



April 30, 2018

Tom Teigen  
Director  
Snohomish County Parks & Recreation  
6705 Puget Park Drive  
Snohomish, WA 98296

**RE: Support for Whitehorse Trail Development Grant Application**

Dear Director Teigen:

As conservation, recreation and economic stakeholders for the North Stillaguamish River Valley, we would like to express our enthusiastic support for the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation’s grant application from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. We know that this is an essential source of funding for supporting trails and other recreational infrastructure across different ownerships.

The Whitehorse Trail has been in development for nearly three decades as acquisitions and other planning efforts were finalized. The prospective grant would be the last necessary investment to open the entire 27-mile trail to the public from Arlington to the town of Darrington. Over the last five years a concerted effort has been made, supported by local stakeholders, to complete the full trail and connect to the Centennial Trail.

The trail follows the path of the former BNSF railroad tracking the North Stillaguamish River rewarding visitors with picturesque, landscape views of forests, farmland, streams and rivers, and mountain vistas. The trail is unique because it provides a non-motorized trail corridor paralleling SR 530 for hikers, street and mountain bikers, equestrians, snowshoers, cross country skiers, birdwatchers and pets. In addition, the trail will provide opportunities for river access and bike shuttle opportunities for paddlers attracted to the North Fork Stillaguamish River. A completed Whitehorse Trail would also connect with the existing Centennial Trail. Together the two connected trails would create a nearly 60-mile multi-use trail system in Snohomish County.

A series of Phase 1 projects have already been funded and are scheduled to be completed this summer. The prospective grant is for Phase 2 activities including trail paving and surfacing, parking improvements and highway crossings.

A completed trail promises to connect the rural towns of Arlington, Oso and Darrington highlighting the rich history of these communities along the way. Opportunities for small businesses and outdoor recreation related businesses along the trail corridor will also follow.

The Whitehorse trail provides a compelling investment that provides significant recreational benefits to a variety of local residents and visitors alike for a single trail corridor. We all look forward to the opening of the complete trail someday soon.

Sincerely,

Tom Uniack  
Executive Director  
Washington Wild  
[tom@wawild.org](mailto:tom@wawild.org)

Yvonne Kraus  
Executive Director  
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance  
[yvonne@evergreenmtb.org](mailto:yvonne@evergreenmtb.org)

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD  
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
[okeefe@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:okeefe@americanwhitewater.org)

Ben Greuel  
Washington State Regional Director  
The Wilderness Society  
[benjamin\\_greuel@twc.org](mailto:benjamin_greuel@twc.org)

Andrea Imler  
Advocacy Director  
Washington Trails Association  
[aimler@wta.org](mailto:aimler@wta.org)

Tom Hammond  
President  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
[tphammond@gmail.com](mailto:tphammond@gmail.com)

Barbara Vache  
Alternate Director  
Cascade Horse Club (BCHW Chapter)  
[dunerydr2@Aol.com](mailto:dunerydr2@Aol.com)

Gus Bekker  
President  
El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club  
[gbekker@yahoo.com](mailto:gbekker@yahoo.com)

Blake Trask  
Senior Director of Policy  
Washington Bikes  
[blake@wabikes.org](mailto:blake@wabikes.org)

Brian Pernick  
Owner  
Adventure Cascades (Darrington, WA)  
[brian@adventurecascades.com](mailto:brian@adventurecascades.com)

Kathy Young  
President  
Backcountry Horseman of Washington  
[kyoung1735@gmail.com](mailto:kyoung1735@gmail.com)

Hilary Eisen  
Policy Director  
Winter Wildlands Alliance  
[heisen@winterwildlands.org](mailto:heisen@winterwildlands.org)

Richard Smith  
Executive Director  
Cascade Bicycle Club  
[richards@cascade.org](mailto:richards@cascade.org)

Jonathan Stumpf  
Associate Director, River Protection  
American Rivers  
[jstumpf@americanrivers.org](mailto:jstumpf@americanrivers.org)

Cristy L. Brubaker  
Treasurer/Admin  
Downtown Arlington Business Association  
[cristyb19@gmail.com](mailto:cristyb19@gmail.com)

Kristin Lavelle  
Public Relations  
River Time Brewing (Darrington, WA)  
[Kristin@rivertimebrewing.com](mailto:Kristin@rivertimebrewing.com)

Cathy Nelson  
Director  
Trailduster Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of WA  
[tripplenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:tripplenfarm@gmail.com)

Cindy Easterson  
President  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
[president@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org)

Don Parks  
Co-Chair, National Forest Committee  
Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club  
[dlparks398@gmail.com](mailto:dlparks398@gmail.com)

Mark Everett  
Owner  
Arlington Velo Sport Bicycle Shop  
[arlingtonvelosport@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonvelosport@gmail.com)

Oak Rankin  
Executive Director  
Glacier Peak Institute  
[glacierpeakinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:glacierpeakinstitute@gmail.com)