in planning for additional work and anticipate continued support of these habitat and recreation improvement projects with Covington. This includes seeking additional sources of funding, providing planning and implementation support from our team of 9-12 interns, and engaging volunteer support.

A couple of our board members also live in the area and use the existing Jenkins Creek Park and nearby trail segments for years. I both commute and do recreational bike riding. The Jenkins Creek Trail not only provides in park recreation, but also connects a primary concentration of population to a key commercial center, and additionally to the core downtown area. Along with a host of other benefits, this allows pedestrians and bikers a great alternative to being on high vehicle traffic roadways.

www.photocircotem.com

As a result we are very pleased to see the City of Covington engaged in pursuing this grant opportunity, and strongly encourage WWRP to provide the requested funding.

Best regards,

Greg Wingard,
President
425-496-9177

July 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been involved in promoting bicycling and bike tourism in Snohomish County for the past 20 years. The Interurban Trail is a valuable regional connection between Everett, Lynnwood and Seattle for bike commuters, bike tourists passing through, and locals out for a ride or walk. The City of Everett's Silver Lake Park is a wonderful amenity, very close to the trail, but not readily accessible. Busy roads and narrow sidewalks make connecting between these two uncomfortable at least, and hazardous for many.

I strongly support the City of Everett's plan to build a trail to address this gap. Such a trail would give Interurban riders a refuge with restrooms, water, and park. It could help the many people who live in east Everett get to the Interurban safely without a car - as there are no official trailheads with parking.

Sincerely,

Kristin Kinnamon

Board President, Sharing Wheels Community Bike Shop

Past President, BIKES Club of Snohomish County

Former Member, Snohomish County Tourism Bureau

Former Coordinator, Snohomish County Bike to Work Month



7/30/2020

Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98501

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Everett Bike Walk, I would like to offer the full support of our community organization to the City of Everett's grant application requesting funding for the construction of trails in and around Silver Lake Park.

The proposed trails will improve public access to an important park in south Everett, providing increased opportunity for the city's residents and neighbors to experience safe, healthy, outdoor recreation locally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Rourke", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Tyler Rourke
Everett Bike Walk

www.everettbikewalk.org

everettbikewalk@gmail.com

March 5, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Pacific County Tourism Bureau (dba Visit Long Beach Peninsula) wholeheartedly supports the application submitted by the City of Long Beach for grant funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program for Trails.

As the destination management organization serving Pacific County and the City of Long Beach we understand the vital importance of this regional landmark in terms of a community recreation asset and a tourism asset. Our organization staff, board, funding stakeholders, and over 300 partner businesses are committed to sustainable tourism growth and the boardwalk is a key component because it is:

- A recreational asset for both residents and visitors
- It is available 365 days of the year, regardless of the season or the weather
- It provides access to the beach, dunes, shoreline, and wildlife viewing to those that might not otherwise have it
- It protects the dunes and shoreline from foot traffic and environmental damage
- The interpretive signage and panels educate and inform all, and increase safe respectful engagement
- It facilitates healthy outdoor activities like walking, running, birding, photography, picnicking, wildlife viewing and incredible scenery like kite flyers, clam diggers, and sunsets

The boardwalk has been a key attraction for our tourism dependent economy for decades and holds a special place in the hearts and memories of nearly a million visitors from all over Washington State and the world.

It is now desperately in need of substantial repairs and reconstruction and we ask that you help us preserve this Pacific Northwest icon of outdoor recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Andi Day

Executive Director

Letters Submitted by the Public Regarding Project Proposals for the Water Access Category

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support and opposition) received by RCO during the grant evaluation process. The number in parenthesis represents the number of letters submitted for that project.

Letters are in Ranked Order

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • 20-1759D Terry Pettus Park Renovation (1) | Rank 2 |
| • 20-1259C North Fork Nooksack River Access (11) | Rank 6 |
| • 20-1821D Expand Float Facilities and Enhance Beach Access (2) | Rank 7 |
| • 20-1713D Waterfront Access Improvements (1) | Rank 9 |
| • 20-1835A Hidden Cove 2 (4) | Rank 10 |
| • 20-1757C California Creek Estuary Park Phase 2 (4) | Rank 11 |
| • 20-1239D Riverfront Park Development (8) | Rank 12 |

FRIENDS OF STREET ENDS

May 4, 2020

Dear RCO Aquatic Lands Enhancement Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Street Ends in support of an RCO grant for Terry Pettus Park Renovation.

Friends of Street Ends (FOSE) is a city-wide volunteer group devoted to improving Shoreline Street Ends for public access. Seattle is home to 140 shoreline street ends located on Puget Sound, the Ship Canal, the Duwamish River, Lake Union, and Lake Washington. Terry Pettus Park is located on one of those street ends – possibly the most heavily used of all the street ends in the city.

Terry Pettus Park is on the south end of the Eastlake neighborhood and within less than one mile of the densest part of Seattle – South Lake Union, home to Amazon, Banana Republic, University of Washington Medical School Annex, and the Paul Allen Brain Institute, to name just a few. As such, it attracts employees from throughout the world who move to Seattle to work, play, and recreate.

The renovation of Terry Pettus Park will help provide an active public space for all who spend time in the area. It is unique in that it includes not only visual access to the water, but physical as well. Park users can access the lake with their kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. And we presume that seating areas will be included in the new renovation so that users can sit quietly and enjoy the beauty of the lake. The park was constructed over 30 years ago with unhealthy materials and the vegetation desperately needs to be replaced with native drought-tolerant plants.

And from a personal note, having been involved with parks for over 30 years, as the Founding Director of the Seattle Parks Foundation, as Co-Founder of Friends of Street Ends and as a member of the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners, I can think of no other similar waterfront opportunity that will serve such a large number of people than this project. Purchase of property adjacent to water – any water – is an incredibly rare opportunity these days. And as the Olmsted Brothers said when they were designing Seattle's park system in 1909 (to paraphrase): "one acre of park adjacent to the water is like ten acres inland."

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project for an RCO grant.

Sincerely,

Karen Daubert, Chair

Friends of Street Ends, 206-310-1792



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259:
North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

May 28, 2020

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Whatcom Land Trust, I would like to express our strong support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) North Fork Nooksack Water Access project through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The proposed project will provide suitable access for the community to both the North Fork Nooksack River and Whatcom Land Trust's Maple Creek Reach conservation site while additionally providing countless educational and partnership opportunities.

The 2-acre subject property abuts Whatcom Land Trust's Maple Creek Reach conservation site, located at the alluvial fan of Maple Creek where it flows into the North Fork Nooksack River about a mile west from the subject property. Before Whatcom Land Trust ownership, the site was converted to a dairy farm and later a single residence where much of Maple Creek's east fork was channelized into narrow ditches to drain the water from the site. After acquisition of the site, a great deal of restoration has taken place to return this sensitive area to functional habitat for multiple species, including all five Pacific salmon. Since re-meandering the east fork of Maple Creek, de-leveling a portion of the field to restore the once forested wetland, and installing thousands of native plants, the previous access point now directs the public through this sensitive area of the site. DNR's proposed new access point to both the land and the river, also listed in DNR's 2019 Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan and the 2015 Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan for a public river access site, would allow for public access to the river and the 110-acre property without degrading the sensitive habitat.

By providing a suitable access point to the river and adjacent conservation site, this project will also allow for further educational and partnership opportunities while strengthening current ones. Interpretive signage will be installed to provide educational information for the public whether they are walking the conservation site or accessing the North Fork Nooksack River. Having a parking area will allow for partnered educational programs. In addition to partnering on this proposal, Whatcom Land Trust has successfully partnered with several other organizations to promote stewardship through educational programs. With funding through the WWRP, DNR will be able to turn this idea into a reality and will provide a benefit to both the habitat and the public.

Regards,

Jennifer Mackey,
Whatcom Land Trust Stewardship Director

The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interested land and promoting land stewardship.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104-2828



IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 5, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259: North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing in support of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) North Fork Nooksack Water Access project through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The proposed project will provide necessary and suitable access to both the North Fork Nooksack River and Whatcom Land Trust's Maple Creek Reach conservation site.

The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program granted American Rivers and the DNR a technical planning assistance grant for this project. The National Park Service has provided \$30,000 of in-kind support to help facilitate the river access planning and design. Since October 2019, the National Park Service has been assisting the DNR and partners on a planning and design process for river access. Through inventory work, the DNR parcel was identified as the only suitable site in this reach. In the spring, we organized and hosted a design charrette with DNR and partners to collaboratively develop a sustainable design for river access and restoration of the site. The selected site design will provide recreation opportunities while also protecting and restoring the environment. The restoration will be twice as much as the developed areas and will enhance the recreation experience while protecting the environment.

This site will provide a key put-in and take-out for kayakers and rafters on the North Fork Nooksack River. It also provides opportunities for the public to connect to the river and the adjacent Whatcom Land Trust property for fishing, photography, walking, and wildlife viewing opportunities. The conceptual designs have focused on creating sustainable recreation access

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN*
INTERIOR REGION 9 • COLUMBIA—PACIFIC NORTHWEST*
INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA—GREAT BASIN
INTERIOR REGION 12 • PACIFIC ISLANDS

AMERICAN SAMOA, ARIZONA*, CALIFORNIA, GUAM, HAWAII, IDAHO, MONTANA*,
NEVADA, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, OREGON, WASHINGTON

*PARTIAL

while also protecting and restoring the riparian vegetation. This reach is important for salmon habitat and this site will direct use to an appropriate site while preserving and protecting the rest of the reach. The site also offers opportunities stewardship and education in partnership with the Whatcom Land Trust and the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association.

Thank you for considering this water access project. The National Park Service strong supports the project as an opportunity to provide sustainable recreation experiences.

Sincerely,

Susan Rosebrough

Susan Rosebrough
Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Programs
National Park Service



August 3, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259: North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The 27 undersigned conservation, recreation and wildlife organizations are writing in support of the WWRP Water Access Grant #20-1259 for the North Fork Nooksack River.

The North Fork Nooksack River, located in Whatcom County, is known for its natural beauty and cultural resources. Flowing from Mount Baker in the Northern Cascade Range, this remarkable river is popular with boaters and paddlers who are able to use the river for a range of experiences in a pristine natural environment. Connecting from the Pacific Ocean via Bellingham Bay and the mainstem Nooksack River, the North Fork is part of the historic migratory routes for several protected salmon species. This river is also culturally important to several native people who have historically used the land and the river for thousands of years. Tribal governments such as the Nooksack Indian Tribe and Lummi Nation are actively working in the Nooksack watershed to restore the riparian forest and protect critical salmon habitat.

As identified during previous planning efforts, this project addresses a gap in public access to the North Fork Nooksack River that has caused several issues and concerns. Current access sites, Horseshoe Bend Trailhead and Welcome Bridge are 19 miles apart, a distance that is too far for day trips which is leading boaters and paddlers to establish unmanaged sites to put-in and take-out their boats to accommodate a day-trip. Illegal trespassing on public and private lands has become an issue, as it often leads to the destruction of sensitive riparian habitat and works against current efforts to restore the riparian forest in the area. One site in particular, Boulder Creek, has seen the most impacts, and is home to high-value salmon spawning habitat. User groups are also parking along the shoulder of Washington State Route 542 creating a safety issue for both vehicles driving through the area, and pedestrians loading and unloading their gear. This has become a concern of the Washington Department of Transportation who

owns and manages the state route. Establishing a managed site within this area for river access and outdoor recreation opportunities will help alleviate some of these issues and concerns.

The project has the following goals and objectives:

1. **Provide Safe and Sustainable Public Access** - This site aims to provide for safe access to outdoor recreation opportunities through the use of low-impact site interventions. The proposed project has the potential to accommodate multiple activities with facilities for boaters, anglers, and members of the general public desiring contact access to the water.
2. **Protect, Enhance, and Restore Natural Systems** - This project would provide public access while also enhancing ecological function. The site is dominated by a cleared area that has significant restoration potential. The parking area would be separated from the riverbank allowing for extensive riparian restoration of native vegetation including conifers.
3. **Increase Connections and Partnerships** - This project provides opportunities for increased connections and partnerships between the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Whatcom Land Trust, the Nooksack Tribe, and all river users. The benefits include shared access, opportunities, and amenities.

Many of our organizations have supported sustainable recreation opportunities on Washington's public lands including the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and within our state park system. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, each year in Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending and 200,000 direct jobs. The steady flow of visitors is critical to the economies of local communities like Glacier and other rural communities. Visitors stop to spend money on meals; buy groceries; purchase gear; sign up for paddling, horseback riding, backpacking, mountain biking, or other recreational trips; and stay overnight at hotels and vacation rentals in towns that are the gateways to our public lands.

