



January 15, 2023

Dear Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

I am writing to you in response to the proposed annual closure of the South Fork Nooksack River to certain recreational uses from June 1 to October 31. I am aware that the commission is currently discussing this issue. And as the operator of the Acme Diner, I am concerned about the potential economic impact to the diner and other businesses in the area, particularly during the brief summer months.

I share the concerns that the Lummi Nation and Nooksack tribes have in protecting the South Fork Chinook Salmon and understand the economic and cultural values that salmon hold within these communities. At the same time, I am concerned that the proposed ban on recreational activities may have unintended consequences that have not been fully addressed. As example, the Acme Diner's proximity to river access is a major draw for our customers. The proposed closure could lead to a significant decrease in foot traffic and revenue. The summer months, with their extended daylight hours, are important for the diner as they help to offset the limited hours of operation in the winter.

I encourage the commission to explore and recommend alternative solutions that can preserve the natural resources of the river, provide recreational activities for the community, and support local businesses.

I know that finding a solution that meets the needs of all parties involved may not be easy, but I believe that it is the county's responsibility to consider the needs of the community and work towards a solution that benefits everyone.

Thank you for taking my perspective into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Cochran".

Kim Cochran
Operator, Acme Diner