

July 16, 2018

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Department Attn: Tom Teigen 6705 Puget Park Drive Snohomish, WA 98296

RE: Support for Grant Applications for Trail Development in Heybrook Ridge County Park

Dear Mr. Teigen:

We are pleased to write this letter supporting your request for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and for a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant, both from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to support the development of a lower, accessible trail and improvements to Heybrook Ridge County Park.

As the Friends of Heybrook Ridge (FOHR) and Snohomish County Parks have planned for the future development of the park, there is a strong desire to develop a secondary trail, departing from the main trailhead that is more accessible to a wider range of the population. The vision for this lowland trail is to provide greater accessibility for those with mobility challenges, young children, and those who desire a shorter hike or a different recreational experience than the steep primary trail.

Our organizations believe in the value of parks to support quality of life and is continually looking for opportunities to provide both local and regional recreation amenities. Heybrook Ridge County Park is a beautiful facility that has enormous potential to serve a variety of recreation users. The new trail will be approximately a half mile in length through a forested region of the park that is rich in history and ecology. Along with the new trail, the park will be adding a bathroom facility to serve all park users.

The new trail will help the Friends of Heybrook Ridge and Snohomish County achieve an important additional objective of this project which is to provide opportunities for environmental education. The trail will travel along a wetland area, through the existing forest and around an historic lumber mill site. Along this carefully planned route there are numerous opportunities for environmental, cultural, and historic education. The educational benefits of this trail can be accessed by all Park guests; through interpretive signage and guided tours. The Friends of Heybrook Ridge, in partnership with the Index Elementary School and the Index Historical Society, will actively utilize Heybrook Ridge County Park to enhance their environmental and historical education programs through guided tours.

We support Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism in their efforts to complete improvements at Heybrook Ridge County Park.

Sincerely,

Tom Uniack Executive Director Washington Wild

Carolyn Eslick Representative (39th District) Washington State House of Representatives

Joe Sambataro Northwest Regional Director Access Fund

Katherine Hollis Conservation and Recreation Manager The Mountaineers

Ben Greuel Washington State Regional Director The Wilderness Society

Tom Hammond President North Cascades Conservation Council

Rick McGuire Acting President Alpine ALkes Protection Society

Henry Sladek President Skykomish Chamber of Commerce Terry Ryan Vice Chair Snohomish County Council

Deborah Knight City Administrator City of Monroe, WA

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director Washington Trails Association

Mike Town President Friends of Wild Sky

Inessa Pearce President Skykomish Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance

Wendy McDermott Director, Rivers of Puget Sound-Columbia Basin American Rivers

Harry Romberg Co-Chair, National Forest Committee Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club