We urge you to support the grant request for this important access site that will provide recreational, economic and safety benefits to a wild river system on the North Cascades landscape.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Keefe
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Tom Uniack
Executive Director
Washington Wild

Brad Throssell
Chair
Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

Wendy McDermott
Director, Rivers of Puget Sound/Columbia Basin
American Rivers

Mike McGlenn
President
Whatcom Chapter, Backcountry Horsemen of WA

Carol Anderson, MEd.
Vice President for Education
Washington State Council Federation Flyfishers
International

J Michelle Swope
Washington Regional Coordinator
Native Fish Society

Kim McDonald
President
Fish Not Gold

Annalise Wille
Co-founder
Women for Wild Lands

Jack Pflueger
Owner
Stones Throw Brewery (Bellingham)

Robert Kaye
Conservation Committee Chair
North Cascades Audubon Society (Bellingham)

Phil Fenner
President
North Cascades Conservation Council

Yvonne Krauss
Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Jack Lamb
CEO
Aslan Brewing Company (Bellingham)

Mari Kemper
Owner
Chuckanut Brewery (Bellingham)

Greg Topf
Board Chair
Wild Steelhead Coalition

Dave Mainer
President
Paddle Trails Canoe Club

Chris Gerston
Owner
Backcountry Essentials (Bellingham)

Betsy Robblee
Conservation & Advocacy Director
The Mountaineers

Dave Werntz
Science and Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest

Lynn Paquette
President
Washington Kayak Club

Andree Hurley
Executive Director
Washington Water Trails Association

Matt Perkins
Founder
Washington Climbing Coalition

Mike Town
Chair, State Lands Committee
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter

Joe Sambataro
Northwest Regional Director
Access Fund

John McGlenn
President
Washington Wildlife Federation

Colleen Kuehl
CO-Owner
Wander Brewing Company (Bellingham)



July 10, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259: North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of American Rivers, I am writing in support of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) North Fork Nooksack Water Access project through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The proposed project will provide necessary and suitable access to both the North Fork Nooksack River and Whatcom Land Trust's Maple Creek Reach conservation site.

American Rivers has a long history of protecting and restoring rivers and streams in the Pacific Northwest. In the Nooksack River basin, we have an active campaign to designate the upper Nooksack River system as Wild and Scenic, and we are working closely with the City of Bellingham to remove the Middle Fork Nooksack Diversion Dam. In addition, American Rivers coordinated the development of the Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan (UNRRP; 2015). Goal 4 of the UNRRP is to Coordinate, Design, and Formalize Safe River Access, and the UNRRP identified this particular site adjacent to Whatcom Land Trust property along the North Fork Nooksack to the east of the town of Maple Falls, WA.

The DNR's Baker to Bellingham Nonmotorized Recreation Plan (2019) also identified a Nooksack River access facility as a Tier 1 implementation priority. The proposed site will serve as a key put-in and take-out location for a popular half day kayaking and rafting run on the North Fork Nooksack River. Public river access on this DNR site will not only provide access for boaters but also provide for public educational opportunities and restoration activities. The site will allow for public parking near the highway and appropriate river access, while allowing the remaining area to provide important salmon habitat restoration opportunities.

American Rivers has worked closely with DNR and others on the development of this site, and we strongly support this project.

Sincerely,

Wendy D. McDermott
Director, Puget Sound-Columbia Basin



Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
3537 NE 87th St.
Seattle, WA 98115
okeefe@americanwhitewater.org

July 25th, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259: North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing on behalf of American Whitewater in support of the WWRP Water Access Grant #20-1259 for the North Fork Nooksack River. We highlight our reasons for supporting this project based on the criteria used to evaluate projects in the Water Access Category.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with approximately 50,000 supporters, 6,000 dues-paying members, and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. Our vision is that our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates.

American Whitewater supports this project based on the following criteria used to evaluate projects in the Water Access Category:

Public Need: The North Fork Nooksack Water Access Project is located at the approximate midpoint along a 19 mile stretch of river where no public access is currently available. While the Forest Service maintains a formal access site that serves as a put-in for the general public and commercial outfitters, river users have no formal take-out at a location suitable for day trips.

American Whitewater worked collaboratively with state and federal agencies, non-profits organizations, and tribes to inventory potential sites along the river that would address the need for river access and suitability of the site as proposed with this grant. Our findings have been confirmed through several multi-stakeholder planning efforts (DNR, Baker to Bellingham Non-Motorized Recreation Plan, 2019; America Rivers, Upper Nooksack Recreation Plan, 2015; and Whatcom County Recreation and Open Space Plan, 2016).

Immediacy of Threat: Private landowners and the Washington State Department of Transportation have tolerated access in the vicinity of milepost 27 on the Mt. Baker Highway at river mile 51.3. The area is not safe however with limited site distances and inadequate shoulder parking. Loading boats at this site typically involves standing in the eastbound lane of the state highway. An imminent threat is that the site could be formally closed or blocked off in a way that prevents access. If this were to happen, no access would be available. Access on public property off the highway needs to be provided and formalized; the DNR site proposed with this grant at river mile 50.5 would provide safer and more sustainable access to the river.

Sustainability: This project would provide public access while also enhancing ecological function. The site is dominated by a cleared area that has significant restoration potential. The parking area would be separated from the river bank allowing for extensive riparian restoration of native vegetation including conifers. The parking and staging would be located on a high bench and not impacted by high flow events. The river access itself is adjacent to large boulders ensuring site stability.

Suitability: A team of river users and outdoor recreation managers and planners participated in a site assessment that evaluated a dozen sites along this reach of the North Fork Nooksack River that currently has no public access. Potential sites were evaluated on a number of criteria that included site character and river trip distance, natural resources and potential for channel migration, land ownership, public safety, and visitor experience (defined as shuttle distance, river character at the site, distance to walk from parking, and diversity of users served). Based on these criteria, the site in this proposal emerged as the most suitable.

Expansion: Dispersed recreation opportunities are currently allowed on the adjacent Whatcom Land Trust property. This project would enhance that existing asset. Additionally, the Forest Service has invested significant resources in the put-in for this reach of the North Fork Nooksack River; this project would complement that investment by providing the necessary public take-out.

Diversity of Recreational Uses: The site is an excellent site that would provide access for both river runners and those desiring general contact access to the water. It would also provide

access for those interested in a walk along the river through the Whatcom Land Trust property. If developed, this site would provide access to the longest stretch of river shoreline on the North Fork Nooksack River that could be easily experienced and enjoyed by the public.

Public Support: American Whitewater has participated in several public meetings as part of planning efforts in the watershed where this project has been discussed and ultimately integrated into plans. In all those conversations, the project has received consistent and overwhelming public support given its ability to serve a local and regional need.

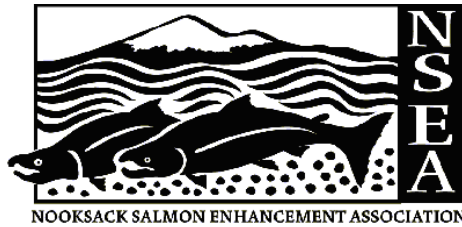
Cost Efficiencies: American Whitewater has provided significant in-kind support throughout the planning and design of this project. Given overwhelming community enthusiasm and support from tribes to restore riparian vegetation, we believe community investment through in-kind resources, restoration grants, and volunteer efforts will continue.

Thank you for considering this water access project. American Whitewater strongly supports the opportunity to both provide river access and significantly improve riparian condition of this site along the North Fork Nooksack River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'tho'keefe', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259:
North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

June 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA), I would like to express our strong support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) North Fork Nooksack Water Access project through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The proposed project will provide suitable public access for the community to both the North Fork Nooksack River and Whatcom Land Trust's Maple Creek Reach conservation site while providing countless educational and partnership opportunities.

NSEA believes salmon are an essential part of our environment, culture, and economy, and aims to educate, inspire, and engage the community to take action to keep wild salmon here for future generations. This proposed DNR river access site to the North Fork of the Nooksack River provides an additional educational site and opportunity for NSEA to educate site users and nearby residents. Partnered with Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, our Nooksack River Stewards program educates visitors and residents about wild salmon, native fish populations, and the Nooksack River watershed, and aims to restore hope for residents and showcase for visitors how collective action can result in progressive salmon recovery goals long after leaving the North Fork watershed. NSEA's River Stewards have been successful engaging paddlers and visitors in Glacier every weekend from June through September by sharing stewardship practices that reduce negative impacts to salmon and salmon habitat while spreading inspiration.

Public river access on this DNR site will not only allow for educational programs at an additional location, but it will also provide partnered restoration work party opportunities. While site improvements will allow for public parking near the highway and appropriate river access, the remaining area provides important salmon habitat restoration opportunities where the public can join for further engagement. NSEA has successfully partnered with several individuals and organizations to involve the public in salmon habitat restoration. With funding through the WWRP, DNR will be able to turn these ideas into a reality and will provide a benefit to both the habitat and the public.

Sincerely,

Rachel Vasak
NSEA Executive Director

From: Mike McGlenn
To: [Foster, Rick \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259 North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:02:10 AM

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

As a 3 year member of the DNR Baker to Bellingham Non-Motorized Recreation Plan Committee. And as a member of the American Rivers Nooksack Recreation Plan working with Wendy McDermott of American Rivers I would appreciate your consideration of this DNR grant proposal for the #20-1259 project.

This access to the Nooksack River for non-motorized use was a top priority for both the American Rivers Committee and the DNR Recreation Plan Committee. Access to the river is a definite need. The diverse user groups of both committees felt that the river users needed a spot of their own that allowed safe parking and a launch site for their use. This site meets the criteria.

I am a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Whatcom County. While the water access will service the river users, as an avid recreationist in the county I and our members back the needed access by this river user group. Please look favorably on this request that will fulfill the need that both committee's have highlighted.

Best regards,

Mike

11 Jun 2020

Mike McGlenn

BCHA Past Chair

BCHW Trailhead Chair

1992 Harmony Road

Bellingham, WA 98226

360 739 2619

mikekmcglenn@gmail.com

"Ain't Nothin' Better Than Ridin' A Fine Horse In New Country" Augustus McCrae.

Live Life Like Someone Left The Gate Open!



Visit our website:
mtbakerchamber.org

Paul Engel
President, Board of Directors



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259: North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

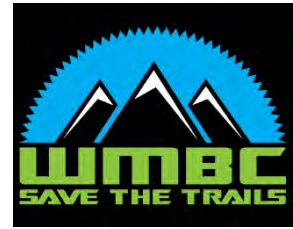
Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing in support of the North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development Grant. I participated on the DNR Baker to Bellingham Recreation Planning Committee from 2016-2018, and one of our priorities in our recreation planning was the water access and day use area outlined in the grant proposal above. There is a critical need for a safe and accessible boat launch in this section of river, which will greatly improve the connectivity of the upper and lower sections of river. The grant proposal will also provide excellent recreation opportunities for non-boaters via the parking and day use areas outlined in the concept plan. I can personally imagine utilizing both the boat launch and the day use area to stop and enjoy the river, have a picnic, and spend quality time in the outdoors with friends. In the context of our global health crisis, and the ongoing need for social distancing, I strongly believe that ample outdoor recreation opportunities will be critical to the physical and mental health of our community. Please consider funding the North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development WWRP Water Access #20-1259 grant proposal for the reasons noted above, and for which I strongly advocate for here both as a member of the Baker to Bellingham recreation planning committee and as a local emergency department nurse. Thanks for your consideration.

Rebecca Peace

Bellingham, Wa

August 3rd, 2020
501 Meador Ave., Suite 106
Bellingham, WA 98225



Washington Recreation and Conservation
Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

**RE: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Project #20-1259; North Fork
Nooksack Water Access**

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resource's grant proposal for Project #20-1259 to develop a public access area for the North Fork of the Nooksack.

The WMBC has a 34-year history of recreating and building trails in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. In 2019, the WMBC had more than 8,000 volunteer hours and we are the stewards of the 65 mile trail network on Galbraith Mountain. Last year, our youth programs had more than 450 local kids participating in our after-school bike clubs and our bike rodeos had more than 5,000 kids ride bikes at their elementary schools.

As a member of the Bellingham to Baker Recreation Planning Committee, we investigated all the recreation potentials within Whatcom County over a two-and-a-half-year period. The DNR's property that is just East of Maple Falls along the North Fork Nooksack was one of the most obvious and easiest opportunities. Not only will it provide a pull-out / put in for rafting, kayaking, fishing and swimming, but it will help get vehicles off of the shoulder of the Mount Baker Highway (SR 542) and make that section of road much safer for everyone.

The WMBC has many members that enjoy rafting, kayaking and fishing and the addition of this new water access location along the North Fork will continue to improve our quality of life in Whatcom County and tourism in the towns of Glacier and Maple Falls.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric J. Brown'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Brown
Executive Director, WMBC
Phone: (206) 399-8347
Email: eric@wmbcmtb.org
Web: www.wmbcmtb.org



August 3, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1259: North Fork Nooksack Water Access, Acquisition and Development

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of Superfeet Worldwide, we are writing in support of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) North Fork Nooksack Water Access project through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The proposed project will provide needed and suitable access to the North Fork Nooksack River and Whatcom Land Trust's Maple Creek Reach conservation site.

