

To:

Whatcom County Parks and Recreation
3373 Mount Baker Highway
Bellingham, WA 98226

From:

Jackie Yereance

Subject:

Chuckanut Mountain, Raptor Ridge multi-use trail proposal

Dear Whatcom County Parks Commission,

I am writing to ask you to review and recommend a proposal to upgrade 200 yards of the Raptor Ridge trail to multi-use. The Raptor Ridge trail is located in the heart of the Chuckanut Mountains and is a major connector between Whatcom County Parks and Larrabee State Parks. This section of trail is currently hiker only. I have included maps for reference.

Why:

The Chuckanut Mountain trail system is regularly used by hikers, horses, and mountain bikers alike. Upgrading this short section of trail will allow horseback riders and mountain bikers to connect between the two parks with a more direct and desirable route and make better use of the existing trails.

History:

The Raptor Ridge trail was originally a short user-built hiker-only scramble to a rocky overlook. When Whatcom County Parks first developed a trail plan in 1996 a multi-use trail through this corridor was planned to connect the two Parks. This trail was never built. In 2011 a community driven project added 1.25 miles of multi-use trail, connecting the Raptor Ridge trail to the Lost lake trail. The original trail connecting Raptor Ridge to Hemlock trail was left as hiker only, which excluded horses and mountain bikers from making the connection.

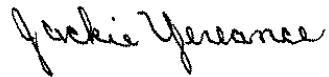
Proposal:

I am proposing an upgrade to 200 yards of trail to current multi-use standards so that horseback riders and mountain bikers may use this connector. To make this possible, the trail grade would need to be reduced by adding switchbacks, and moving the trail intersection out of a swampy area. (Please refer to the map.)

In the summer of 2020 I walked the project area with WTA's regional manager and other community partners. There was a consensus that reworking the trail in the current corridor was the simplest solution. And that this could be done with minimal cost and resources. If approved, WTA offered to provide volunteer labor and experience. I am willing to donate or raise funds for the project, and recruit volunteers.

I am a member of the Whatcom County chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen and have lived and ridden in the Chuckanut mountains for 45 years. In that time I have worked continuously to maintain existing trails and to work with the parks to build a better trail system. I volunteered and donated to the Raptor Ridge trail addition in 2011, and worked with the Parks to extend the Huckleberry trail to Raptor ridge in 2013.

I hope you will share in my vision of making the Chuckanut trail system more accessible and enjoyable for all users. Thank you for taking the time to consider my suggestion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Yereance". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jackie Yereance