

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

December 10, 2019

Dear Director Smith –

This is a letter in support for the North Central Washington Audubon Society's vision for the future condition of Horan Natural Area from the Biology Department at Wenatchee Valley College. We understand that two parallel projects are underway that impact the Horan: The City of Wenatchee Confluence Parkway road construction along the western edge of Horan, and the federal relicensing of Rock Island Dam. This will result in funds available to mitigate for habitat loss.

The Biology Department is excited about the opportunity to implement improvements to the Horan Natural Area, particularly those that serve to provide educationally and culturally rich experiences. We are in support of the following:

Construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands and waters.

WVC frequently offers classes that take field trips to the Horan Natural Area. It is a valuable resource that helps improve the quality of life for residents of the area – and an inviting attraction to visitors to the Wenatchee area. An Environmental Educational Center would provide a valuable resource to support and expand outdoor and environmental based curriculum at WVC as well as provide a platform for students to share knowledge gained at WVC with their friends and families.

Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational experiences.

Meaningful conservation efforts are inclusive of all communities that enjoy outdoor recreational experiences. Multi-lingual recreational experiences increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues in our communities, especially our Spanish-speaking families, who seek to have a meaningful connection to the places where they live.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rob Fitch, Biology Professor, Science Division Chair
Wenatchee Valley College 1300 Fifth St., Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 682-6755 rfitch@wvc.edu

Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Schulz
3695 Ridgeview Place
Wenatchee, WA 98801

December 5, 2019

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
PUD No. 1 of Chelan County
P.O. Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98801

RE: Wenatchee Confluence State Park, Horan Natural Area – FERC Project No. 943

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for providing this opportunity to offer comments on the future of the Horan Natural Area (Wenatchee River Confluence, South Bank), part of Wenatchee Confluence State Park (Wenatchee River Confluence, North Bank), located at the confluence of the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers. We attended the PUD's Community Open House held on November 6, 2019. Our comments are based upon information received at that meeting. Please enter them into the record for any and all future proceedings related to this matter.

For over thirty years, we have frequented the natural area to experience the ever-changing beauty of nature, observe wildlife, and enjoy the relative quiet and serenity that make this place so special and unique within the city of Wenatchee. Over the past year, we were especially excited, as were many others, to see that a nesting pair of bald eagles were successful in their breeding attempts. This is a first for the Horan Natural Area, to the best of our knowledge. And, most recently, a cow moose has been seen regularly using the natural area. This is critical habitat to be sure. How fortunate we are to have this special place in our "backyard."

As the PUD contemplates the relicensing of the Rock Island Dam in 2028, it makes sense to plan for the future of the Horan Natural Area for the next 50 years and beyond. In doing so, we urge you to also consider the intangible benefits of the natural area to our community associated with health, wellness, serenity, education, and a sense of place. These benefits are difficult to quantify, but nonetheless very meaningful.

The timing of your solicitation is important, not only to assist the PUD in land management and relicensing efforts for the Rock Island Dam, but also to hear from your customer owners regarding two significant proposals (Confluence Parkway; and, McQuaig Development) that threaten the very integrity of this unique natural area. The PUD and other responsible parties (i.e., FERC, State Parks, and others) should recommit themselves to the original intent for which this area was established and follow their existing land use management plan goals and

objectives, license obligations, and continue to provide responsible stewardship of this limited and irreplaceable resource.

Here are some specific comments, listed in priority order.

1. DO NOT PERMIT THE CONFLUENCE PARKWAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON PUD PARK LANDS

Wenatchee continues to grow and urbanize. The Horan Natural Area is a limited and valued resource that must be protected from incompatible uses associated with this urban growth. The proposed Confluence Parkway is a prime example of an incompatible non-project use that will cause long-term and irreversible significant adverse environmental impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) to this important natural area (including riparian habitats and recreation) and the developed state park.

The City of Wenatchee clearly has other feasible, reasonable, and prudent alternatives for constructing this urban road (truck route, primarily for freight mobility) that do not adversely impact park lands (including direct acreage loss), important national register-eligible archaeological sites (including NRHP-listed Wenatchee Flats), traditional cultural properties, wetlands, floodplains, and protected fish and wildlife conservation areas. Do not allow this non-project and inconsistent land use to be built on PUD park lands, which were established under Exhibit R (1978, as amended) to mitigate for construction of the dam. The PUD and FERC should deny any application by the city of Wenatchee for the use of PUD park lands to construct this so-called “parkway.”

2. TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO ACQUIRE THE MCQUAIG IN-HOLDING

This property is a key in-holding within the natural area’s long-term boundaries. After an extensive public outreach process in 2004, it was identified for acquisition by State Parks and the PUD during the Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) process. This is priority habitat for wildlife, prime floodplain, and an important urban natural and open space area. We have regularly viewed many mule deer feeding and bedding down on this property during all seasons of the year, and especially in the winter.

Actions to acquire this property must occur immediately to prevent this limited natural resource from being converted to urban development. Site plans for the proposed McQuaig development (a 75-unit apartment building) are already on-file with the city of Wenatchee and the developer has stated that construction could begin as early as spring 2020. This is another inconsistent and incompatible use that threatens the integrity of the natural area. Perhaps, acquisition could be accomplished by the PUD and used as an early action credit to be applied towards the relicensing of Rock Island Dam. In any case, negotiations with this landowner must occur immediately.

There is no time to lose.

3. IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

While not located within the Horan Natural Area, the PUD should investigate options for re-development of the recently acquired former Horan House property as an adjunct facility to the natural area. Potential uses might include a small center to interpret the natural, cultural, and historic uses of the area. This high bank riverfront property is isolated from flooding and has been previously impacted by development. It is adjacent to the future PUD headquarters for easier construction, maintenance, and oversight. Extending the Apple Capitol Loop Trail to the property could provide pedestrian access to the facility and the State Park. It could also provide a future connection to the Horan Road, Olds Station, and Sunnyslope.

It should also be noted that the Horan House property and adjacent access road has long been used as an informal parking area for accessing the Wenatchee River, especially for fishing when the steelhead and salmon seasons are open. Consider providing facilities for continuation of these water dependent recreational uses at this site.

4. UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

(a). Develop a habitat management plan. This plan would identify the actions needed to help preserve, protect, and improve the habitat of the natural area. Examples of such actions include removal of the chain link fencing (barrier to wildlife movement) adjacent to the gravel nature trail, removal of barbed wire fencing, improved control of noxious weeds, and maintenance of the constructed ponds to provide more consistent open water wetland area. As others have noted, perhaps these ponds could be reconstructed to provide off-channel rearing habitat for salmonids.

(b). Develop an updated interpretive plan. This plan would identify actions needed to update the existing interpretive goals, objectives, and facilities. Actions would include construction of an educational and interpretive center (see above comments), updated panels, and redesigned interpretive nodes which are outdated and suffer from wear and vandalism. The benches within the natural area also lack consistent architectural themes and many are damaged. They need to be replaced.

Other actions should include removal and rehabilitation of the interpretive nodes located within the cottonwood grove. Cottonwood trees grow fast and are weak limbed. These attributes make them extremely valuable to wildlife, but these same attributes pose a challenge for land managers as the trees mature. When facilities (such as interpretive nodes, benches, and panels) are constructed within the target zone or fall area of a "hazard tree" they can pose a risk to the public. Oftentimes, the land manager is left with limited options: close the facility and/or remove the tree due to potential tort liability. This latter action defeats the very purpose for which the cottonwood grove, an integral part of the natural area, was protected in the first place. It is better to relocate the facility.

(c). Develop a Bald Eagle nesting territory management plan. It's long been recognized that the cottonwood grove within the natural area provides important wintering habitat for the Bald Eagle. Recently, it's become clear that additional actions will be likely to help ensure the

success of the newly established Bald Eagle nesting territory. A nesting territory management plan would identify adequate buffers, use restrictions, and provide guidance for land management for activities that have the potential to disturb or cause harm to the nest site and eagles (i.e., construction noise, timing, trail closures/relocation).

(d). Provide Enhanced Enforcement for Dogs Off-Leash and No Bikes on Nature Trail regulations. Despite the best efforts of state parks and PUD staff, dogs off-leash and bikes on the graveled nature trail continue to cause user conflicts and wildlife impacts. Consider funding additional seasonal rangers and improved signage.

We again implore you to reject the city of Wenatchee's proposed construction of the Confluence Parkway on PUD park lands, including the Horan Natural Area. This proposal is entirely inconsistent with the original intent of the property as described in Exhibit R from the Rock Island Project License, PUD's strategic plan, PUD's land management plan goals, and State Parks' management plan objectives and land use classifications. We also urge acquisition of the McQuaig Property before it is too late.

Sincerely,



Mark and Nina Schulz

Cc: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Lucinda S. Whaley, Chair
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Garry Arseneault, President
PUD No. 1 Chelan Commission
P.O. Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231

Ryan Layton, Assistant Region Manager – North
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
270 9th St NE, Ste 200
East Wenatchee, WA 98802



5 November 2019

Michelle Smith, Director
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
PO Box 1231
Wenatchee WA 98807

RE: Horan Natural Preserve Improvements

Michelle,

The Founding Team of Pinnacles Prep enthusiastically supports the proposed improvements to the South Confluence area of the Horan Natural Preserve.

Pinnacles Prep is a proposed charter public school that will open in the Fall of 2021 serving grades 6-12. Place Based Learning is a key element in our school design model. Connecting students with their communities through projects that deepens their sense of place. Improving the Horan Natural Preserve provide more opportunity and space for residents, like our students, to connect with themselves and natural surroundings.

We strong support and encourage the following improvements:

- Introduction of a reliable surface water source to supply flowing water to connect a network of ponds that are designed to enhance shorebird and waterfowl use.
- Design and construct a cultural history site that honors the history of Native American use and reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area.
- Construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands and waters.
- Development of a vegetative management plan emphasizing the protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species.
- Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational experiences.

Thank you for your diligent work with stakeholders and community organizations.

Sincerely,


Jill Fineis
Founding Principal


Rick Wray
Co-Founder


Sara Rolfs
Co-Founder

2013 Center Court Drive
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Oct 30, 2019

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

RE: Support for improvements to the Horan Natural Area

Dear Ms Smith:

As long-time Chelan County residents, as parents and now happily as grandparents, we are strong supporters of the emerging visions to improve the Horan Natural Area.

As you are hearing, it is a unique area both historically and ecologically, and we hope it will expand to be a true cultural center for recreation and for learning.

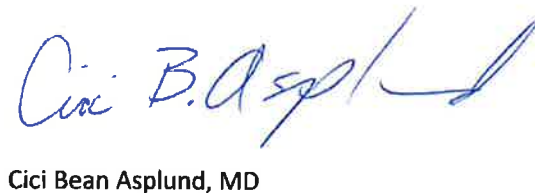
Our vision includes being able to walk and perhaps even paddle with our grandchildren in all seasons of the year. We would hope to be appreciating a renewed and more natural pond network for recreation, birds, and native plants. What an enriching opportunity: sharing not only our local natural history, but our local human history as well. From First Peoples to white settlers and other recent immigrants, in multi-lingual formats – the Horan Natural Area has much to offer all of us, for our future.

Thank you for considering this vision for our community and our future.

Sincerely,



Randy L. Asplund



Cici Bean Asplund, MD

John and Barbara Fish
3507 Burchvale Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Horan Natural Area Open House

November 6, 2019

Dear Chelan County PUD,

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback regarding the Horan Natural Area. My husband and I have lived on Burch Mountain for twenty-five years and have spent many hours walking through the natural area, typically visiting the area four or five days a week, year-around.

Although we are very interested in the outcome of the proposed parkway and its affect on the natural area, we desire to focus on the natural area itself and its future. We are happy to see so much support from the PUD, Chelan County Land Trust, Audubon Society and others to sustain and enhance the area.

We fully support long term plans of redesigning the ponds and improving the water flow, improving overall health of the habitat, and constructing an environmental and cultural center.

Here are some things we would like to see accomplished in the near future.

Interpretive signs: Update the signs with more relevant information that provide visitors with a sense of place, e.g: importance of the area's biodiversity to numerous migratory birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects; effects of climate change and human activities on the future of this and other natural areas in the valley; how the natural area combined with other special areas in the valley enhance our quality of life; prehistoric (indigenous people) and historic use of the area and why the area was important.