The North Fork Nooksack River, located in Whatcom County, is known for its natural beauty and cultural resources. Flowing from Mount Baker, this remarkable river is popular with boaters and paddlers who use the river for a range of experiences in a nearly pristine natural environment. The river enhances the quality of life in Whatcom County for Superfeet employees and supports the work we've done with the Whatcom Land Trust over the past 5 years. This summer we have shared stories of kayaking, floating, and fishing on the North Fork; the river connects us to each other, and to this remarkable area we get to call home.

The project has the following goals and objectives:

1. **Provide Safe and Sustainable Public Access** - This site aims to provide for safe access to outdoor recreation opportunities through low-impact site interventions. The proposed project has the potential to accommodate multiple activities with facilities for boaters, anglers, and people desiring contact access to the water.
2. **Protect, Enhance, and Restore Natural Systems** - This project would provide public access while also enhancing ecological function. The site is dominated by a cleared area that has significant restoration potential. The parking area would be separated from the riverbank allowing for extensive riparian restoration of native vegetation including conifers.



3. **Increase Connections and Partnerships** - This project provides opportunities for increased connections and partnerships between the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Whatcom Land Trust, the Nooksack Tribe, and all river users. The benefits include shared access, opportunities, and amenities.

We urge you to support the DNR's grant request for this important access site that will provide many public benefits and opportunities for partnerships.

Sincerely

Linda Balfour
VP Marketing
Superfeet Worldwide LLC

Eric Hayes
Chief Marketing Officer
Superfeet Worldwide LLC



September 22, 2020

To the attention of: RCO WWRP #20-1821D and DNR-ALEA #20-1819C Grant Programs
c/o Port of Silverdale Commissioners

RE: Port of Silverdale Expand Float Facilities & Enhance Beach Access Projects

Clam Island Rowing is pleased to provide this letter in support and commitment for the Port of Silverdale *Expand Float Facilities & Enhance Beach Access* Projects currently in its 50% design stages.

Clam Island Rowing (CIR) has worked in partnership with the Port since 2013 when we started the club. The mission of the Clam Island Rowing is to provide rowing opportunities for youth and adults for fitness, recreation and competition. Our motto is Rowing for All. The Port of Silverdale provides CIR the use of the Port's rowing shells, rowing equipment and two motorized safety boats. The Clam Island Boatyard is located on the Port of Silverdale property. Clam Island Rowing offers sweep and sculling rowing programs for adults and teens. We offer free Learn to Row events four times a year for the public. CIR twice hosted the Bill Richards Regatta which drew rowers from other clubs in Kitsap and Jefferson counties.

We are aware that the existing facilities are inadequate for launching rowing shells and kayaks. Currently, we carry boats from the Boatyard to the water and launch directly into water at the beach. This presents several problems: First, boats need to be carried quite a distance through the parking lot to the water. Carrying boats has been our number one cause of injuries for members. Often we need to negotiate a 59' boat between cars and often need to ask drivers to move their cars so we can access the beach. On low tides the distance can be increased by over 150 feet. While that distance does not seem great, carrying a heavy boat through mushy intertidal area every extra step is a potential opportunity for injury. Second, our rowers have to walk into the water getting wet up to their knees. During the cooler temperatures of Fall, Winter and Spring, having wet legs at the beginning and the end of a row or paddle can prevent rowers from going out at all.

The proposed float would allow storage of CIR club boats as well as private rowing shells on the dock. Shells could be launched from the float and thus, avoiding walking into the water to launch. This float would also allow us to be on the water for longer periods of time by subtracting the time it takes to carry the boats to the shore. Dock launching would increase valuable practice time and prevent our number one cause of injury.

Thank you for this excellent opportunity to improve our community.

Sincerely,

Bridget Burke
Clam Island Rowing, Director



Kitsap Sailing Foundation
A Non-Profit Organization
 Benefiting Kitsap County Youth

September 20, 2020

To the attention of: RCO WWRP #20-1821D and DNR-ALEA #20-1819C Grant Programs

c/o Port of Silverdale Commissioners

RE: Port of Silverdale Expand Float Facilities; Enhance Beach Access Projects

The Kitsap Sailing Foundation is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Port of Silverdale Expand Float Facilities; Enhance Beach Access Projects currently in its 50% design stages.

The Kitsap Sailing Foundation has worked in partnership with the Port to provide sailing activities to adults and youth sailors in our area. In collaboration with the Port we run summer programs for youth sailing, fall and spring competitive sailing programs, host regional sailing regattas and provide opportunities for adults to enjoy sailing from the Silverdale waterfront.

The existing facilities are inadequate to serve the growing non-motorized population which far exceeds that of the past motorized boating community. Particularly in that the existing float is too small while the 35-foot gangway is unsafe at low tides. In addition, the heavily used community dock requires that all users must pass through the motorized finger docks to get to the non-motorized float.

We are pleased to see that the Port plans to use these funds to add a new 80-foot gangway leading directly to a new 28'x100' float that will allow all non-motorized use to be separate from the motorized boat users. We are also pleased to see effort go into restoring the degraded beach. The current environmentally responsible design elements include a combination of light penetrating fish-friendly deck grating and deck boards.

We very much believe in the vision stated in the five year plan for the Port to expand and improve the non-motorized use of the Silverdale waterfront. We are proud of the sailing activities that we manage and promote on the waterfront through the port and look forward to helping grow the waterfront area along with our friends in the paddle sports.

Thank you for considering and hopefully helping to improve our community.

Sincerely,

John Bouck
 John Bouck, President

On behalf of the Kitsap Sailing Foundation Board of Directors:

Greg Jacobs, Julie Jablonski, Mike Fowler, Matt Hebard, Paul Coleman, Chelsea Walsh, Mitch Icard

10321 Ogle Rd NE
 Poulsbo, WA 98370
 Tax ID# 94-3331010
 (360) 447-8520

KitsapSailing.org
 board@kitsapsailing.org



Illahee Community Club
(Supporting the Illahee Community Plan)
(Meetings held the middle month of each quarter – Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

August 7, 2020

To: Recreation and Conservation Office

Re: RCO Grants 20-1711 & 20-1713 Port of Illahee Waterfront Access
Improvement Plans

The Illahee Community Club (ICC) strongly supports the Port of Illahee plans to improve the waterfront with multiple grant submittals.

The ICC supports the cleanup work the Port is doing with the former Illahee Food Store along with the planned work to eventually clean up the leaking underground storage tanks. The ICC appreciates and supports the ongoing maintenance improvement work projects the Port is doing to maintain the Illahee Community dock structure, which was falling into disrepair.

What the ICC is most supportive of is the long overdue planned improvements to the entire Port overlay area, which includes improvements to the old store, the demolition of the Port rental house, added parking, small boat access, improvements for boat docking, and a separate fishing area.

Thank you Port Commissioners for moving ahead with this project that not only benefits the local Illahee Community, but also the greater surrounding area residents who use the Port facilities.

The Illahee Community Club (ICC) therefore enthusiastically supports and endorses this application to make major improvements to the Illahee waterfront!

Sincerely,

Barney Bernhard

Barney Bernhard, President
Illahee Community Club



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND ROWING
221 Winslow Way W., Suite 102
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
president@bainbridgerowing.org
www.bainbridgerowing.org

June 10, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this letter of support for the Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District (BI Parks) acquisition of the Springer House to allow for the expansion of their sailing and paddling programs.

As the president of the volunteer run, nonprofit community organization, Bainbridge Island Rowing (BIR), I can attest to the intrinsic value of meaningful programs that allow both youths and adults to access our waterways and learn to navigate them. The Puget Sound offers countless opportunities to connect with and learn from our natural aquatic environment. Unfortunately, for many community members, accessing our waterways by boat is simply not an option without affordable public programs like those offered by BIR and BI Parks. Demand for these programs continues to exceed supply.

The opportunity for BI Parks to expand those programs further by offering equal access to those with physical limitations as a future goal for the Springer House property is a much needed and invaluable opportunity for our community.

BI Parks acquisition of the Springer House property would be a great asset to current and future generations of community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Entress", written in a cursive style.

Sue Entress
President, Bainbridge Island Rowing



June 16, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Port Madison Yacht Club (PMYC) is submitting this letter of support for the acquisition of Springer House in Hidden Cove from Seattle Yacht Club by Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD) to expand water sport access to youth and adults through its sailing programs.

Since 1956 PMYC has strived to make sailing affordable and accessible on Hidden Cove and is dedicated to the promotion of sailing, navigation, and the manifold beauties of the sea. PMYC and BIMPRD have worked together for decades to support these goals including the formation of the first high school sailing team in Washington state and support each other's programs to encourage youth and adult sailing.

BIMPRD has operated sailing programs at the Springer House facility over the last several years and have been a welcome addition to Hidden Cove, increasing the ability of youth sailors to access one of the most beautiful harbors in the Pacific Northwest. Springer property would also provide additional space to support our annual youth JAM regatta and offer adaptive sailing that PMYC is not equipped to handle.

Making BIMPRD a permanent neighbor with the acquisition of Springer House with its dock access and classroom facilities would be a welcome development ensuring future generations access to sailing and the water on Bainbridge Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sydor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Sydor, Commodore, Port Madison Yacht Club



June 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Friends of Bainbridge Island High School Sailing (BIHHS) submits this letter in support of a grant sought by Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District (BIMPRD) to purchase the Springer House in Hidden Cove.

BIHHS, a Washington non-profit corporation and Section 501(c)(3) organization, supports the high school sailing team and youth sailing programs on Bainbridge Island. We cooperate with BIMPRD to support youth sailing on Bainbridge Island, primarily by purchasing sailboats that are used by both the sailing team and BIMPRD youth sailing classes. We also share our collective limited resources in support of youth sailing. Together, we seek to provide robust sailing programs for the youth of Bainbridge Island to further their maritime interests and skills, a particularly suitable ideal given we live on an island in one of the largest, most beautiful protected waterways in the world.

The most significant hinderance to growth of youth sailing on Bainbridge Island is access to the water. To have an effective and efficient program, we need space on the water to store sailboats for use by the youth and to conduct our sailing programs. The sailing float in Eagle Harbor is a great, but limited resource. Eagle Harbor is also a relatively busy waterway that isn't conducive for our youngest sailors or those with access limitations. Perhaps the most significant limitation of the sailing float is access, which requires a ferry by small boat from the city dock.

Purchasing Springer House would be a significant improvement in the resources available for all sailing programs, and especially youth sailing programs, on Bainbridge Island. It would enable year-round access to a safe and protected waterway suitable for sailors of any skill level and access limitations. Unlike the sailing float in Eagle Harbor, Springer House and its dock are accessible by vehicle; no ferrying by small boat is required. Purchasing Springer House, instead of just leasing it from Seattle Yacht Club during the summer, would easily double the capacity of sailing programs on Bainbridge Island.

Having a robust youth sailing program is critical to having a successful high school sailing team. Having a larger capacity to introduce more youth to sailing at an early age increases interest in sailing, which is a lifetime sport. It also greatly increases the pool of high school sailors and greatly improves the skill level of sailors on the team. This keeps us competitive with other great

programs throughout the North West Interscholastic Sailing Association. Awarding a grant to BIMPRD to purchase Springer House would greatly benefit youth sailing on Bainbridge Island.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Dewey". The "A" is stylized with a long horizontal stroke that extends to the left.

John Dewey

President

Friends of Bainbridge Island High School Sailing

August 5, 2020

To whom it may Concern.

Bainbridge Island Parks Department asked us to write a letter in support for a State Grant application for property in Port Madison - a pristine, natural harbor on Bainbridge Island.

We are 40+ year residents and neighbors living four houses away from the property. We are life members of Seattle yacht Club which currently owns the property. We are very familiar with the history of what is commonly called the Springer House.

Years ago SYC bought the Springer property in order to expand their docks. That expansion was completed. Part of the acquisition included an old house and dock in disrepair. SYC has an extensive sailing program in Seattle and decided to rehab the property anticipating they would establish a similar sailing program in Port Madison. The sailing school was one of those ideas that never happened due to logistics of operating two programs.

The dock was totally refurbished for the intended purpose of accommodating small boats. The house was also updated and made ADA compliant. The lower level has a classroom and storage area for small boats in the winter. It is truly unique. All in all about \$800,000 was invested in the rehab. The Springer property has been sitting idle.

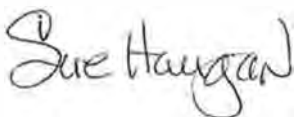
Bainbridge Parks has the property immediately adjacent. About three years ago they leased the property to operate their own programs which have been very successful. Port Madison is special because there is no commercialism, no gas docks and no restaurants, Only SYC, Port Madison Yacht Club and Bainbridge Parks have public facilities here. It is ideal for small boats.

Bainbridge Parks acquiring the property is a not-to-be missed opportunity and we cannot say enough about how well they have managed the property while leasing it.

