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Last name: Darland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This important document is included in my comments given Patty Garvey-Darda is the team leader of this project that should be an objective and an unbiased project. A copy of all my submittals are being copied to my law firms: K & L Gates. and Lathrop, Winbauer, Harrel, Slothower & Denison, L.L.P.

OFFICIAL FOREST SERVICE PERSPECTIVE OF GOLD VALLEY LAND USE?

On May 5, 2006, a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) employee posted the statement below on the website: <http://www.savegoldcreekvalley.com/1337/1336.html>. This USFS employee is also a member of the Board of Directors of RIDGE, an anti-development group in Kittitas County, which brought the GMA suit resulting in the ruling being discussed this evening. The USFS is one of the public agencies involved in the professional planning and conduct of environmental study decisions guiding the WSDOT project and Kittitas County Planning including this Open House meeting. The USFS employee, Ms. Jennifer Beauvais, [Nonpublic Information] wrote on 05/15/2006 at 22:17h:

"I am the chairperson for a newly-formed group, the Kittitas County Conservation Coalition. We are trying to slow down development throughout the county, as it has reached plague level. The KCCC is a coalition of all the groups throughout the county that have separately seen their neighborhoods rezoned and parceled off, or are seeing such actions on the horizon.

We are trying our hardest to get to the county commission meetings and change this, and to get involved in the revision of the Comprehensive Plan (as related to the Growth Management Act). Any involvement you may want to add to this coalition would be amazing. Gold Creek is a vulnerable area, and is direct access to the wilderness and the PCT.

I work at the Forest Service and was told that if any press talks to us about this proposal to build, that we should say that it is environmentally a terrible idea. As FS workers, we are very rarely given words for the press.

Hurry up and finish your web page! This is a VERY important cause!"

Ms. Patty Garvey-Darda, a USFS employee stated, in reference to private property in the Gold Creek Area, the subject of this evenings' meeting, "We have to have that private property or we cannot meet our legal requirements." Her statement, during the Aug. 21, 2007 Open House meeting, was not included in the minutes of the meeting and I respectfully request that they must be added as a part of the public record and of the position of the USFS.

I received last week, a copy of the Agenda of the August Meeting that was not provided to me at the August meeting. One of the Agenda items was [mdash] Discussion: Gold Creek Area - remain in the plan or remove it? This was not discussed at the meeting! This Sub-Area Plan and planning will be renamed, as ordered in the GMA ruling and made a part of GMA mandated planning. If Gold Creek is removed now future development there will be inconsistent with the GMA plan required for the location of new growth and development.

Has the USFS, prior to May of 2006, already determined the WSDOT's EIS study finding a and conclusions and perhaps even the results of these Open House meetings irrespective of actual findings and our public comments?

I have a complete copy of the original web site <http://www.savegoldcreekvalley.com/1337/1>, which has been

"parked". The registered owner of the web site is a Seattle resident, Mr. Erik Brooks [Nonpublic information] Fax: [Nonpublic information] Seattle WA 98122.

Write, call, or email Kittitas County Planning Director Darryl Piercy to express your concerns about development in Gold Creek Valley - and call for a full Environmental Impact Statement for any development proposals in Gold Creek Valley. Here are some important points you may want to consider when crafting your message:

Express concern about the potential for large-scale development in Gold Creek Valley (Township 22N, Range 11E) in upper Kittitas County.

Point out the special nature of Gold Creek Valley: It is a broad, productive valley amid the steep, rocky slopes of the Central Cascades. This makes it especially rich habitat for all kinds of wildlife - deer, elk, bear, beaver, bobcat, cougar, many smaller mammals, resident and migratory birds, etc.

Wildlife habitat continues to shrink in Kittitas County and across our state. Large areas of habitat occur north and south of Snoqualmie Pass, but wildlife populations must be able to move freely between these areas to access seasonal food resources and to maintain healthy genetic mixing within breeding populations. Gold Creek Valley is a critical pathway for wildlife movements between the North and South Cascades.

The Washington State Department of Transportation is planning to invest in elaborate wildlife bridges to both facilitate the passage of wildlife across the I-90 freeway and to minimize dangerous wildlife-vehicle encounters on this highway. Careful oversight by our public officials is important to ensure that this public investment is safeguarded and that our state's wildlife benefit as intended from this investment.

Fragmentation resulting from poorly planned or inappropriately placed development can dramatically reduce wildlife habitat and disrupt the movements of wildlife along corridors such as this.