Social media and use of bulletin boards: Provide quality, regular updates on happenings in the natural area. Put an educational and positive spin on exciting and interesting activities such as nesting bald eagles and moose sightings and use the opportunity to share safety and cautionary information rather than posting lists of "don't do's" in the natural area. Start a social media platform where visitors can post sightings and photos.

Other community engagement: Over the years we have watched the populations of invasive plant species grow and spread. We understand the concern of the PUD about this issue. Consider ways in which to engage the community in detecting and eradicating invasive plants now.

We look forward to hearing more about the future of the Horan Natural Area.

Best regards,

John and Barbara Fish

florababs@msn.com
jfish53@msn.com

Smith, Michelle

From: Penelope Tobiska <ptobiska@nwi.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Smith, Michelle
Subject: <External> Horan Natural Area

Dear Michele,

I strongly support the North Central Washington Audubon vision for the future of the Horan Natural Area. Specifically, I support:

- Reintroducing a reliable water source to Horan
- Constructing a cultural History site that honors the traditional Native American presence in the area
- Constructing an Environmental Education Center in a location that would have the minimum impact on prime habitat. One suggestion would be to the SW of the Horan, on land that is currently privately owned, but is adjacent to the PUD land.
- Developing a vegetation management plan.
- Constructing and/or maintain ground and water trails through the Horan.

Thank you so much. It is so encouraging that the PUD is working on our beautiful resource and is listening to the citizens.

Penelope Tobiska



Our mission is to cultivate awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the Wenatchee River region by developing an active corps of well-informed community volunteer

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
michelle.smith@chelanpud.org

2009 Skyline Drive
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Nov. 5, 2019

Dear Ms. Smith,

This is a letter of support for the envisioned future conditions of Horan Natural Area as presented by North Central Washington Audubon Society:

- Introduction of a reliable surface water source to supply flowing water to connect a network of ponds that are designed to enhance shorebird and waterfowl use.
- Design and construct a cultural history site that honors the history of Native American use and reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area.
- Construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands and waters.
- Development of a vegetative management plan emphasizing the protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species.
- Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational experiences.

Horan Natural Area has the potential to become a richer center of biodiversity under your care. Due to its location at the confluence of the Wenatchee River and Columbia River and with improvements of its mosaic of wetland, upland, and riparian habitats, it could support a larger diversity of wildlife than current conditions allow.

In turn, the opportunity to easily observe wildlife year-round makes it an important regional destination for bird and mammal observation. The book "A Bird's Guide to Washington" by Hall Opperman lists the Horan Natural Area as the first of two "best" places to see birds in our valley (pg. 414). Thanks for the decades of field observations by ornithologist Dr. Dan Stephens, a complete bird species list is available to the public for this area. Since 2012, I have led many monthly bird monitoring field trips and recorded my observations into Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird database.

I am the founding director of the Wenatchee Naturalist program, offered by Wenatchee Valley College as a 12-week continuing education course, in partnership with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Over 200 local people have completed the course since 2012, and 24 adults are in the current 2019 class. During the course, each student selects a local field site to visit weekly, and the most commonly selected field site is the Horan Natural Area due to its accessibility, year-round access, and abundance of wildlife.

I would like to highlight specific uses I've participated in at the Horan Natural Area from the past few years. These types of visits would increase exponentially with the addition of an environmental learning center:

- Since 2012, I have been entering my Horan bird observations in a national citizen science database called eBird. Several times, we have observed an unusual or rare bird for our area, and one result has been that other Washington eBird users have made special trips to Wenatchee to observe the bird.

- Horan Nature area's bird diversity brings in tourist dollars to Chelan County. In December, 2012, a couple from Vancouver drove up, spent the night, and then joined us to see a Harris Sparrow at the grain feeder nearest the Columbia in Horan. In the winter of 2011, our sighting of a yellow-billed loon in the Columbia, due north of the Walla Walla Lagoon footbridge attracted a quite a few westside bird enthusiasts who came specifically to catch sight of this loon.
- Since Spring of 2012, 200 members of the "Wenatchee Naturalist" course have attended a morning field trip to the Horan Natural area as the best place to go in our region to learn the basics of birding.
- Over the past many years, field trips at Horan Natural Area have been a frequent offering to the public, led by volunteers of the North Central WA Audubon Society. In November, 2011, I led a Chelan-Douglas Land Trust birding seminar field trip for 30 participants Horan Natural Area. For a decade, the Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest has offered field trips to Horan Natural Area.

Looking ahead ten years, I envision a multi-purpose nature center within the Horan Natural area that can serve as a classroom, mini-museum, and activity center. Like the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee, WI, it will offer nature-based classes for children and families. Like the Missoula Natural History Museum, it will offer a "Visiting Naturalist" outreach program to all regional schools. Like the Siskiyou Field Institute, it will serve adults with weekend workshops and field courses. Like the Wenatchee River Institute, it will serve local school children with environmental and sustainability education experiences, throughout K-12th grades. Additionally, it will provide meeting and program space for local conservation groups like North Central WA Audubon and the Washington Native Plant Society. It will serve as a recreation center, offering paddling and other human-powered recreation to encourage our urban families to exercise and enjoy nature without having to travel more than a few miles from home.

I envision Chelan PUD launching and sustaining a riverside environmental learning center with an over-arching goal to foster personal connections to our eco-region, and to cultivate a desire to value and conserve our remarkable landscape. The need for environmental justice has increased over the last two decades, as poverty rates have increased for our valley's school-aged children. A large segment of of Wenatchee School District elementary students live in urban poverty and have limited transportation, time, and financial barriers that prevent their families from accessing our county's extensive public lands to recreate. Having access to an environmental learning center in Horan would bring nature to children, close to their homes.

