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Snohomish, WA 98290



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July 13, 2016

Bill Oakes
Island County Director of Public Works
P.O.Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239-5000

Re: Barnum Point Protection – 2016 RCO Grant Support

Dear Mr. Oakes,

Pilchuck Audubon Society fully supports Island County's grant applications for the acquisition of tidelands, feeder bluff, and upland forest at Barnum Point, located on the east side of Camano Island. We will commit a minimum of \$500 worth of in-kind services to assist in the protection and enhancement of this land.

This area is vital for protecting wildlife habitat and preserving open space. The property serves an abundant and diverse number of bird species including song birds, woodpeckers, raptors, ducks, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Preservation of this site also allows for low-impact public recreational activities. Very few properties on Camano Island offer this kind of opportunity for protection of over 1 mile of shoreline habitats.

Members of our organization will conduct avian monitoring to better understand bird populations at the site and how birds are using site habitat. Pilchuck Audubon Society will also work with the stakeholders to develop educational outreach concerning the birds and important habitat of the area. These efforts and activities will be worth a minimum of \$500 and will create a better understanding of the property's ecological value with respect to birds and the wildlife that use it.

Camano Island is an important area served by the Pilchuck Audubon Society and we recognize the value residents of the island and Snohomish Counties place on open space and habitat protection. Preserving habitats like those at Barnum Point and supporting this project aligns with our chapter mission statement.

Pilchuck Audubon Society has collaborated with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust - the partner to Island County leading the protection efforts on this project - on other projects and sincerely hopes this effort succeeds in protecting this critical land for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Cynthia Easterson', is positioned above the printed name.

Cindy Easterson
President
Pilchuck Audubon Society