We strongly support the effort for Bainbridge Parks to acquire the property. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Regards,

Dick and Sue Haugan
206.940.3240 Cell



WHATCOM COUNTY
Parks & Recreation
3373 Mount Baker Highway
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097



Michael G. McFarlane, Director
Christ Thomsen, Operations Manager

June 15, 2020

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office
Attn: Kaleen Cottingham, Director
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504

RE: Grant Applications: California Creek Estuary Park
Blaine Birch Bay Park & Recreation District No. 2
WWRP-Water Access No. 20-1757/ ALEA No. 20-1841

Dear Funding Board:

I am writing in support of the Blaine Birch Bay Park & Recreation District's applications for Phase 2 of the California Creek Estuary Park located in Whatcom County. The acquisition of an additional 12-acres and the proposed development for passive recreation has numerous benefits and will protect and preserve prime habitat for salmonids, forage fish and other species.

Water access remains the highest priority for Whatcom County residents as identified in the County's Park Recreation and Open Space Plan. This project helps meet this need providing an outstanding opportunity to expand public access while restoring the natural functions of an important estuary.

I urge your support and approval for the funding of this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael McFarlane", is written over a faint, larger signature that also appears to be "Michael McFarlane".

Michael McFarlane, Director
Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department

Cc. Blaine Birch Bay Park & Recreation District No. 2

WHATCOM COUNTY

Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384
360-778-5901 Fax



Mark Personius, AICP
Director

June 18, 2020

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for Grant Application # 20-1757 & # 20-1841 California Creek Estuary Park Phase 2

To Whom it May Concern:

Whatcom County Planning & Development Services would like to express support for Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District's grant applications, WWRP20-1757 and ALEA 20-1841 to continue with Phase 2 of California Creek Estuary Park.

This project will provide valuable wildlife habitat while also providing low impact recreation. Phase 2 builds upon the great work being completed by Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District. The interpretive kiosk, trails, and kayak launch will provide a valuable opportunity for visitors to learn about and enjoy this important ecosystem. It will be greatly valued by our community.

Whatcom County strongly supports this application and we are excited to see the project move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Personius", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Personius
Director, Whatcom County Planning & Development Services



CITY OF BLAINE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

435 MARTIN STREET, STE. 3000 • BLAINE, WA • 98230

PHONE: (360) 332-8311 • FAX: (360) 543-9978 • WEBSITE: www.cityofblaine.com

June 22, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for Phase 2 of the California Creek Estuary Park

Dear Grant Panel and Outdoor Recreational Advocates,

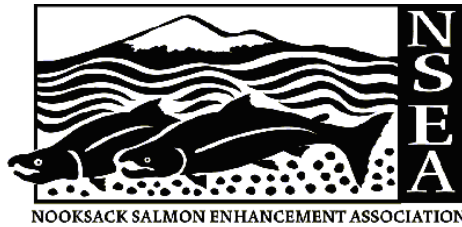
Thank you for considering the approval of funding for Phase 2 of the California Creek Estuary Park. Please accept this letter of support from the City of Blaine. This recreational facility will connect people with the unique and valuable ecosystem of Californian Creek and Drayton Harbor. This special place not only provides rare environmentally sensitive marine and estuarine habitat, it also complements and provides new recreational amenities for both water enthusiasts and bicyclists. The park is centrally located between Birch Bay and the City of Blaine and will provide a key resting spot as Whatcom County and the City of Blaine develop the Bay to Bay Trail connecting the two seaside communities. These concepts are supported by City's Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan (2004), Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2009) and the Bay to Bay Trail is listed as a Very High priority project in the City of Blaine's Strategic Economic Initiative (2017).

These types of recreational and natural amenities make Blaine an amazing place to work, live and play! Thank you for helping fund Phase 2 of the California Creek Estuary Park Project.

Best regards,

Alex Wenger, AICP
Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator
City of Blaine

This organization is an Equal Opportunity Provider



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Letter of support for WWRP Water Access #20-1257:
California Creek Estuary Park Phase 2, Acquisition and Development

July 21, 2020

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA), I would like to express our strong support for the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District (BBBPRD) Water Access project through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The proposed project will provide public access for the community to both California Creek and Drayton Harbor shorelines while providing countless educational and partnership opportunities.

NSEA believes salmon are an essential part of our environment, culture, and economy, and aims to educate, inspire, and engage the community to take action to keep wild salmon here for future generations. This proposed Park provides an additional educational site and opportunity for NSEA to educate site users and nearby residents. This site is also close to the Blaine School campus and will provide opportunities for onsite environmental education for our future stewards.

This Estuary of California Creek has been rated high in restoration potential for salmonids and other fish. The Park will have an interpretive kiosk that will help educate the park users as well.

Access on this BBBPRD site will not only allow for educational programs at an additional location, but it will also provide partnered restoration work party opportunities. While site improvements will consist of a restroom, parking, hand launch and appropriate creek access, the remaining area provides important salmon habitat restoration opportunities where the public can join for further engagement. NSEA has successfully partnered with several individuals and organizations to involve the public in salmon habitat restoration. With funding through the WWRP, BBBPRD will be able to turn these ideas into a reality and will provide a benefit to both the habitat and the public. If this project is funded, NSEA will commit to co-leading a community volunteer work party (following all safety precautions at the time) to restore habitat in the Park.

Sincerely,

Rachel Vasak
NSEA Executive Director

July 15, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear Funding Board,

As a Benton City resident who enjoys fishing the Yakima River, I'm writing to express my support of Benton City's grant application for Riverfront Park. I am familiar with the project site and think it is a great opportunity to increase public access to the Yakima River for fishing and other water activities.

Benton City is a great place to live, and adding additional fishing spots will only make it better. My family enjoys using the bicycle path for cycling, and when this park is developed, we will be able to ride our bikes to go fishing.

Thank you for your consideration of Benton City's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.D. Bates, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R.D. Bates, Jr.

July 15, 2020

Funding Committee
Recreation & Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Funding Committee,

I am the parent of, Aubrey Oscarson, who attended Benton City's new youth paddleboarding/kayaking session last year. I'm writing to support Benton City's request for grant funding of the new Riverfront Park.

My family was very excited to be part of the youth kayak and paddleboard classes on the Yakima River here and we appreciate the grant funding that made these sessions possible. There are many kids who want to be able to spend time on the river. The new Riverfront Park will make it easier and safer for local youth to get to the river and enjoy watersports on the river.

Thank you for supporting this important project for Benton City's children.

Cordially,

N. Wade Oscarson



July 15, 2020

Funding Committee
Recreation & Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Funding Committee,

I am the parent of, Austyn Kurth, who attended Benton City's new youth paddleboarding/kayaking session last year. I'm writing to support Benton City's request for grant funding of the new Riverfront Park.

My family was very excited to be part of the youth kayak and paddleboard classes on the Yakima River here and we appreciate the grant funding that made these sessions possible. There are many kids who want to be able to spend time on the river. The new Riverfront Park will make it easier and safer for local youth to get to the river and enjoy watersports on the river.

Thank you for supporting this important project for Benton City's children.

Cordially,



Kyle Kurth

July 16, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear Funding Committee,

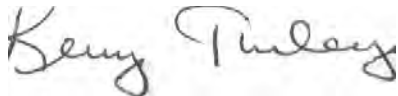
I am a bird enthusiast and Past President of the Yakima Valley Audubon Society living in the Lower Yakima Valley, and I am writing to voice my support of the Benton City Riverfront Park grant application. As a child I lived near the project site and it is an area that I spent many an hour in, which helped nurture my love of the natural world.

I have many wonderful memories of this area and I am pleased to hear that efforts are nearly complete to buy this land for public water access. I understand that eventual plans for this site will not only restore waterfront habitat for a park near the abandoned Benton City railroad bridge, but plans include the conservation of an additional 800' of waterfowl habitat north of the bridge as well. I was excited to hear that a local Eagle Scout will be installing bird perching platforms as part of their Scouting project.

Birders and other naturalists are always on the lookout for public access points where they can observe wildlife in its natural state, and this will be an ideal site.

Thank you for your consideration of Benton City's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kerry Turley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kerry" and last name "Turley" clearly distinguishable.

Kerry Turley
304 E. Woodin Road
Sunnyside, WA 98944



Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board
1841 Terminal Dr. Richland, WA 99354
(509)943-6005
bcnwcb@frontier.com

August 7, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Funding Board,

On behalf of the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board, I am writing to express support for the Riverfront Park grant application submitted to RCO by Benton City.

Our organization is focused on protecting local farms, the economy, and native ecosystems from the damage caused by noxious weeds. We are pleased to support the Riverfront Park project and hope to see this land, and the adjacent Yakima River shoreline, come under Benton City's control to identify and eliminate any noxious weeds at the site and prevent future noxious weed propagation.

Noxious weeds can include many invasive, non-native plants that threaten agricultural crops, local ecosystems, or fish and wildlife habitat. These weeds include non-native grasses, flowering plants, shrubs and trees, and aquatic plants that invade wetlands, rivers, lakes, and shorelines. The proposed Riverfront Park location is a known area where the following noxious weeds are present in some capacity: musk thistle, puncturevine, cereal rye, rush skeletonweed, Scotch thistle, kochia, perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, reed canarygrass, tansy ragwort, blackberry, and Russian olive.

During a recent survey we also found presence of the following common weeds: Maretail, prickly lettuce, Russian thistle, cheatgrass, red stem filaree, alfalfa, salsify, bremuda grass, mullein, tansy mustard, tumble mustard, chicory, narrowleaf plantain, and wide leaf plantain.

Thank you for your consideration of Benton City's grant request.

Sincerely,
Konrad Kauer

Konrad Kauer,

Coordinator



July 17, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Funding Board,

On behalf of Tapteal Greenway, I am writing to express support of the Riverfront Park grant application being submitted to RCO by Benton City.

Our non-profit organization has focused on providing conservation, education and recreation activities along the lower Yakima River and its tributaries since 1995. Our popular land trail is mirrored by the Tapteal Water Trail, a project created with support from some of our partner organizations (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, Benton County, City of Richland, City of West Richland, Benton City) and a grant from REI. The 30-mile water trail begins in Benton City at Sportsman's Park, which is owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. We hold several annual community paddling events of varying distances that allow people to safely get out on the Yakima River. These are attended by experienced and new recreationists of all ages with canoes, kayaks and standup paddleboards. We make an effort to include youth in our activities and were pleased to learn that Benton City received No Child Left Inside grant funding to support youth kayak and paddleboard sessions last year.

We are excited to hear that Benton City's efforts to buy land for a Riverfront Park received RCO funding and that the acquisition process is nearing completion. We strongly support the next phase, which will be development of the park to among other things provide an additional launch point for non-motorized watercraft. Trail planning, building, and maintenance are things that our volunteers do on a regular basis, and we look forward to using our skills and experience to assist Benton City in the planning and site preparation of the launch area when they move forward with park development. When completed, we will certainly be adding Riverfront Park as a site on the Tapteal Water Trail.

Thank you for your consideration of the Riverfront Park grant request. We believe it will greatly enhance the community of Benton City, the Tapteal Water Trail, and all outdoor enthusiasts in the region.

Sincerely,



Dirk Peterson, President

taptealgreenway@gmail.com
www.tapteal.org
www.facebook.com/TaptealGreenway



July 31, 2020

20-1239 WWRP WA #12

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Funding Committee,

I am the co-owner of Northwest Paddleboarding. I'd like to express support of the Riverfront Park grant application being submitted to RCO by Benton City.

Our business is located in Richland, Washington and we offer rentals, classes and a variety of tours and community paddle opportunities throughout the Tri-Cities region. I am familiar with the area where Benton City is considering the development of a Riverfront Park, and am excited that we may be able to add that site as a launch location for our patrons. Many of our customers are fans of the Tapteal Water Trail, and we have learned that the current Benton City launch site can at times be challenging for new paddleboarders, due to turbulence at the bend of the river. This new site is on a smoother and slower part of the river, which would improve the beginner's launch experience on the trail.

We were pleased to hear that the city received grant funding to support youth paddleboarding and kayaking sessions. We look forward to providing input while the park develops, as we may be interested in providing on-site rentals for selected events once Riverfront Park is completed.

Thank you for your consideration of Benton City's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Krista Patterson", is located at the bottom left of the letter.

Krista Patterson, Co-Owner and Instructor

Due to COVID-19, CKA is closed for 2020 and was unable to be reached for an updated letter of support. Their 2018 letter supporting land acquisition for the development Riverfront Park. Their website indicates that they will reopen in 2021.

COLUMBIA KAYAK ADVENTURES



Rentals-Tours-Classes
columbiakayak.com

20-1239 WWRP WA #12

July 5, 2018

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Funding Committee,

My wife and I own Columbia Kayak Adventures, and we would like to express our support of the Riverfront Park grant application being submitted to RCO by Benton City.

Our business offers single and double kayaks and stand up paddleboards for 2-hour or all-day use in the Tri-Cities area. We also hold classes, provide shuttle services and host multiple guided group tours each summer.

I am happy to learn that Benton City is working to buy land to provide an additional launch point for kayaks and paddleboards. The site they are considering is along a calm section of river that will allow for an easy launch.

Once Riverfront park is developed and open for use, my business will consider on-site rentals and/or providing shuttle services to users at the new park during specific events.