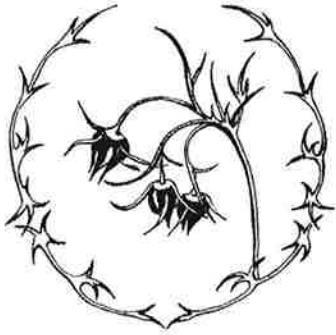
My personal wish list of potential PUD partners includes Wenatchee Valley College, the regional Technology Learning center, and our local school districts, non-profits like Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Wenatchee Valley Museum, and Wenatchee River Institute, clubs like The Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club, and local city and county government. Through my work as the *Wenatchee Naturalist* course director, I see a pent-up demand for both adult and youth natural history learning opportunities, and also a large body of volunteers, ready to roll up their sleeves and work to better conserve, restore, and preserve our local landscapes.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all citizen stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Susan Ballinger, Director, Wenatchee Naturalist Program
skylinebal@gmail.com 509.669.7820
www.wenatcheenaturalist.com



Washington Native Plant Society
Wenatchee Valley Chapter

Connie Mehmel, Board President
Wenatchee Valley Chapter
Washington Native Plant Society

Michelle Smith, Director
Hydro Licensing and Compliance, Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Nov. 4, 2019

Dear Ms. Smith:

On behalf of the board of the Wenatchee Valley Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society, I wish to express our support of the North Central Washington Audubon Society's vision and goals for future improvements to the Horan Natural Area. Specific goals of mutual interest aligned with the mission of the Washington Native Plant Society include the:

- Design and construction of a cultural history site that honors Native American use, including uses related to local native plants, and that reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area;
- Construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands, waters, plants, and animals;
- Development of a vegetative management plan emphasizing the protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species;
- Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational and educational experiences including increased exposure to local native plants and habitats.

The Washington Native Plant Society works to conserve native plants and their habitats within Washington State. Native plants include all plants that were present within the borders of Washington before European contact, generally regarded as circa 1800 in the Pacific Northwest. Native algae, fungi, and lichens are also primary species of interest. WNPS promotes their appreciation with a variety of educational and conservation activities that are open to the public. These activities include studying plants in their native habitats and restoring native habitats when

opportunities arise. Conservation of native plant species and their habitats through protection from non-native species is critical to the WNPS mission.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for future habitat restoration improvements that will offer significant learning opportunities for people to connect with native plants and habitats.

Sincerely,



Connie Mehmel, President
Wenatchee Valley Chapter
Washington Native Plant Society
PO Box 345
Cashmere WA 98815

CC: Art Campbell, President
North Central Washington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2934
Wenatchee, WA. 98807-2934

Steve King, Economic Development Director
City of Wenatchee
301 Yakima Street, 3rd Floor
Wenatchee, WA 98801



Wenatchee River

I N S T I T U T E

AT BARN BEACH RESERVE

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Ms. Smith:

On behalf of the Wenatchee River Institute Board of Directors and Executive Director, we are submitting this letter to support the Chelan PUD's long-term vision to sustain the Horan Natural Area as a functioning ecosystem, providing recreational access and education and interpretation opportunities of its historical and natural resources.

The mission of the Wenatchee River Institute is to "connect people, communities and the natural world". Maintaining and expanding the Horan Natural Area as a natural environment is in perfect alignment with our mission.

We support all five focus areas supported by the NCW Audubon Society:

- Construct and maintain an Environmental Education Center
- Develop a vegetative management plan to protect culturally important plants and enhance native plant species
- Reintroduce a reliable surface water source to enhance shorebird and waterfowl use
- Construct and maintain an aquatic and terrestrial trail system
- Design and construct a cultural history site in collaboration with indigenous peoples

This is a unique moment in time. It is an opportunity to protect and enhance an important natural resource, cultural resource and historical resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Griffin-Bugert
Executive Director

Dave Bartholomew, President
Robert Parrish, Vice President
Lisa Therrell, Secretary
Lisi Ott, Treasurer
Scot Brower
Gro Buer

Vania Winters
Laura Reichlin
Annette Jouard
Terri Butler

Connecting
People,
Communities
and the
Natural World



Nov. 4, 2019

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Re: Letter of Support — Horan Natural Area improvements

Dear Michelle,

I am writing to let you know the Our Valley Our Future community building organization strongly supports improvements to the Horan Natural Area. Completion of this project will enhance the region's environmental, education and tourism efforts, and will engage our Native American and Latino communities.

In 2015-16, Our Valley Our Future (OVOF) had more than 3,000 people answer several questions — What do you value most about living in the region? What do you see as the region's greatest strength and greatest weakness? What future challenges do you see the region facing? What one vision idea do you have? Utilizing the answers to those questions, several citizen committees then spent 10 months developing, vetting and refining the projects that make up the OVOF Action Plan. The Action Plan was released in January 2017.

One of the projects in the OVOF Action Plan — Sustain 2.4/Horan Natural Area Improvements — calls for enhancing the ecological sustainability of the Horan Natural Area, providing long-term benefits for a wide variety of birds and wildlife, as well as increased recreation, education and tourism activities. The co-lead partners on this action are the NCW Audubon Society, the City of Wenatchee, and Chelan County PUD.

In fall 2018, OVOF conducted a survey to gauge community support for several projects in the Action Plan. Of the 405 respondents, 50 percent said the Horan Natural Area project is extremely important or very important. Another 30 percent said it was moderately important. When asked if they or their family members would visit an improved Horan Natural Area, 81 percent said they would.

OVOF is pleased the three co-lead partners have been working diligently to develop a shared vision for the future of the Horan Natural Area. OVOF supports efforts to get water flowing through the area, to protect plant species, to develop a site honoring indigenous peoples, to construct an Environmental Educational Center, and to create a water trail system.

Having overseen the OVOF community outreach work in 2015-16, I can tell you that residents want the community to protect many of the features and amenities that make living here such a great experience. Many residents see a strong connection between improvements to their environment and their quality of life.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Steve Maher
Our Valley Our Future coordinator
14 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
info@ourvalleyourfuture.org
(509) 630-2090

Smith, Michelle

Subject: FW: <External> Horan Natural Area

From: Cody Gillin <cody.gillin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2019 8:48 AM
To: Smith, Michelle <michelle.smith@chelanpud.org>
Subject: <External> Horan Natural Area

Hi Michelle,

Hope this message finds you well.

