



June 1, 2016

Pam McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Mgr
Parks and Recreation Commission
PO Box 42662
Olympia WA 98504-2662

Dear Ms. McConkey,

The Mountaineers, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, whose mission is helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest & beyond, writes in support of the efforts of Michael Johnston to improve Nikki's trail.

Nikki's trail is a winter cross-country ski trail that connects to the John Wayne Trail only in winter and is part of the Crystal Springs SnoPark's 12+ miles of dog-sled trail system that is maintained by The Mountaineers' Meany Lodge. It follows FS Road 420.

This trail was developed in the late 1970s by The Mountaineers and is named after Nikki Nichols, a Mountaineers Meany Lodge skier. The trail is now an important cross-country skiing resource in the area providing a loop for skiing rather than an out-and-back experience.

Historically, water crossings while grooming the trail were not an issue in average snow winters that produced a base of 10+ feet of snow. With changing climate conditions, improvements, like adding culverts, and needed to maintain this resource and make it safe for grooming and skiing in low-snow base winters that are now the norm.

We support the completion of work needed to make Nikki's trail an accessible and safe experience.

Sincerely,

Tom Vogl,
CEO, The Mountaineers



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We support the installation of of a gate to protect Nikki's trail from the impact of motorized use so the road stays in good condition for winter trail use as part of the SnoPark dog trail system.

Sincerely,

Tom Vogl,
CEO, The Mountaineers