



Don Hoch
Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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March 6, 2014

Steve Hinton
Director of Habitat Restoration
Skagit River System Cooperative
PO Box 368
La Conner, WA 98257

Dear Mr. Hinton:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposed Camano Island State Park Lagoon Reconnection: Feasibility and Preliminary Design project.

For more than a decade, State Parks has collaborated with partners on projects that benefit salmonids, restore natural processes, and interpretive these elements for park visitors. In this case, we are excited about the potential to work with the Skagit River System Cooperative on developing and evaluating design alternatives for re-introducing tidal inundation and access for juvenile salmonids to the Lowell Point historic pocket estuary within Camano Island State Park. By working together, we hope to identify an alternative that maximizes habitat benefits and meets the operational and recreational requirements of the park.

In 2013, State Parks completed a management plan for Camano Island State Park. The plan specifically identified support for a feasibility analysis of developing estuary features at Lowell Point to support nearshore habitat for salmonids. Funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board would help bring this project to fruition.

State Parks is committed to salmon recovery. The agency has previously worked with other partners to protect and restore pocket estuaries in south Puget Sound and Hood Canal. We look forward to collaborating with the Skagit River System Cooperative on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Lantz".

Lisa Lantz
Stewardship Program Manager