I'm writing to encourage Chelan PUD to include improvements and modifications of the Horan Natural Area as it moves forward with hydro project re-licensing and its role in long-term transportation planning in the area. The Horan offers a little bit of wildness in an otherwise busy and highly developed part of our community. Like many folks, my family and I use the Horan for walking, jogging, and wildlife viewing. It is one of our go-to local spots to connect with nature.

I understand the group "Friends of Horan", a subcommittee of the North Central Washington Audubon Society, has been working closely with Chelan PUD for a couple years to identify potential actions and future planning efforts at the Horan that would benefit wildlife, recreation, education, and multi-cultural appreciation. While I do not know specific details of proposed/potential actions, I appreciate efforts to enhance the benefits offered by the Horan (and other natural spaces that are a critical component of the excellent quality of life we enjoy).

I understand the Friends of Horan supports such actions as a consistent water supply connecting the Horan's network of ponds, recognition and reestablishment of indigenous peoples' presence at the Horan, construction of an environmental/cultural learning center, and improvements to vegetation management and trails. These activities would make the Horan a more diverse, usable area for broader segments of the community. So long as the natural character and primary purpose of the Horan as a natural/wildlife area are not impacted, I am able to offer support.

Finally, I understand there is a long-term plan to route traffic and install a new bridge over the Wenatchee River to Olds Station. Transportation capacity improvements will be critical as the community grows. I am concerned, however, that the road and bridge will significantly impact the feel, character, and effectiveness of the Horan as a natural/wildlife area. I suggest the planning process include visual and auditory buffers between the proposed transportation corridor and the Horan, and any other mitigating efforts to decrease impact from increased transportation and development. I am not opposed to a new bridge and travel corridor, but I would like to see the project implemented with as little impact as possible.

My family and I have lived and worked in other areas of Washington and the United States, and Chelan County is tops in our book. Our family appreciates Chelan PUD's commitment to making our community a great place to live, including its investment in recreation, wildlife habitat, and fisheries restoration. We use Chelan PUD community parks and natural areas weekly.

We also appreciate Chelan PUD's collaboration with the tremendous diversity of stakeholders in our region, many with different goals and desired outcomes, but all looking to Chelan PUD for planning, decision-making, financial assistance, etc. It must be a difficult role to play, but know that in general the community is both appreciative and supportive of your efforts.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions,

Best,

Cody Gillin

Smith, Michelle

To: Smith, Michelle
Subject: RE: <External> Horan Natural Area (HNA)

From: Brent Biggar <mbbiggar@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2019 1:08 PM
To: Smith, Michelle <michelle.smith@chelanpud.org>
Subject: <External> Horan Natural Area (HNA)

Hello Michelle,

As a nearly daily user of the Loop trail since its creation, I am opposed to a road east of the railroad tracks near the Horan Natural Reserve.

This morning as I ran through the HNA I saw a moose, two young Whitetail bucks, and a rooster pheasant. Without a doubt, a road would bring all the garbage of vehicle traffic into the HNA and destroy this beautiful piece of nature we have in our city. Once "it" is gone, it is gone forever.

I absolutely love what the the Chelan County PUD has created in the Loop trail and have nothing but good to say about how it is managed and maintained, but I will not support a new road that will endanger the HNA.

Sincerely,

M. Brent Biggar, DC



Eastern WA Office
18 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Desk: 509-888-0844

November 3, 2019

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

RE: Support for Horan Natural Area Improvements

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Trust for Public Land appreciates the PUD's long history of investing in our community and we strongly support the PUD's plan to continue that investment through improving the Horan Natural Area.

The Trust for Public Land also endorses North Central Washington Audubon Society's vision for the Horan Natural Area:

- Introduction of a reliable surface water source to supply flowing water to connect a network of ponds that are designed to enhance shorebird and waterfowl use.
- Design and construction of a cultural history site that honors the history of Native American use and reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area.
- Construction and maintenance of an environmental educational center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands and waters.
- Development of a vegetative management plan emphasizing the protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species.
- Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan Natural Area for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational experiences.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Ann Welz
Senior Project Manager
The Trust for Public Land

cc Bruce McCammon, North Central Washington Audubon Society

Smith, Michelle

Subject: FW: <External> Comments re The Horan Natural Area

From: Mark Oswood <moswood@nwi.net>

Sent: Saturday, November 02, 2019 3:42 PM

To: Smith, Michelle <michelle.smith@chelanpud.org>

Subject: <External> Comments re The Horan Natural Area

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD

Dear Ms. Smith:

By way of introduction, Wenatchee has bookended my life. I spent my late child and early adult years in Wenatchee and then returned to Wenatchee after retiring. In my First Adult Life I was a biology professor, specializing in freshwater ecology. My Second Adult Life has mostly been given to volunteer work.

The Horan is a natural enclave in the urban environment of Greater Wenatchee. Unlike distant parks and trails, the Horan is within an easy drive, a short school bus trip, or even a walk (along the Loop Trail). This makes Horan accessible: to residents of all mobilities, to school kids on outings, to visitors making the Columbia River shore of Wenatchee a destination.

What is needed to make the Horan Natural Area a celebrated resource for residents and visitors? Some more water; some infrastructure; some stewardship.

When I retired to Wenatchee, in 1999, the ponds in the Horan had perennial water. The juxtaposition of aquatic and terrestrial systems made for dense biology: birds, plants, and the less visible but all-important insects and other invertebrates. With the loss of major water sources, the Horan has partially dewatered. Rewatering is feasible and essential.

Horan could be a place where history and biology are made visible. There could be a gathering and story place, created by local Native Americans, honoring their deep history here. There could be a simple classroom where students of all ages do Horan-based science.

The Horan Natural Area, like all semi-natural areas, needs regular stewardship to retain native plants and keep weeds at bay. This stewardship could be an ongoing opportunity for community science and shared purpose.

The Horan Natural Area is good, as is, but has the potential to become one of the reasons that people live here and one of the reasons that people come to visit.

Sincerely,

Mark W Oswood
emeritus professor



October 30, 2019

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Michelle Smith,

This letter is in support of the Chelan County PUD and Washington State Parks collective vision for the long-term management of the South Confluence Area (SCA) within the Horan Natural Area, and the goal of sustaining a functioning ecosystem, while providing recreational access for enjoyment, education and interpretation of area's historical and natural resources for future generations.

