

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/11/2020 2:01:29 AM

First name: William

Last name: Brookreson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a person who has had the pleasure of visiting the Gold Creek Valley, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my strong support for the science-based restoration of Gold Creek and its surrounding ecosystem.

For the past 14 years, I have been involved as a native plant steward with the Washington Native Plant Society in a number of restoration projects across the state and I have learned how important it is to rely on good science in all that we do if we are to be successful and I am very confident that it will drive selection, design, and implementation of any restoration projects in Gold Creek Valley.

Traveling in and through the area in the past 40 plus years, one cannot help but notice that Gold Creek Valley has been heavily impacted by the clear-cut logging and other activities that have had significant impact on the hydrology and ecology of Gold Creek. Healthy streams and their riparian habitats, as I have seen in other restoration projects that I have been involved with, are the most productive portions of the landscape. Restoration of the Gold Creek and its floodplain, if successful, would do wonders for the valley ecosystem and all of the wildlife that depends on it.

A resilient ecological system has never been more critical not only for native plants, my special interest, but also for the fish and wildlife that are such an important part of a healthy system. In studying the area, I noted that the valley is part of a major passageway for wildlife of all kinds moving north-south through the Cascades, connecting public lands and wilderness areas on both sides of Snoqualmie Pass. Our state has invested in large wildlife passages under I-90 at the mouth of Gold Creek. Gold Creek hosts one of only 2 remaining bull trout populations in the upper Yakima River basin. Population data indicates that Gold Creek bull trout have been declining for years and biologists are concerned the population will wink out if concerted efforts to improve its habitat aren't undertaken.

As a father, grandfather of 1 and great grandfather of 3, the future of our environment is very important to me. Our public lands are an important part of the heritage that I have worked pass on in a healthy and vibrant way. We see too much degradation of the heritage.

I realize, after 35 years in government, that resources are limited and that make good science and careful planning more important than ever. I strongly support our land managers judicious selection of projects, based on the best scientific information, but implemented expeditiously.