TAPASH Sustainable Forest Collaborative

Little Naches Working Group

November 28, 2016

Dear District Ranger Lawrence,

The purpose of this letter is to express broad support by the Little Naches Working Group for the Naches Ranger District's first phase of restoration proposed in the Little Naches watershed – the Little Crow Restoration Project. Over the last three years, we have all worked together as a group to understand each other's needs and perspectives, and to look for management options that can meet our shared goals for a place we all value as special- the Little Naches watershed. We are excited to be part of the collaborative approach promoted by the US Forest Service's national Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

The Little Naches Working Group is a collaborative partnership that is a stakeholder arm of the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative and brings together representatives of diverse interest groups to promote sustainable management of the Little Naches watershed. Our working group includes special interest groups and agencies that represent motorized and non-motorized recreation, wildlife, aquatics, timber, fisheries, vegetation and other interests. The agencies represented are WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We also have representatives from Conservation Northwest, The Nature Conservancy, the Yakama Nation, The Cabin Owners Association, Boise- Cascade, Hampton Industries and the American Forest Resource Council.

The US Forest Service's Naches Ranger District has worked closely with our Working Group for the last two years as together we developed the proposed Little Crow Restoration Project. Forest Service staff and leadership have consistently reached out to the working group for feedback and input. They have worked hard to use this input to put together a proposed action that will restore our public forest land in the Little Crow Project Area and support local economies and public recreation. The Little Naches Working Group thanks the Forest Service for working in such a collaborative manner with our diverse partnership, and looks forward to working together with the Naches Ranger District to implement the Little Crow Project

Individual Working Group members may not agree with all elements of the proposed action for restoration in the Little Crow Restoration Project, and retain their right to express their concerns in the public comment period and advocate for specific changes to the proposal. We expect that the Working Group, individual members and the Forest Service will be able to work together in a collaborative fashion to address any remaining issues as they arise.

Again, the Working Group would like to thank the Forest Service for working collaboratively to make the Little Crow Restoration Project a real step forward towards a positive future for the Little Naches watershed. The Working Group looks forward to continued collaboration to address additional aquatic and terrestrial restoration needs in this watershed outside the scope

of the current proposed Little Crow Restoration Project. As we move forward together, we will continue to seek ecological restoration that is balanced with social and cultural values.

Sincerely,
The Little Naches Working Group

CC:
Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Supervisor, Mike Williams
Okanogan-Wenatchee CFLRP Coordinator, Amanda Valasquez
PNW R6 Regional Forester, Jim Peña
PNW R6 Regional CFLRP Coordinator, Tom DeMeo
Tapash Executive Committee: Jason Kuiken, James Schroeder, Larry Leach, Steve Andringa, Mike Livingston

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Little Naches Working Group

Little Crow Restoration Project Support Letter Signatures

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