I am particularly enthused about two aspects:

- 1) To see the ideas for a cultural history site that honors the history of Native American use and reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area.
- 2) The construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands and waters.

As someone who has worked with tribal members in six states, creating a space that honors and respects the history and lifeways of the Wenatchi, and gives them a voice in our community is vitally important for our region to become a welcoming and inclusive place for all residents.

As a professional who managed Pacific Science Center's Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (MSEEC), I know first-hand the positive impact that well run environmental education centers have on communities. The MSEEC is a collaborative partnership between the City of Bellevue and Pacific Science Center and offer year-round education about wetlands, nature, natural and cultural history for adults, youth and families. An environmental education center in the Horan Natural Area, perhaps one operated in partnership with the PUD, state parks, Audubon Society and the Museum, can help better connect our community to the world around us, teach guests about our natural environment, raise awareness of issues impacting the environment upon which we all depend, help identify actions we can each/all take to improve and sustain our world and our Valley. The creation of such an environmental education center could offer new ways to view the world, get involved, and make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Keni Sturgeon".

Keni Sturgeon
Executive Director

Smith, Michelle

From: Bill Kampen <sandibil@nwi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 6:47 AM
To: Smith, Michelle
Subject: <External> Horan--More Immediate Concerns

I sent this to Bruce yesterday—wanted to loop you in prior to Nov. 6 in case you wanted a guided tour of the LNFH birding trail before the meeting, though I suspect you're much too busy. Offering comfortable places for people to sit quietly and observe is really important in natural areas, I think.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Bill

- > The Horan remains a very beautiful, very special place, but it really needs some TLC in the near term. I would like to propose the following, with rationale and details below:
 - >
 - > 1. Remove the decaying kiosks inside the HNA. The ones outside both entrances are fine.
 - > 2. Add "birding benches" (for viewing wildlife and scenery, quiet contemplation, resting) mostly at the ends of short spur trails off the main jogging/walking trail, throughout the area.
 - >
 - > Rationale for removing kiosks:
 - >
 - > 1. When the park was originally designed and built, there were no internet-connected cellphones, so providing some wildlife-viewing information at various spots along the trail may have made some sense. Today, an informational trail map/guide (available on-line or in paper form at the entry kiosks), better serves the same purpose.
 - > 2. The in-park kiosks have not been maintained, and the benches associated with them, never very comfortable to begin with, have fallen into disrepair. Wire fences and ceramic images of wildlife (several missing or vandalized), actually detract from the natural experience by drawing attention away from the actual birds and other wildlife that people come to see.
 - > 3. Several of these kiosk sites may no longer be viable. Vegetation has grown up around them, cutting off what once may have been impressive views. Viewpoints overlooking an open-water marsh, for example, only make sense as long as the marsh is present. Perhaps affected sites should now be at least temporarily abandoned until the water flow is restored.
 - > 4. It would cost relatively little for the PUD to remove the remnants of these old kiosks. As an even cheaper option, volunteers could do much of the work piecemeal, working from the entrances inward, kiosk by kiosk (more on this later).
 - >
 - > Plan for adding new benches: Note: the word "bird" and its derivatives ("birders, birding spots, birding benches") are meant to include all wildlife.
 - >
 - > 1. Park benches available for sale today, made with combinations of tough plastic resins and metal, are practically indestructible and pretty much maintenance-free, except for occasional cleaning. Most are also very comfortable and attractive. With the old kiosks removed and new benches in place, the HNA would

receive an immediate and much-needed facelift. Part of the reason the park is underused now is that it has become unwelcoming to people with even relatively minor physical limitations (respiratory and heart issues, knee and lower back pain, recovering from surgery, etc.). The addition of comfortable benches would likely lead an influx of new (and old!) visitors. More on this later.

> 2. There are a number of excellent local birders who visit the park regularly, and know the specific areas where birds like to hang out at various times of the year. Some of the now-cleared kiosk sites might make excellent locations for the new birding benches. Others, not so much. These birders, many of them NCW Audubon members, could also recommend NEW bench sites, accessible by short spur trails off the main trails. The goal here, of course, is to site the benches in such a way as to optimize the users' chances of getting good looks at some of the amazing critters that make Horan their home.

> 3. I am guessing that, given the ever-present threat of vandalism, the benches would have to be stationary, either anchored to a concrete base, or using other anchoring devices. This being the case, it is important to "get it right" when installing each bench. Most of this is common sense, and the "Bench Birding Trail" at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery offers a good opportunity to see what this looks like when done properly.

> 4. To minimize costs, bench placement could be done over 2-3 years, again working from the outside (nearest the entrances) in, and volunteer labor might be used to clear the spur trails and the small areas where the benches will sit.

>

> While the main trail through the HNA will always provide a great space for joggers and walkers, the real magic of the place resides in those hidden nooks and crannies "where the wild things are." This is a different experience entirely and is really what natural areas are best equipped to provide.

>

> Every birder knows that you see and hear more by walking VERY slowly and quietly through less well-travelled areas, pausing frequently. For most birders, walking on uneven ground and standing for 2-3 hours, often with your neck craned back as you try to identify birds flitting in the treetops, is not difficult at all, but this tends to change with age. I imagine there are dozens of older folks living in or near Wenatchee who would enjoy spending some quiet time in the Horan, but are currently unable to do so since there are no comfortable places to sit and rest. Shorter walks between benches would invite these folks back in, while providing a very healthy and safe way to exercise those aging joints and muscles.

>

> This is why I recommend placing the first new benches near the north and south entrances, and then gradually working toward the interior. People who can walk from the parking areas to the bench nearest the HNA entrances may also be able to walk a similar distance into the Horan. While for them a two-mile/two-hour walk may no longer be doable, a few quarter-mile walks with rests in-between could be just what the doctor ordered. And if that person also happens to appreciate natural beauty and the chance to get great looks at interesting wildlife, isn't this an opportunity worth providing?

>

> Visiting the new "Birding Bench Trail" at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery offers a chance to glimpse what Horan could become. While this is obviously the wrong time of year to see it in action—you would need to come in April through July for that—it's not hard to envision the quality birding experience that these benches provide throughout the spring and summer. For ALL birders, spending just a few minutes sitting quietly on one of these benches can be magical. Birds that fled and hid at your approach will quickly resume their normal activity once they no longer perceive you as a threat.

