

**MARINE
RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**



**SNOHOMISH
COUNTY 444**

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March 31, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is writing to express support for the Meadowdale Beach County Park Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) request to fund the design of this important park restoration project.

Meadowdale Beach Park serves as an important resource for the community as well as for aquatic life. Thousands of county residents explore the park's trail system which follows Lund's Gulch Creek through forested hillsides before discharging into a small marine estuary along Puget Sound. It is one of a few public beach access areas in South Snohomish County. Lund's Gulch Creek, which flows through Meadowdale Park before entering Puget Sound, provides critical habitat for non-natal Chinook, coho, cutthroat, and chum salmon.

Erosion and sedimentation processes within the gulch have significantly increased in recent years resulting in increased deposition of gravels and other sediment within a culvert tunnel under the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF). These gravel deposits act as barriers to fish passage, severely restrict public access due to flooding, and result in significant maintenance issues for the County.

Snohomish County Parks and Surface Water Management are evaluating design alternatives that will enhance sediment transport and accommodate increased creek flows to reduce flooding events and maintenance costs, improve public access, enhance recreational and educational uses of the park, and improve fish habitat. Snohomish County Parks is seeking funding to implement the selected alternative which will include restoration of a tidal marsh to restore rearing habitat for juvenile salmon. The MRC expresses full support for this funding request to the SRFB.

As an organization dedicated to promoting effective stewardship of Snohomish County's marine shorelines and ecosystems, the MRC supports the Meadowdale Park design funding request and subsequent restoration of this valuable County resource.

Sincerely,

Mike Ehlebracht, L.H.G.
Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

Cc: Gregg Farris, PE
Karen Kerwin, PE
Ann Bylin
Logan Daniels, PE