



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

Terry Ryan
Vice Chair
Snohomish County Council

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

Deborah Knight
City Administrator
City of Monroe, WA

Joe Sambataro
Northwest Regional Director
Access Fund

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

Katherine Hollis
Conservation and Recreation Manager
The Mountaineers

Mike Town
President
Friends of Wild Sky

Ben Greuel
Washington State Regional Director
The Wilderness Society

Inessa Pearce
President
Skykomish Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance

Tom Hammond
President
North Cascades Conservation Council

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

Rick McGuire
Acting President
Alpine ALkes Protection Society

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

Henry Sladek
President
Skykomish Chamber of Commerce