Thank you for considering Benton City's request.

Sincerely,


John Dudley, Owner



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Attn: Mr. Ted Willhite, Board Chair

October 7, 2020

Dear Mr. Ted Willhite,

We are pleased to support the request to allow urban forest projects to generate carbon credits on lands acquired with Recreation and Conservation Office funding.

City Forest Credits is a nonprofit carbon registry that manages carbon protocols and impact standards for metropolitan areas in the United States.

According to a 2018 US Forest Service study, we are losing 36 million urban trees every year. In addition to this loss, there isn't enough public funding to protect and steward our existing trees. Carbon credits allow project sponsors to leverage RCO funding to amplify the investment. Project sponsors can sell carbon credits generated from forest protection following a rigorous and robust carbon protocol, and access new sources of revenue to preserve and care for urban trees. A win for everyone.

Thank you for your leadership.

Best,

Mark McPherson

Mark McPherson
Executive Director, City Forest Credits

City of Castle Rock

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 370

CASTLE ROCK, WA 98611

(360) 274-7478

October 26, 2020



Mr. Ted Willhite
RCO Board Chair

Dear Chairman Willhite,

Greetings to the RCO Board members. My name is David Vorse from the City of Castle Rock, Washington, and I would like to address an outstanding concern I have regarding the scoring system on several of the grant criteria. I should state at the beginning that I have submitted for several grants from the RCO for many types of projects over the last 25+ years and feel very blessed to have been awarded a number of them. However, that being said, I would like to address the Board with a concern regarding "staff scoring" that appears to be slighted against rural communities in rural counties. While I understand the State, through RCO, wants to get the biggest bang for its buck, there is a distinct advantage with larger communities in more populated counties. The three criteria that I would like to bring to your attention are:

Criteria #12: Growth Management Act Preference (RCW 36.70A.040)

Criteria #13: Population to People (urban growth boundary with a population of 5,000 or more)

Criteria #14: County Population Density (population density of 250 or more per square mile)

The criteria listed above create an advantage (or disadvantage depending on where you are from) of 3 whole points. I am sure the Board is aware that this kind of difference can make a very large difference in whether or not a project receives funding, as many times the projects are only separated by 100th of a point. I doubt the board's intention was to discriminate against the rural communities, but I am sure you can see how this discourages the smaller communities with very little resources to begin with, to complete the grant applications and presentations. While it is not my intention to complain about our recent scoring in the WWRP Trails category, I would like to use it to illustrate my point. We scored 53.27. Upon reviewing the criteria, it is evident that 3 whole points were not available to use for issues that are beyond our control. First, we are a non-GMA county; however, many of our planning processes do comply with GMA. GMA is a county-wide designation and there are still some rural counties that this does not apply to. Should the cities in these counties be punished? We lost one point on this issue. Second, we are a rural city with a population of 2,200. Does this mean the lives in small rural cities are not valued as those in larger population? Castle Rock is the "Gateway" to Mt. St. Helen's National

Volcanic Monument, as well as other points of interest, that help create our economic sustainability with its tens of thousands of visitors every year as well. Do these visitors not deserve improved recreational opportunities as much as urban folks? This mean we were not eligible for another whole point. Third, we are in a county that is rural and does not meet the 250 population per square mile ratio. Why are King, Thurston, and Spokane Counties more deserving of grant funds than Cowlitz or Lewis? Certainly they have more resources available to them than the rural do. Again, we were denied another point for a total of 3 whole points. So how did this play out in the overall scoring? Because we did not receive any of these points our scored position was 22, and it is probable to be well out the likelihood of receiving a grant. If we had received the 3 whole points we would have been 13 and perhaps within the grant amount allotted. Again, my point is not about Castle Rock, but rather about how this is being perceived by smaller communities and how they are potentially being left out of grant awards even though they might have a very good project. I know from my personal experience even when I have had a very good project, we often scored barely enough to make the funding break point due to this disparity.

I am sure the Board is not trying to be discriminate against smaller communities. I am sure they think rural lives matter as much as urban, so the question is how can we consider the scoring without these unintended implications? I have a few suggestions: First, put a dollar limit on some of the grant applications. For instance, the WWRP Trails does not have a limit, so only a few very large projects can receive funding. By adding a limit, more projects could receive funding, and to more places across the State. Add a cap and make the applicants scale a project to that amount instead of having it open. Second, consider breaking some of the grants up into two pots of money. One suggestion would be allotting a certain percentage toward communities with population less than 10,000 and the remainder for those over that size. Third, suggest looking if it is warranted to base points on GMA, county population or city size, as most of the time these are well outside the influence of the community seeking a grant and as such, should not be a penalty simply for being rural.

Again, let me state that I am not asking to have the scoring for our project adjusted, but rather I am suggesting that these criteria be revisited and consider some other alternatives that would not appear to be slighted against any city in our State. I am more than happy to follow up on this subject if the Board wishes to have further input into this subject. Please feel free to contact me at 360-274-7478 or at crpwd@ci.castle-rock.wa.us.

Sincerely,



David Vorse
Public Works Director
City of Castle Rock

October 26, 2020

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98501

Dear Director Cottingham:

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Washington in order to bring to your attention a recent Guest Column and Letter to the Editor in the Ellensburg Daily Record.

These correspondences are regarding the Checkerboard Partnership effort to explore the potential for a community forest near Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald, including some forest lands currently managed by the Conservancy. These letters were submitted in response to a recent Letter to the Editor from Jill Sheffer.

Please see the Guest Column (first attachment) from TNC's Conservation Director James Schroeder, which was published online on October 7th, 2020:

https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/all_access/guest-column-nature-conservancy-has-kept-promises/article_776e1dfe-6e30-5134-b2ca-bb8abb31f915.html

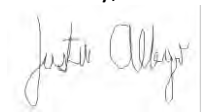
Please also see the Letter to the Editor (second attachment) submitted by Melissa Speeg with Kittitas Conservation Trust on behalf of the Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee:

https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-checkerboard-partnership-is-diverse-community-effort/article_b1560789-c90d-5562-b68d-35d859be1d18.html

The Central Cascade Forest lands, formerly owned by Plum Creek, are owned by the Central Cascades Forest LLC and managed by the Conservancy for conservation. We have striven to ensure the community's values are reflected in our permanent conservation strategy. I would like to bring your attention to the new Checkerboard Partnership website (<https://www.checkerboardpartnership.com/>) with a focus on the concept of a locally designed and managed Community Forest.

The Nature Conservancy in Washington is available at your convenience to answer questions or provide additional information to the Recreation and Conservation Office staff or the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.

Sincerely,



Justin Allegro
External Affairs Advisor
The Nature Conservancy in Washington

Guest Column

Oct 7, 2020

From James Schroeder. Conservation Director for The Nature Conservancy in Washington

To the Editor:

As the Conservation Director for The Nature Conservancy in Washington, I am responding to Jill Scheffer's letter regarding the Checkerboard Partnership effort to explore the potential for a community forest near Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald, including some forest lands currently managed by the Conservancy.

The Central Cascade Forest lands formerly owned by Plum Creek are scattered in a checkerboard pattern amidst federal, state, local, and private forests. The Conservancy negotiated their acquisition in 2014 with interim financing provided by private investors. The land is owned by the Central Cascades Forest LLC and managed by the Conservancy for conservation. We are grateful to those who took on substantial financial risk to give us the time to secure permanent conservation of the land.

From the beginning we have striven to ensure the community's values are reflected in our permanent conservation strategy. We established an office in Cle Elum and sought out local community members to lead this work and engage local partners in developing a vision for the future of these lands.

The Checkerboard Partnership represents the community's response to that invitation, along with their desire to lean in and secure permanent public access and the economic benefits of these forests for the community.

When we announced the acquisition in 2014 we made important promises, including land management focused on wildlife habitat, recreational access, wildfire risk reduction, and forest health. We also promised that we would engage with the community as well as local, state and federal agencies and tribes to identify the best future for these lands.

We presented these plans at numerous community meetings as well as with the Kittitas County Public Lands Advisory Committee and the Kittitas County Commissioners. [Public ownership has always been part of the discussion.](#)

We have kept these promises.

We've managed the forests for forest health and wildlife habitat and achieved Forest Stewardship Council certification for sustainability in 2018. We have [thinned more than 975 acres of forests](#) to protect communities, and in the wake of the Jolly Mountain Fire we planted more than 75,000 trees.

We've helped bring prescribed fire to the region. The [collaborative prescribed fire exchange](#) has trained local volunteer and professional firefighters from Roslyn and Cle Elum as well as other agencies and tribes from around the Northwest. Controlled burns have been carried out on both private and public land in true collaboration. This makes forests healthier and the whole community safer.

We have transferred land to the Forest Service where it makes sense, and kept Kittitas County Commissioners and Public Lands Advisory Committee informed at every step. The Forest Service used Land and Water Conservation Funding for those acquisitions, funding derived from fees paid by oil companies.

We've worked with the Yakama Nation, the state Department of Natural Resources, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service to bring federal and state funding into Kittitas County for collaborative forest restoration across private, state and federal land, increasing efficiencies and reducing wildfire risk.

We've been proud to be part of several cooperative conservation and recreation efforts, including creation of the [Towns to Teanaway project](https://facebook.com/townstoteanaway) (facebook.com/townstoteanaway), [the East Cascades Recreation Partnership](#) and the [Kittitas County Fire Adapted Communities Coalition](#).

Now the [Checkerboard Partnership](#) is building momentum. We are absolutely part of this work, but the partnership is leading the way. We're grateful for the leadership of Kittitas Conservation Trust, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, and many community members in this effort. Check out the web site checkerboardpartnership.com, and take a moment to fill out the survey while you are there.

Sincerely,

James Schroeder, Conservation Director for The Nature Conservancy in Washington

Letter: Checkerboard Partnership is diverse, community effort

October 10, 2020

To the Editor:

As members of the Checkerboard Partnership, we are responding to the recent editorial regarding our effort to permanently protect thousands of acres in Kittitas County to preserve community access and benefits from these lands.

These lands were acquired through interim financing provided by a group of private investors. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) currently manages the land on behalf of these investors and is working with the community to find a permanent solution within approximately 10 years. We see this as an awesome opportunity to create a lasting legacy for our community.

In addition to proposing strategic land transfers to state and federal agencies, the Partnership is currently seeking grant and private funding to create a community forest on the Cle Elum Ridge. The opinion piece states that we are “asking the public [to] pay them back at more than twice the original value.” The price of these lands has not been determined – if we are awarded this grant, the fair market value will be independently assessed. All public grants only pay up to the assessed fair market value.

We were concerned to see the opinion piece state that the Checkerboard Partnership is an “organization” and imply we are a “hyped-up effort” acting on behalf of TNC. This is incorrect. We are what our name says, a partnership, made up of members from the communities who would be most impacted by the loss of these lands: Kittitas County residents and the Yakama Nation.

Our interests, expertise, and values vary widely but we all agree on the importance of keeping this land working, healthy and accessible. We range from small forest landowners, city and county representatives, community-based organizations, and conservation non-profits, one of which is TNC. As the project originator and ongoing land manager, they remain an important partner in this effort.

We all have equal say in our partnership, vote on decisions, and work together to find resolution when we disagree. We believe in protecting this land so that our families, neighbors, friends, and community members can continue to enjoy these special places forever.

This will be a long process and we want our community to lead the way. Although we are diverse, we by no means represent every voice in Kittitas County. We encourage everyone to engage with us, whether you have concerns or support the project. To do so, please contact our facilitator Melissa Speeg at mspeeg@kittitasconservationtrust.org.

Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee

From: [Jump Playground](#)
To: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Thanks from Jefferson County
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:57:26 PM

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

Hi Wyatt,

I was hoping to get this to you last week to share with the RCO Board, but school absences led to delays in producing a video thank you. A few of the children waiting to use the Jefferson Universal Movement Playground - JUMP! wanted to send thanks to RCO for choosing our project number 2 overall and first in development projects.

If you could pass this along to the Board we would appreciate it. Thanks and looking forward to the Board Meeting next week.

Sincerely,



[Jump Thank You.mp4](#)

Sarah Grossman
Board President - ***JUMP!***
Jefferson Universal Movement Playground

CK SAFE & QUIET, LLC
AN ORGANIZATION OF CONCERNED CITIZENS

RCO Funding Board Meeting, 05 November 2020, Agenda Item 13, Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club

Subj: Project Agreement 30-1156D, Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (KRRC) Rifle Line Re-Orientation and Sound Cover

Continuing delay in executing the approved conversion of Project Agreement 30-1156D, Amendment 7, Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (KRRC) Rifle Line Re-Orientation and Sound Cover, as required by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board or RCFB) Resolution 2018-05, cannot be justified.