>

> Sprucing up the HNA within the next year or two with old kiosks removed and new birding benches installed would not only open the area to more users, but would also deliver a strong message that the Horan really DOES have friends, and we are serious about at least trying to return the HNA to a semblance of its former

glory. Actions speak louder than words, and people like to see tangible results. By involving local volunteers, the Horan would gain new friends with a vested interest in its continued well-being.

>

> If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit the LNFH birding trail and would like to do so before the Nov. 6th meeting, this would be a great thing to do. If you want some company, give me a call (548-5454). I live close by and would be delighted to walk the trail with you.

>

> Bill Kampen

> Leavenworth

>

Smith, Michelle

From: Jane Zanol <janezanol@me.com>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Smith, Michelle
Subject: <External> RE: Horan Natural Area support

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the North Central Washington Audubon Society plan for enhancing Horan Natural Area.

I support:

- Introduction of a reliable surface water source to supply flowing water to connect a network of ponds that are designed to enhance shorebird and waterfowl use.
- Design and construct a cultural history site that honors the history of Native American use and reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area.
- Construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands and waters.
- Development of a vegetative management plan emphasizing the protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species.
- Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational experiences.

Thank you very much for your work at the PUD and on this collaborative project.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Jane Zanol
Wenatchee, WA 98801



Wenatchee School District

235 Sunset Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801

(509) 663-8161

wenatcheeschools.org

Michelle Smith
October 18, 2019
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Michelle,

I am writing this letter in support of improvements being made to the Horan Natural Area. I am excited to hear about the possibility of improving the health of the Horan Natural Area and will support efforts for this work.

As the Wenatchee School District Science Coordinator; creating and implementing field experiences for students in grades K-5. We routinely use the Horan Natural Area as a backdrop for our kindergarten nature walk experience. Each year, every kindergartener from our seven elementary schools visits this area and learns about the plants, animals and ecology. The Horan Natural Area is a great place for this field experience because it provides such a rich and diverse riparian habitat. Last year, the highlight of this experience was the newly hatched eaglet in one of the nests. We were able to set up a scope for the students to view the activity and interactions of the parents and offspring.

At Wenatchee School District, we have had such a great response with our K-5 field experiences, that we are discussing ways to include middle school students as well. We look forward to the possibilities of expanding student experiences once improvements are made to this area.

Sincerely,

Joan Adams
Wenatchee School District Science Coordinator
adams.joan@wenatcheeschools.org
509-679-5070

Wenatchee School District

Smith, Michelle

Subject: FW: Horan Natural Area

From: Jason Lundgren <Jason@ccfeg.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Smith, Michelle <michelle.smith@chelanpud.org>
Subject: <External> Horan Natural Area

Hello Michelle, I just learned of the November 6th meeting regarding the Horan Natural Area. Unfortunately my staff and I will be out of town at a training, but I would like to express my hope and desire to seriously consider a vision for the area that evaluates and expands juvenile salmon rearing habitat. I used to run through the natural area regularly and always thought that the existing wetland pond and culverts likely created a stranding situation for rearing juveniles. Historically, this area probably served as an important refuge for fish when conditions in the mainstem Wenatchee or Columbia were unfavorable due to turbidity or temperature. Anyway, we would like to be engaged in the process of re-envisioning this area. Please keep me posted and let me know the best way to be involved.

Thank you for your time, Jason Lundgren

Jason Lundgren
Executive Director
Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Cell: 509.476.3444
Office: 509.888.7268

Smith, Michelle

From: Patricia L Strand <plstrand@nwi.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:22 AM
To: Smith, Michelle
Subject: <External> Horan Natural Area future development proposals

Michelle—My name is Robert Strand, I am retired from the forest service, for some time now, where I worked 9 years, 9 months out of the year as a NTE position, no permanent hires, and my job was wildlife survey crew leader at what was then called the Leavenworth Ranger District. Before moving the family to East Wenatchee over 30 years ago I had jobs as a shift supervisor of operations crews at several coal fired power plants in Montana and Wyoming.

I recently had a meeting at the river with Marcie Clement and Von Pope to discuss their jobs, the river, and various other topics. So, you can call them if you would like to perhaps get a feel of what they have to say about me. I met them only the one time, so they do not know me from working together.

I have real concerns of the Chelan PUD doing any changes on the Horan Nature area other than what is ongoing now. I fear it would be more of a human recreational development than a benefit for what is already there for a natural area for use by multiple species of wildlife. I have seen many changes over the years on human recreation inroads into natural areas, and in areas just out west of Wenatchee I used to do wildlife surveys where there is now a webbing of biking trails. Natural habitat area, such as the Horan area, plus developing more trail systems for human recreational use, only adds up to a wildlife incompatibility. Many species of birds are on a big decline, and I don't think that the humanization of the Horan area will help that situation any as just the presence of more humans in the usage plan would result in many species moving out to a less disturbed area by human activity. I watched the building of a nest by bald eagles in the Horan area recently, and visited them just enough this summer to see that they did indeed have a successful nest season with one juvenile fledging. I don't think it is a coincidence that the recent years closure of waterfowl hunting in the confluence area of the Wenatchee River with the Columbia River contributed to less disturbance to bald eagles such that they nested in the Horan. That area of the loop trail was closed off during nesting season, and if they return it would have to be closed off again. How would that fit with your future plans of development of the Horan area with having to have trail closures?

Development of some other areas near the river, such as Wenatchee side of the loop trail/park area, natural vegetation was removed and grass was planted, with results of many ducks and geese nibbling on the green grass and leaving their fertilizer behind, at the dismay of many people. Perhaps unintended consequences?