Prospective development in Sections 11 and 15 in Gold Creek Valley should pass a rigorous review - including a full Environmental Impact Statement - to ensure that wildlife values and public safety are maintained and not degraded in this area.

All of this leads up to the most important point you can drive home: the need for a full Environmental Impact Statement regarding any development proposals in Sections 11 and 15 in Gold Creek Valley. Only through such a rigorous review can we ensure that wildlife values and public safety are fully taken into account during the planning process and are ultimately maintained and not degraded by development in this area.

If you are a property owner in Kittitas County, point that out.

Ask Director Piercy to keep you informed regarding development proposals for Gold Creek Valley and the review process regarding these proposals.

Send your messages to:

Darryl Piercy, Director

Kittitas County Community Development Services

411 N Ruby ST, Suite 2

Ellensburg WA 98926

Phone: (509) 962-7506

Email: cds@co.kittitas.wa.us

Speak up about road-building in Gold Creek Valley!

The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest manages U.S. Forest Service ownership in Gold Creek Valley. Tell District Ranger Jim Franzell that you're concerned about the ecological impacts of potential road construction across Forest Service land to access proposed new developments in Section 11 in Gold Creek Valley (Township 22N, Range 11E). State that any such proposals warrant the scrutiny of a full environmental impact statement (EIS). Forest roads have been shown to negatively affect a wide range of ecological factors[mdash] they can increase erosion, impact water quality, enhance the abundance of invasive species, restrict movement for some species of wildlife, and more[mdash]and could negate years of effort to maintain and enhance one of the most important corridors for the movement of wildlife through the central Cascades. Urge our Forest Service to stand up for wildlife and oppose unnecessary road construction in Gold Creek Valley!

Address your letter to:

District Ranger Jim Franzell

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District

North Bend Office

42404 SE North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045

Or send an email to: r6_mbs_comments@fs.fed.us Place "Attn: Ranger Jim Franzell" in the subject line.

Speak up to preserve wildlife corridors and the effectiveness of wildlife bridges in the Gold Creek corridor!

The Washington Department of Transportation (DOT) is set to install bridges to allow wildlife passage under Interstate-90 as part of a planned widening and straightening of I-90 through the Snoqualmie Pass/Keechelus Lake area (see <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I90/HyaktoKeechelusDam/>). These wildlife passages will connect wildlife habitats and populations on both sides of the freeway corridor in a manner that is safe for wildlife as well as human travelers (see <http://www.conservationnw.org/centralcas>). Intensive development in Gold Creek Valley threatens to block this important wildlife connection and greatly reduce the value of our state's investment in wildlife bridges. Tell Washington's Secretary of Transportation Doug MacDonald that you want the Gold Creek wildlife bridges to work and that DOT should act in the public interest to ensure that development in Gold Creek Valley does not impair the value of these bridges for our state's wildlife.

Doug MacDonald

Washington Department of Transportation

PO Box 47316

Olympia, WA 98504-7316 macdond@wsdot.wa.gov

While you're at it, send a copy of your letter or email to your state legislator as well (see <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature/> for addresses).

Copy us your messages if you can.

Our ability to show public support for conservation in Gold Creek Valley will be critical to the success of our efforts.

SIGN UP! Sign our guestbook. We are a volunteer organization and welcome new members and assistance at a number of levels. Please indicate in the comments box which of the following categories your ability to help would best fit into:

ALERT—Help us influence public policy! We're developing a list of friends of Gold Creek Valley who we will update about significant developments. We may ask you to make phone calls or write letters or emails to help influence legislators and public officials.

VOLUNTEER—Share the work and the rewards! We need folks who are willing to help with the details of organizing, advocating, and stewarding: Attending meetings, developing strategies, contacting legislators and officials, locating and pulling invasive weeds, writing and/or distributing leaflets, researching documents, etc.

CONTRIBUTE! Donations are always welcome. Gold Creek Valley Alliance has no overhead and no paid staff, so 100 percent of your donation goes towards the work of protecting Gold Creek Valley. Donations may be sent to:

Gold Creek Valley Alliance PO Box 142

Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068

We are applying for nonprofit status, but are still in the process, so your contributions will not yet be tax deductible.

Thank you for your help! Together we can protect this beautiful valley for sustainable wildlife populations and the enjoyment of future generations!

Registered owner of the web site is a Seattle resident, Mr. Erik Brooks [Nonpublic information] Seattle, WA 98122 Fax: [Nonpublic information]

This document provided as public input to be made a part of the official minutes and of the public record of the second Open House on Tuesday September 18th to bring forth information on the Snoqualmie Pass Sub-Area Plan