Amendment 7 requires KRRC to have the funded “improvements” open to public use for 60 consecutive days by 01 January 2021. Discharge of firearms at KRRC has been enjoined continuously since 02 December 2016. KRRC has no chance of resuming operations involving the discharge of firearms in the foreseeable future.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) records, including previous Board meeting materials and PRISM records, document serious violations of the Project Agreement, of Kitsap County Code requirements, and of repeated failure to comply with Court orders directly resulting from the unlawful development of the KRRC property financed in part by the Project Agreement grant funding.

The unlawful development and expansion of uses was found by the Courts to have endangered the surrounding communities and to have created unlawful nuisance conditions adversely affecting a significant number of neighbors of the range and residents of Kitsap County in addition to being the direct cause of losing a much needed public shooting range in the County.

KRRC has yet to provide any kind of schedule, timeline, or listing of actions needed to reopen the funded “improvements” to the public for the intended use. KRRC has made no visible progress in resolving or even in presenting an accurate, credible assessment for resolving the issues in required reports to RCO since the Board passed Resolution 2018-05.

KRRC has clearly and indisputably failed to meet the conditions and timeline required by Resolution 2018-05 and Amendment 7 to Project Agreement 03-1156. KRRC consistently refuses to accept any obligation to or consideration of the surrounding communities and property owners, to the public, or to laws and regulations in effect to operate a lawful and safe public shooting range.

RCO and the Board must take decisive action to fulfill their responsibility for the Firearms, Archery, and Range Recreation (FARR) Program, to taxpayers, to eligible and legitimate recipients of FARR grants, and to the laws of the State of Washington. Repeatedly giving KRRC “one more chance” has not worked. KRRC has not met the conditions of Resolution 2018-05 or Amendment 7 to Project Agreement 03-1156 necessary to avoid execution of the Board ordered-but-delayed conversion of the grant and has no chance of doing so. The Board is requested to order conversion and repayment of the grant funds effective immediately.

Terry Allison, CWO4, USN, ret., on behalf of CK Safe & Quiet, LLC

PO Box 4088
Bremerton, WA 98312
cksafeandquiet@gmail.com

From: [Kevin and Gail](#)
To: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 7:38:53 PM
Attachments: [1 RCO Ltr to KRRC Attorney on Resolution 2018-05 Declaration of Conversion.pdf](#)
[2 KRRC 03-1156 Amendment 7.pdf](#)
[3 KRRC RCO BiMonthly Rpt Jul Sep 2020.pdf](#)
[RE Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.msg](#)

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

Good day, Mr. Lundquist. May I ask that you ensure that this communication gets to Chair Wilhite and members of the Board in advance of Thursday's RCFB.

Sincerely,
Kevin T. Gross

From: Kevin and Gail [mailto:kevinandgail@wavecable.com]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 1:58 PM
To: 'Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov'; 'Ormsby, Rep. Timm'
Cc: Brian Faller (ATG); 'Owens, Linda'; 'Waechter, Shannon'; 'Itgov@ltgov.wa.gov'; scott.robinson@rco.wa.gov; 'Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov'; 'Even, Jeff (ATG)'
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Good day, Senator Rolfes and Representative Ormsby. I am submitting the following inquiry and request for Legislative attention to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) [2003 Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program \(FARR\) Project Agreement #03-1156](#), Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club Rifle Line Re-orientation.

RCW 79.25.210, Firearms Range Account Grant Program Rules, requires facilities funded under the program to remain available for public use for a period of 10 years following final reimbursement of funds. That requirement is implemented by WAC 286-30-040.

The Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (KRRC) received final disbursement of funding for Project Agreement #03-1156 in February 2009, resulting in an available-for-public-use obligation date thru 10 February 2019. Funded improvements at KRRC have not been available to the public for the discharge of firearms for the past 3-1/2 years of the mandatory period due to court injunctions resulting from unlawful development and unpermitted expansion of uses of the grant-funded facilities. Operation of a shooting range and discharge of firearms at the KRRC facility have been continuously and concurrently enjoined by the Courts since December 2nd, 2016, with no chance of reopening to the public in the foreseeable future, nor within the prescribed 60-day window before expiration of the latest Project extension.

At the January 2018 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB – The 'Board') meeting, the Board passed Resolution 2018-05 as amended (Kitsap Rifle and Revolver club – Declaration of Conversion, attachment 1) declaring conversion of

Agreement #03-1156 effective March 1st, 2018, requiring repayment of the grant funds but extending the effective date with conditions.

Later in January 2018 the RCO approved, and KRRC agreed to, Amendment #7 (attachment 2) to the original grant contract which extended execution of the conversion to January 1st 2021, in order to allow the KRRC to come into compliance with Kitsap County construction and operating permitting ordinances.

Primary among the provisions of Amendment #7 is the clause:

*“Notwithstanding the extension of the 10 year period provided above, if the Club is not open to the shooting of firearms for at least **60 consecutive days, by January 1, 2021**, the Director of the RCO may declare a conversion has occurred and require that the Club repay the entire grant amount of \$46,965.16, as of the date of such declaration.”*

Per this clause, the KRRC must be open by November 2, 2020 to meet the terms of Amendment #7. The next scheduled RCFB meeting is November 5, 2020, and an update on the KRRC issues by RCO staff is scheduled for this meeting. Per statement by the RCFB Chairperson Ted Wilhite at the January 2020 RCFB meeting, final decision on conversion would not be made until the January 2021 RCFB meeting. Based on the documented history of issues with Agreement #03-1156, there is a very good chance that the RCFB may again defer converting the grant for an unknown period of time.

As of this date the KRRC remains under two injunctions against discharge of firearms.

This issue has languished for too long to allow any further delay encumbering public funds and denying their use for other more legitimate purposes. These Grant funds are public resources that were disbursed under false pretenses, even as documented in considerable detail by the Recreation and Conservation Office in ‘Project Attachments’ in their PRISM project web page and “materials and correspondence” sections of previous RCFB meetings. While RCO inspections of the KRRC facilities during the active grant period indicated that all work had been completed and that ALL permits had been obtained, evidence held by the RCO identified that in fact NO Kitsap County construction permits had been obtained. Hence, Kitsap County litigation commenced in September 2010, to force compliance with County ordinances.

Per Director Cottingham’s policy statement dated 13 February 2020 (attachments 3 and 4), since the KRRC has not satisfied their requirements to resolve permitting requirements and reopen, the RCO should execute the Conversion and withdraw the Grant funding without further delay.

Now is the time for the Legislative Appropriations Committees to assure beneficial use of these public funds. The Legislature needs to strongly support the immediate Conversion of the \$46,965.16 Grant funds as recommended in the Recreation and

Conservation Office Project #03-1156 Amendment #7, as approved by the RCO and accepted by the KRRC in 2018. Failure to Convert these Grant funds establishes a poor example for other grantees.

Sincerely,
Kevin T. Gross
CK Safe & Quiet, LLC

The following is TVW video of the 29 January 2020 RCFB hearing; Mr. Wilhite's decision is at 3 hrs:13 minutes.

<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2020011300&autoStartStream=true>

From: Kevin and Gail [mailto:kevinandgail@wavecable.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:24 PM
To: 'Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov'; 'Ormsby, Rep. Timm'
Cc: Brian Faller (ATG); 'Owens, Linda'; 'Waechter, Shannon'
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Sen. Rolfes and Rep. Ormsby, the attached were transmitted to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) in the case of a 2003 Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR) Project Agreement 03-1156. At the 29 January 2020, quarterly meeting, the RCFB chose to again defer judgement on conversion of the subject grant until their October 2020 meeting, which nearly meets the 60-day window prior to expiration of the current Grant extension, rather than act on the current body of evidence demonstrating that the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (KRRC) is unable or unwilling to meet the terms of Amendment 7 to the Grant. Amendment 7 to the Grant was approved by Resolution 2018-05, which declared that a conversion of Project Agreement #03-1156 "shall be deemed to have occurred as of March 1, 2018", and required full repayment (conversion) of the grant amount of \$46,965.16.

To date the KRRC has been under permanent and mandatory injunction against the discharge of firearms for over three years as of 2 December 2019.

The decision for conversion of the grant was a result of KRRC's failure to comply with provisions of the Project Agreement requiring compliance with all pertinent laws and regulations, specifically including Kitsap County permitting and land use regulations. Development of KRRC ranges, funded by the grant, was performed without the required County permitting which resulted in the funded improvements being enjoined by Court order. The Recreation and Conservation Office has been aware of the permitting and land use issues at KRRC since at least 2005. The latest brief by Kitsap County Prosecutor attests to the KRRC's failure to meet progress toward achieving permitting necessary to lift injunctions and resume operations.

These Grant funds are public resources that have been disbursed under false pretenses, even as documented by the Recreation and Conservation Office in 'Project Attachments' in their PRISM project web page: While RCO inspections of the KRRRC facilities indicated that all work had been completed and that ALL permits had been obtained, evidence identified that in fact NO Kitsap County construction permits had been obtained. Hence Kitsap County litigation to force compliance with County ordinances.

Sincerely,
Kevin T. Gross
CK Safe & Quiet, LLC

Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

1111 Washington St. S.E
Olympia, WA 98501



STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

(360) 902-3000
TTY: (800) 833-6388

E-mail: Info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

November 25, 2019

Mr. Brooks M. Foster
Chenoweth Law Group
510 SW Fifth Ave, 4th Floor
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club
RCO Project # 03-1156D

Dear Mr. Foster:

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is in receipt of your letter dated November 12, 2019, relating to RCO Project Agreement # 03-1156D (Agreement). You state that the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (Club) believes they have no further reporting obligation pursuant to the terms of the grant and for the RCO "[T]o demand further reports from the Club would be contrary to the terms of the grant, and it would add unnecessary stress and hardship to the Club, whose resources are already stretched thin...."

It is not our intent to place a hardship on the Club, rather it is our responsibility to hold the Club accountable for compliance with the requirements of the grant agreement. We have been very patient and respectful of the Club's efforts to work through Kitsap County permitting and court processes.

On January 31, 2018, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) passed Resolution 2018-05, as amended, which declared that a Conversion¹ of the Agreement had occurred, which would ordinarily require the Club to repay the entire grant award. However, the Board was aware that the Club was working with the county and the courts in an effort to fully reopen and wanted to support it, in providing the recreational experience intended under the original terms of the Agreement. Therefore, the Board offered the Club an opportunity to defer action on that conversion, by instead offering to amend the terms of the Agreement and give them more time to be successful with the permitting and related county issues.

The Amendment, Amendment Seven (attached), effectively placed a "hold" on the ten-year timeline of the grant to allow the Club to continue working through the county and court processes towards fully reopening their facilities. This option included the requirement that the Agreement

¹ See Section 25, Restriction on Conversion of Facility to Other Uses of the General Terms of the Project Agreement and Section D, Term of Agreement.



compliance period be extended to equal the number of days when the range "has been or is closed to public firearms shooting", which at the time included the 841 days when the range had already been closed, plus any days the range was closed to firearms shooting activity after that point.

I would like to remind the Club that Amendment Seven of the Agreement was voluntarily signed by both Vice President Dorothy O'Dell and Executive Officer Marcus Carter and clearly set forth the obligations and dates for continued compliance with the Agreement.

On February 14, 2018, RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham invited members of the Club to a face-to-face meeting to discuss the terms of the above-mentioned Amendment. At that time, Marcus Carter of the Club requested that the end of the "hold" be January 1, 2021. The RCO Director agreed to this date. At no time was there any pressure placed on the Club to agree to the Amendment at either the public Board meeting or at the meeting with the RCO director. In fact, members of the Club appeared grateful and thanked the Board and RCO for allowing them more time to fully reopen the Club.

As of today's date, the range is still closed to shooting certain types of firearms due to court injunctions. It was RCO's understanding that the Club intended to continue to work through the court process with the goal of reopening to the types of firearm use for which the RCO grant was provided. If this goal has changed and the Club is no longer interested in fulfilling the requirements of the Agreement as amended, we need to know. And if that is the case, the Club is in violation of the terms of the Agreement, as amended, and will need to repay the amount of the grant. This is certainly an option, as is the option of RCO initiating steps to collect the amount owed.

I look forward to receiving a response from you, by January 6, 2020, that articulates the Club's decision. If no response is provided I will assume the Club is no longer interested in working with us and satisfying the terms of the Agreement. At that time, I will recommend to the RCO director that we immediately declare the conversion and send the Club an invoice for the amount owed of \$46,965.16 and begin actions to recover funding from the Club.

Sincerely,



Scott T. Robinson
Deputy Director

cc: Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director
Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club (Via Email)
Brian Faller, Assistant Attorney General
RCO Project # 03-1156D



Amendment to Project Agreement

Project Sponsor: Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club
Project Title: Rifle Line Re-orientation & Sound Cover

Project Number: 03-1156D
Amendment Number: 7

Amendment Type:

Special Conditions Change

Amendment Description:

The project agreement is amended to address the sponsor's failure to keep the facilities at which the project improvements occurred open for the shooting of firearms consistent with the action of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) on January 31, 2018, described in Resolution 2018-05 as amended. The terms and conditions of this amendment are set forth in Attachment A. In all other respects, except as inconsistent with this Amendment, the Agreement, to which this is an Amendment, and attachments thereto, shall remain in full force and effect.