The Horan Nature area is not trashed out as much as areas of the loop trail system such as the 19th street area of the riverfront area on the East Wenatchee side of the river. I have seen some recreational planning that states there will be "maintenance" in the planning process, the recreational area is then built, and then the trash starts accumulating due to no plans to support a crew for ongoing garbage removal. The main loop trail on the East Wenatchee side of the river, in the nature area there, over time since the trail was installed, resulted in secondary trails being formed by people recreating in that river area off the main loop trail. There is no trash pickup contracts or plans for the off trail area, so trash accumulates throughout the natural area. There are signs at the trailhead areas to not litter, also garbage cans in the parking lot area as well as some near the trail, and some volunteer cleanup, but I continue to pick up trash in that area, as well as other concerned citizens hiking the area, that all of the above "maintenance" does not seem to cover in the planning and development of such recreational areas. I see trash at all agency recreational areas, be it PUD, WDF&W, DNR, forest service lands, Columbia National Wildlife refuge,, etc, etc.. and no one has the money for crews, or

time, to pick up the trash that is constantly accumulating. So, a permanent trash management crew, in my opinion, should be part of the planning process if the Horan project should go ahead.

I don't know to what degree the Horan Nature area is being considered for future human recreation, but it certainly does not sound like it is for the benefit of wildlife development needs if more trails and human activity is planned for it. I would suggest that the Horan Nature area be preserved as it is, with wildlife needs at the top of the usage list and indeed improve their habitat there, and instead I suggest the Chelan PUD develop an entirely separate area for human recreational activity usage, including Native American interpretation areas, disability access, informative center for local wildlife and river usage, and model it perhaps like the Beebe Bridge area that was developed by the WDF&W.. Perhaps there is some land at the dams, or nearby other PUD property, that could be developed more for human multipurpose programs, vs. the type of recreational parks that already exist along the river for camping and boating use. Add on to one of the nearby river park areas, vs. at the Horan Nature area, an interpretive center for the Native American cultural history, and other such informational plans that you have for the Horan, but instead move those human activity plans from the Horan to a park addition.

Areas such as the Horan Nature area are a gem for multiple wildlife species being able to somewhat coexist at the backdoor of communities. The usage of the Horan area for just being able to see the wildlife, and the natural surroundings, by multiple recreational users, without overdeveloping it, I think is more the key to that area than having any great plans to change it for more human access. We need the wild places, and to have one so close to Wenatchee and East Wenatchee is a draw to the community that might not have many bells and whistles, but it does quietly draw many to this area because of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Strand: phone 509-884-6159
1365 Terrace Court, East Wenatchee, WA. 98802



Washington Native Plant Society
Appreciate, Conserve, and Study Our Native Flora

6310 NE 74th St., Ste. 215E, Seattle, Washington 98115
(206) 527-3210

Connie Mehmel, Board President
Wenatchee Valley Chapter
Washington Native Plant Society

Michelle Smith, Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance, Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Nov. 4, 2019

Dear Ms. Smith,

On behalf of the board of the Wenatchee Valley Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society, I wish to express our support of the North Central Washington Audubon Society's vision and goals for future improvements to the Horan Natural Area. Specific goals of mutual interest aligned with the mission of the Washington Native Plant Society include the:

- Design and construction of a cultural history site that honors Native American use, including uses related to local native plants, and that reestablishes indigenous peoples' presence in the area;
- Construction and maintenance of an Environmental Educational Center to host displays and programs connecting all residents and communities with North Central Washington's lands, waters, plants, and animals;
- Development of a vegetative management plan emphasizing the protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species;
- Design, construction, and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational and educational experiences including increased exposure to local native plants and habitats.

The Washington Native Plant Society works to conserve native plants and their habitats within Washington State. Native plants include all plants that were present within the borders of Washington before European contact, generally regarded as circa 1800 in the Pacific Northwest. Native algae, fungi, and lichens are also primary species of interest. WNPS promotes their appreciation with a variety of educational and conservation activities that are open to the public. These activities include studying plants in their native habitats and restoring native habitats when

opportunities arise. Conservation of native plant species and their habitats through protection from non-native species is critical to the WNPS mission.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for future habitat restoration improvements that will offer significant learning opportunities for people to connect with native plants and habitats.

Sincerely,



Connie Mehmel, Chapter President
Wenatchee Valley Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society
PO Box 345
Cashmere WA 98815



Van Bobbitt, WNPS Board President
WNPSpresident@wnps.org

CC: Art Campbell, President, North Central Washington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2934
Wenatchee, WA. 98807-2934

Steve King, Development Economic Development Director, City of Wenatchee
301 Yakima Street, 3rd Floor
Wenatchee, WA 98801



North Central Washington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2934
Wenatchee, WA 98807
www.ncwaudubon.org

Ms. Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Michelle,

The North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS) continues to consider the Horan Natural Area (HNA) to be unique and highly valuable bird habitat. We recognize that the area is very important for a variety of reasons including bird watching, hiking, solitude, and education. Our Audubon chapter for three years has been actively involved in creating local awareness and interest in the Horan Natural Area. We fully support the PUD's stated goal of sustaining a functioning ecosystem, while providing for recreational access for enjoyment, education and interpretation of its historical and natural resources for future generations.

The NCWAS has identified several priorities for improving conditions in the HNA to approach your goal.

- Foremost, introduction of flowing water to a complex of ponds and streams is essential to support a viable wetland/pond system. We envision greater shorebird and waterfowl habitat created by a stream of 1-2 cubic feet per second flowing into ponds that are designed with sloping banks. On entry to the HNA, the water would be routed through a wetland to create high water quality. The water would flow through the ponds and exit to the Columbia River. Flowing water will assist in remediation of mosquito issues.
- A vegetative management plan is needed to guide the recognition and enhancement of culturally important plants including dogbane and Showy milkweed. The plan should address the retention and enhancement of existing native plants, reduction of invasive species and creation of greater plant diversity. Increasing berry-producing native shrubs would greatly enhance bird habitat and use in the area.
- We support the creation of a site to honor the history of Native American use in the HNA. Involvement of both the Colville and Yakima federations in the design and implementation of this site is critical.
- The HNA provides a unique educational opportunity in the City of Wenatchee. Creation of an environmental education center within, or adjacent to, the area would create robust opportunities for school programs as well as informing both valley residents and visitors about the multiple values the area provides for birds, wildlife, and people.

The NCWAS appreciates the Chelan PUD's efforts to identify and implement improvements to the ecological and social conditions in the Horan Natural Area. Our organization looks forward to working with the PUD to create a sustainable system in the HNA for future generations.

Art Campbell
President North Central Washington Audubon Society