Agreement Terms

In all other respects the Agreement, to which this is an Amendment, and attachments thereto, shall remain in full force and effect. In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed this Amendment.

State Of Washington
Recreation and Conservation Office

BY: Kaleen Cottingham

Kaleen Cottingham

TITLE: Director

DATE: 3/8/18

BY: /s/

Pre-approved as to form:

Assistant Attorney General

Project Sponsor

AGENCY: Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club

BY: Dorothy O'Neil

TITLE: Vice President

DATE: FEB. 28, 2018

Reserved
Originally signed & dated

RECEIVED

MAR - 8 2018

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Attachment A – Special Conditions Change (Amendment 7)

This Attachment sets forth the terms and conditions of Amendment 7 to Agreement #03-1156 that is entered between the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club ("Club" or "Project Sponsor") and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), collectively the "parties."

WHEREAS, the Club was provided grant funding through the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) program under Project #03-1156, for the purposes of constructing improvements for the shooting of firearms; and

WHEREAS, the Project Agreement for #03-1156 and the FARR statute, regulations, and program manual require the sponsor of grant funded facilities for the shooting of firearms to keep the facilities open and available to the public for that purpose for a period of 10 years following final reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the final reimbursement for Project #03-1156 occurred on February 10, 2009; and accordingly, the Club was required to keep the facilities at which the improvements occurred open for shooting of firearms until February 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, due to court injunctions against the Club relating to its failure to obtain various permits, the facilities at which the improvements occurred have been closed to the shooting of firearms from 2012 forward for extensive periods of times and such facilities are currently closed for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2018, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) passed Resolution 2018-05 as amended which declared that a conversion of Project #03-1156 shall be deemed to have occurred as of March 1, 2018, requiring full repayment of the grant amount of \$46,965.16, unless prior to that date the Club and the RCO enter an amendment to the Project Agreement that complies with following four conditions:

(1) extension of the existing 10 year period to cover days when the range has been or is closed to public firearms shooting based upon criteria for determining days closed that are acceptable to the RCO Director. Such extension shall require full cooperation and disclosure by the Club of the number of days of such closure that have already occurred and/or may occur in the future;

(2) the Club must commit (i) to make bi-monthly detailed reports to the RCO showing diligent pursuit and good faith progress toward obtaining any permits required to resume public shooting of firearms at the Club improvements funded by

the grant, and (ii) to provide the RCO timely and complete responses to its information requests;

(3) establishment of a date certain by which the funded range improvements must be open to the public for firearms shooting, and provision for declaration of conversion by the Director if, in the judgment of the Director, the Club has failed to meet this deadline; and

(4) provision for the declaration of conversion prior to the date certain if the Board determines, in its sole judgment, that the Club has failed to comply with the conditions above or to show diligent pursuit and good faith progress in obtaining any permits required to resume public shooting of firearms at the range improvements funded by the grant.

WHEREAS, the parties are desirous of entering such an amendment, and

THEREFORE, AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

(1) Extension of the 10 year period.

- a. The 10 year period during which the facilities improved must be open to public firearms shooting is extended to include the following:
 1. All days prior to the effective date of this Amendment that Club has been closed to firearms shooting at the facilities improved after February 9, 2009, which the parties agree is 841 days.
 2. All days after the effective date of this agreement that the Club is closed to firearms shooting at the facilities improved, subject to the provisions below.
- b. The term "firearm" means a weapon or device from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder. "Firearm" does not include air guns of any type. The terms "shooting" or "shoot" as used herein shall mean the shooting of a firearm.
- c. A day on which the facilities improved are not subject to any injunction or legal requirement prohibiting firearms shooting and on which the facilities are in fact open to the public during normal hours for that purpose shall count as day in which the facilities are open for shooting firearms. Otherwise the day shall count as a closed day.
- d. The Club shall provide RCO full and accurate information in the reports required below of all days on which the improved facilities were open or closed to the public for shooting of firearms.

(2) Reporting.

- a. The Club shall, starting 30 days after the effective date of this Amendment and thereafter every other month from that date, submit a report by attaching it to project number 03-1156 in RCO's PRISM database, or such other address as RCO may designate, which contains the following:
 1. A detailed statement of the efforts and actions that the Club has made in the prior 60 days to obtain (i) any permits required to resume public shooting of firearms at the facilities and/or (ii) any funding needed for that purpose.
 2. A detailed statement of the efforts and actions that the Club has made to satisfy or lift the injunctions preventing the Club from resuming shooting of firearms in the prior 60 days.
 3. An accounting of all days since the effective date of the Amendment in which the Club has been closed or open to shooting of firearms.
- b. The Club shall provide responses to information requests of the RCO related to the above (which may include backup documentation), no later than 10 days after the Club receives the request, unless the RCO grants an extension. RCO requests may be sent by email to the Club at info@gunsafety.org or such other email as the Club may designate in writing.

(3) Date certain by which the Club must be open to shooting of firearms.

Notwithstanding the extension of the 10 year period provided above, if the Club is not open to the shooting of firearms for at least 60 consecutive days, by January 1, 2021, the Director of the RCO may declare a conversion has occurred and require that the Club repay the entire grant amount of \$46,965.16, as of the date of such declaration.

(4) Reservation of the right of the Board to declare a conversion.

If the Board determines, in its sole judgment, that the Club has failed to comply with the conditions above or to show diligent pursuit and good faith progress in obtaining any permits required to resume public shooting of firearms at the facilities improved, it may declare a conversion requiring the Club to repay the entire grant amount of \$46,965.16, as of the date of such declaration.



Reporting Period: 07/13/2020 To 09/12/2020

Submitted by: Dorothy O'Dell

Number of days during this reporting period the Club was subject to an injunction or legal requirement prohibiting firearms shooting: 60

Number of days during this reporting period the Club was NOT subject to an injunction or legal requirement prohibiting firearms shooting: 0

Site Development Activity Permit (SDAP)

1. Do you have a current application submitted for a SDAP?

YES ☐

NO ☒

If no, please move to question 2.

Date of most recent application _____

Status No Change. Waiting on Kitsap County

What correspondence has the county sent the Club regarding this recent application?

If this is new,
please attach
a copy to
PRISM

Please attach
a copy to
PRISM.

What correspondence has the Club sent the county regarding this recent application?

Please attach
a copy to
PRISM.

2. If you do not have a current application submitted, do you plan to submit another SDAP application?

YES ☐

NO ☒

If yes, when do you anticipate submitting an application?

If no, what is keeping you from doing so?
No Change. Waiting on Kitsap County

Operating Permit

3. Do you have a current application submitted for an Operating Permit?

YES ☐

NO ☒

If no, please move to question 4.

Date of most recent application _____

Status No Change. Waiting on Kitsap County

If this is new,
please attach
a copy to
PRISM.

What correspondence has the county sent the Club regarding this recent application? See attached form		Please attach a copy to PRISM.
What correspondence has the Club sent to the county regarding this recent application? See attached form		Please attach a copy to PRISM
4. If you do not currently have an application submitted, do you plan to submit another Operating Permit application?		
YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>		NO <input type="radio"/>
If yes, when do you anticipate submitting an application? See attached form	If no, what is keeping you from doing so?	

Legal Action

5. Has the Club appeared in court since you submitted your last report? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Nature of the appearance : <u>See attached form</u>	Please attach a copy to PRISM.
What rulings, opinions, report or other has the court made since your last report?	
What is the status of your most recent legal action with the county?	Please attach a copy to PRISM
6. Do you anticipate that you will appear in court before the next reporting date? If yes, when?	
See attached form	
Do you plan to file a motion with the court before the next reporting date? If yes, what and when?	
Are there any other court actions pending? Please explain:	

Further Information Requested by County or Court

What further plans, reports, information, applications, etc. has the county or court requested? What is the status of each and how do you plan to address that request?

Date Requested (if known)	What is requested?	What is the Club's plan to address this request?

Please describe in full any other work planned for the next reporting period toward reopening your facility for shooting.

By signing below, I certify that to the best of my ability that I have provided full and accurate information above. I also certify that I have followed the spirit and intent of Agreement #03-1156D Amendment 7 and its Attachment A.

DOROTHY ODELL

Digitally signed by DOROTHY
ODELL
Date: 2020.09.12 12:16:13 -07'00'

BY: _____

VICE PRESIDENT

Digitally signed by VICE
PRESIDENT
Date: 2020.09.12 12:16:47 -07'00'

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

Please attach this completed form to project number 03-1156 in the PRISM database.

From: [Cottingham, Kaleen \(RCO\)](#)
To: [Owens, Linda](#)
Cc: [Sellers, Kim \(RCO\)](#); [Brown, Wendy \(RCO\)](#); [Robinson, Scott \(RCO\)](#); [Austin, Marguerite \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: RE: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Linda: Yes, we received this as well. At our January 28th and 29th board meeting we briefed the board on the status of the Kitsap Gun club's efforts to meet our expectations as set forth in their grant agreement. Our requirement is that they be open to the public for 60 consecutive days by January 1, 2021. So if they are not open to the public (with all necessary permits) in early November of this year, we will know that they cannot make their obligations and will take action. Hope this is helpful.

From: Owens, Linda <Linda.Owens@leg.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO) <Kaleen.Cottingham@rco.wa.gov>
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Hi Kaleen,
Senator Rolfes asked that I forward this to you to get an update on this situation.

Thank you,

Linda Owens
Senior Executive Assistant to
Senator Christine Rolfes
23rd Legislative District
303 JA Cherberg Building
Olympia: 360/786-7644

From: Kevin and Gail
<kevinandgail@wavecable.com<<mailto:kevinandgail@wavecable.com>>>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Rolfes, Sen. Christine
<Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov<<mailto:Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov>>>; Ormsby, Rep. Timm <Timm.Ormsby@leg.wa.gov<<mailto:Timm.Ormsby@leg.wa.gov>>>
Cc: Brian Faller (ATG) <BrianF@ATG.WA.GOV<<mailto:BrianF@ATG.WA.GOV>>>; Owens, Linda <Linda.Owens@leg.wa.gov<<mailto:Linda.Owens@leg.wa.gov>>>; Waechter, Shannon <Shannon.Waechter@leg.wa.gov<<mailto:Shannon.Waechter@leg.wa.gov>>>
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Sen. Rolfes and Rep. Ormsby, the attached were transmitted to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) in the case of a 2003 Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program<<https://rco.wa.gov/grants/farr.shtml>> (FARR) Project Agreement 03-1156. At the 29 January 2020, quarterly meeting, the RCFB chose to again defer judgement on conversion of the subject grant until their October 2020 meeting, which nearly meets the 60-day window prior to expiration of the current Grant extension, rather than act on the current body of evidence demonstrating that the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (KRRRC) is unable or unwilling to meet the terms of Amendment 7 to the Grant. Amendment 7 to the Grant was approved by Resolution 2018-05, which declared that a conversion of Project Agreement

#03-1156 "shall be deemed to have occurred as of March 1, 2018", and required full repayment (conversion) of the grant amount of \$46,965.16.

To date the KRRC has been under permanent and mandatory injunction against the discharge of firearms for over three years as of 2 December 2019.

The decision for conversion of the grant was a result of KRRC's failure to comply with provisions of the Project Agreement requiring compliance with all pertinent laws and regulations, specifically including Kitsap County permitting and land use regulations. Development of KRRC ranges, funded by the grant, was performed without the required County permitting which resulted in the funded improvements being enjoined by Court order. The Recreation and Conservation Office has been aware of the permitting and land use issues at KRRC since at least 2005. The latest brief by Kitsap County Prosecutor attests to the KRRC's failure to meet progress toward achieving permitting necessary to lift injunctions and resume operations.

These Grant funds are public resources that have been disbursed under false pretenses, even as documented by the Recreation and Conservation Office in 'Project Attachments' in their PRISM project web page: While RCO inspections of the KRRC facilities indicated that all work had been completed and that ALL permits had been obtained, evidence identified that in fact NO Kitsap County construction permits had been obtained. Hence Kitsap County litigation to force compliance with County ordinances.

Sincerely,
Kevin T. Gross
CK Safe & Quiet, LLC

From: [Rolfes, Sen. Christine](#)
To: [Kevin and Gail: Ormsby, Timm](#)
Cc: [Faller, Brian V. \(ATG\)](#); [Owens, Linda](#); [Waechter, Shannon](#); [Robinson, Scott \(RCO\)](#); [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#); [Even, Jeffrey T \(ATG\)](#)
Subject: RE: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 3:18:16 PM

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

Kevin – thank you for keeping us apprised of this. I know the funding Board has this on their agenda this coming week, and believe that even if they stick to taking action at their January meeting, there will still be plenty of time to repurpose the funds.

From: Kevin and Gail <kevinandgail@wavecable.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Rolfes, Sen. Christine <Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov>; Ormsby, Rep. Timm <Timm.Ormsby@leg.wa.gov>
Cc: Brian Faller (ATG) <BrianF@ATG.WA.GOV>; Owens, Linda <Linda.Owens@leg.wa.gov>; Waechter, Shannon <Shannon.Waechter@leg.wa.gov>; Office of Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib <LtGov@ltgov.wa.gov>; scott.robinson@rco.wa.gov; Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov; 'Even, Jeff (ATG)' <JeffE@ATG.WA.GOV>
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

CAUTION:External email.

Good day, Senator Rolfes and Representative Ormsby. I am submitting the following inquiry and request for Legislative attention to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) [2003 Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program \(FARR\) Project Agreement #03-1156](#), Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club Rifle Line Re-orientation.

RCW 79.25.210, Firearms Range Account Grant Program Rules, requires facilities funded under the program to remain available for public use for a period of 10 years following final reimbursement of funds. That requirement is implemented by WAC 286-30-040.

The Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (KRRC) received final disbursement of funding for Project Agreement #03-1156 in February 2009, resulting in an available-for-public-use obligation date thru 10 February 2019. Funded improvements at KRRC have not been available to the public for the discharge of firearms for the past 3-1/2 years of the mandatory period due to court injunctions resulting from unlawful development and unpermitted expansion of uses of the grant-funded facilities. Operation of a shooting range and discharge of firearms at the KRRC facility have been continuously and concurrently enjoined by the Courts since December 2nd, 2016, with no chance of reopening to the public in the foreseeable future, nor within the prescribed 60-day window before expiration of the latest Project extension.

At the January 2018 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB – The 'Board') meeting, the Board passed Resolution 2018-05 as amended (Kitsap Rifle and Revolver club – Declaration of Conversion, attachment 1) declaring conversion of Agreement #03-1156 effective March 1st, 2018, requiring repayment of the grant funds but extending the effective date with conditions.

Later in January 2018 the RCO approved, and KRRC agreed to, Amendment #7 (attachment 2) to the original grant contract which extended execution of the conversion to January 1st 2021, in order to allow the KRRC to come into compliance with Kitsap County construction and operating permitting ordinances.

Primary among the provisions of Amendment #7 is the clause:

*“Notwithstanding the extension of the 10 year period provided above, if the Club is not open to the shooting of firearms for at least **60 consecutive days, by January 1, 2021**, the Director of the RCO may declare a conversion has occurred and require that the Club repay the entire grant amount of \$46,965.16, as of the date of such declaration.”*

Per this clause, the KRRC must be open by November 2, 2020 to meet the terms of Amendment #7. The next scheduled RCFB meeting is November 5, 2020, and an update on the KRRC issues by RCO staff is scheduled for this meeting. Per statement by the RCFB Chairperson Ted Wilhite at the January 2020 RCFB meeting, final decision on conversion would not be made until the January 2021 RCFB meeting. Based on the documented history of issues with Agreement #03-1156, there is a very good chance that the RCFB may again defer converting the grant for an unknown period of time.

As of this date the KRRC remains under two injunctions against discharge of firearms.

This issue has languished for too long to allow any further delay encumbering public funds and denying their use for other more legitimate purposes. These Grant funds are public resources that were disbursed under false pretenses, even as documented in considerable detail by the Recreation and Conservation Office in 'Project Attachments' in their PRISM project web page and "materials and correspondence" sections of previous RCFB meetings. While RCO inspections of the KRRC facilities during the active grant period indicated that all work had been completed and that ALL permits had been obtained, evidence held by the RCO identified that in fact NO Kitsap County construction permits had been obtained. Hence, Kitsap County litigation commenced in September 2010, to force compliance with County ordinances.

Per Director Cottingham's policy statement dated 13 February 2020 (attachments 3 and 4), since the KRRC has not satisfied their requirements to resolve permitting requirements and reopen, the RCO should execute the Conversion and withdraw the Grant funding without further delay.

Now is the time for the Legislative Appropriations Committees to assure beneficial use of these public funds. The Legislature needs to strongly support the immediate Conversion of the \$46,965.16 Grant funds as recommended in the Recreation and Conservation Office Project #03-1156 Amendment #7, as approved by the RCO and accepted by the KRRC in 2018. Failure to Convert these Grant funds establishes a poor example for other grantees.

Sincerely,
Kevin T. Gross
CK Safe & Quiet, LLC

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<https://www.tw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2020011300&autoStartStream=true>

From: Kevin and Gail [<mailto:kevinandgail@wavecable.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:24 PM
To: 'Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov'; 'Ormsby, Rep. Timm'
Cc: Brian Faller (ATG); 'Owens, Linda'; 'Waechter, Shannon'
Subject: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Leslie Thurston](#)
To: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Lucy Temple](#)
Subject: RCO Funding Board Meeting Tomorrow - Local Parks Project #20-1549 D
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:33:48 AM

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I'm writing about the Washington State Horse Park's Covered Arena Project, ranked 73rd on the recommendation list for Local Parks projects. This project is quite literally "a horse of a different color" because it serves the large and diverse state-wide horse community by providing a local venue for major competitions. Many horse disciplines currently must travel to Oregon, California, Idaho and British Columbia to participate in top A-rated competitions. Completing the covered arena at the Horse Park will allow such high caliber events to take place locally which not only serves the needs of Washington residents but also keeps their spending (and that of others) within the state.

Very, very few towns or cities across the country can accommodate a spacious multi-discipline horse park, which is quite different from using a fairground. Cle Elum provides both a central location and wonderful setting that attracts people from across the state and beyond.

We urge you to consider these circumstances when evaluating this unique Local Parks project.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Leslie Thurston

Executive Director

Washington State Horse Park

PO Box 278, Cle Elum, WA 98922

877-635-4111

www.wahorsepark.org

501(c)3 Tax ID 33-1197391

From: [Rolfes, Sen. Christine](#)
To: [Kevin and Gail: Ormsby, Timm](#)
Cc: [Faller, Brian V. \(ATG\)](#); [Owens, Linda](#); [Waechter, Shannon](#); [Robinson, Scott \(RCO\)](#); [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#); [Even, Jeffrey T \(ATG\)](#)
Subject: RE: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
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Sincerely,
Kevin T. Gross
CK Safe & Quiet, LLC

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From: [Leslie Thurston](#)
To: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Lucy Temple](#)
Subject: RCO Funding Board Meeting Tomorrow - Local Parks Project #20-1549 D
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:33:48 AM

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Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I'm writing about the Washington State Horse Park's Covered Arena Project, ranked 73rd on the recommendation list for Local Parks projects. This project is quite literally "a horse of a different color" because it serves the large and diverse state-wide horse community by providing a local venue for major competitions. Many horse disciplines currently must travel to Oregon, California, Idaho and British Columbia to participate in top A-rated competitions. Completing the covered arena at the Horse Park will allow such high caliber events to take place locally which not only serves the needs of Washington residents but also keeps their spending (and that of others) within the state.

Very, very few towns or cities across the country can accommodate a spacious multi-discipline horse park, which is quite different from using a fairground. Cle Elum provides both a central location and wonderful setting that attracts people from across the state and beyond.

We urge you to consider these circumstances when evaluating this unique Local Parks project.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Leslie Thurston

Executive Director

Washington State Horse Park

PO Box 278, Cle Elum, WA 98922

877-635-4111

www.wahorsepark.org

501(c)3 Tax ID 33-1197391



November 5, 2020

To: Ted Willhite, Chair

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board

CC: Director Kaleen Cottingham, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Dear Chair Willhite,

On behalf of the Leafline Trails Coalition, a group working to realize an interconnected regional trails network in King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, I am pleased to support efforts to encourage updates to the Statewide Trails Plan and to facilitate collaboration with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

Our Coalition is working on a shared map vision for trails in our region, enabling partnerships, coordinated investments, and increased momentum for trails. Access to an up-to-date database of current and planned trails, via ongoing updates to the State Trails Plan, is an asset to our group's efforts. One of the challenges we face to mapping the trails that exist today is that trails data is often incomplete or out of date, and is held in different formats across the many jurisdictions we serve.

We support Washington Recreation and Park Association's comments regarding efforts by the State Parks Commission, the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) and others to update the Statewide Trail Plan, to better coordinate state and local trails planning, to seek out coordinated trails funding, and to provide technical assistance as well as strategic input on construction and maintenance options to be utilized for local jurisdiction trail segments. It is important that the RCO's next update of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) be used to better integrate state and local trails planning, construction, maintenance, and funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire Martini

Leafline Trails Coalition Manager

claire@leaflinetrails.org

KITSAP RIFLE & REVOLVER CLUB

BREMERTON, WASH.

Organized Nov. 11th, 1926



For Sport and National Defense

November 04, 2020

To: State of Washington
Recreation and Conservation Office
Kaleen Cottingham – Director
RCO Funding Board Members

Re: RCO #03-1156D Conversion

Dear Ms. Cottingham and members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. My name is Marcus Carter and I am a member and the volunteer Executive Officer of Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club. I am also one of the original presenters to the grant in question which I signed back on January 02, 2004. I have been involved with the grant throughout the process as well as several other members of our organization over the years.

We have thanked this board and RCO staff repeatedly for the cooperation and assistance along the way. The RCO investment went to improvements to state land that was leased to the Club. The partnership between the State and the Club and community members that invested much time, labor and materials produced substantial improvements at the property for handicap access, environmental stewardship and noise reduction.

At some point in early 2009, we submitted our final bills and had an inspection by IAC/RCO. We received our final reimbursement. That started the 10 year clock spoken of as the “term of agreement” in Section D of the original contract, to wit:

“D. TERM OF AGREEMENT

The Project Sponsor must insure that the facility developed, improved, and/or maintained identified in the Project Agreement is made available for use for a minimum of ten (10) years from the date of the project completion (issuance of final reimbursement).”

Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club has specifically fulfilled the term of agreement. In Early 2019, the

obligation was completed in full. At no time were KRRC facilities “closed” or not “available for use” (outside of maintenance) in the ten years since the issuance of final reimbursement and is open today. KRRC has maintained and made available the facilities and they have been used by members of the public and our Club for rifle shooting out to 200 yards. There are restrictions placed on use of the facilities by KRRC (site and activity specific), and currently there are court injunctions banning certain types of rifles or firearms at this time. Those issues are under appeal again and we’ve just had oral argument in late October and are awaiting the decisions.

Now we can appreciate the position the RCO feels it is in due to the never ending attacks by the Central Kitsap Citizens for a Safe and Quite Neighborhood, LLC and especially to organization organizers Gail and Kevin Gross and others. We have been told by RCO staff that the contact from them has been relentless.

The original agreement also states that the original cannot be modified without specific agreement from both parties. KRRC has never “agreed” to the “term of the agreement” being extended. RCO has in its possession a document they are relying on to claim we agreed with the modified contract and new terms of conversion. The KRRC Vice-President, Dorothy O’Dell signed the agreement “All Rights Reserved” and will testify that it was signed under threat and duress. The choice

RCW 62.A 1-308 provides protections when being forced to sign contracts. We have communicated to staff by voice and letter our position and would ask the Funding Board to reconsider its position and rescind the “conversion” order based on the following undisputed facts.

1. Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club has made the facilities in question “available for use” for 10 years after receiving the final re-imbursement payment (early 2019). (It is open for rifle shooting virtually 7 days per week through this writing as it has been since well before the grant was issued.)
2. The Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club facilities invested in by RCO are still in place and being used and maintained continually for rifle shooting.
3. The original agreement does not mandate that “all types of rifles” must be able to be used on the facilities.
4. The original contract does not mention “firearms” in any applicable section on use requirements.

KRRC is committed to working through the issues with the County. It is our goal to have ALL restrictions on firearm type and caliber lifted and we believe most will. It is the County that refuses to further process our operating permit (for certain firearms) until the land use issues involved in this grant are resolved. For the operating permit, the Club submitted the filing fee three times, more than 2000 pages of material and answered all the questions and requirements, requested an inspection. The Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club has attempted 4 times to submit SDAP applications to Kitsap County and they have refused to accept any of those applications to address the land use issues. The Courts have been asked to move the County along. We are currently awaiting a decision and direction from the Court of Appeals. Those

hearings were delayed due to the Covid 19 restrictions. KRRC is moving forward at great expense and is open to the public for rifle shooting and other activities.

The Board is on solid legal ground and we implore board members to move and rescind the conversion and declare that KRRC has indeed fulfilled its "term of agreement".

Marcus Carter – Executive Officer
Kitsap Rifle & Revolver Club
4900 Seabeck Hwy NW
Bremerton, WA 98312
360-373-1007 - Range
360-710-8763 - Cell

From: [Catharine Copass](#)
To: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Corey Delikat](#)
Subject: Public comment RCO meeting 11/5- YAF section
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:01:53 AM

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Hello

Now more than ever our youth need safe, accessible places to recreate outside and we are seeing a huge increase in the number of kids on bikes. The Port Angeles Pumptrack project will provide a safe, accessible facility for youth and their families to gain and grow bike skills and get hooked on the lifetime, healthy sport of cycling. We appreciate the support of the RCO Board for the Port Angeles pumptrack project and we are excited to make our dream of a community pumptrack come true.

Catharine Copass