



STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Christine Del Pozo, Principal
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June 28, 2016

Island County Parks and Recreation
PO Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239

RE: Support for Barnum Point Project

Dear Island County Parks:

Stanwood High School enthusiastically supports Island County's partnership with Whidbey Camano Land Trust to protect Barnum Point on Camano Island. As one of ten recipients, nationwide, of a Newman's Own, "Make a Difference Day" Award, for my students' combined volunteer efforts throughout the Stanwood/Camano Island communities, the seniors in my high school English classes had the honor of making a \$10,000 gift to a charity or cause of their choice.

After determining criteria for giving (timeliness, proximity, impact, integrity of organization, personal values, and Make a Difference Day intent — local people helping local needs), they ranked the nonprofit organizations they had helped. Of all the deserving causes available to them, these amazing students voted to give their award for the protection of Barnum Point.

Barnum Point is one of the last, largely unspoiled landforms on Camano Island. It is an iconic place for residents and visitors to the Island, and a haven for wildlife, particularly the abundant birds and marine life that rely on the diversity of habitats found there. The opportunity to protect Barnum Point forever, and make it available to be appreciated by the public for the first time — as a passive use park — cannot be undervalued.

Moreover, these students' connection to this amazing conservation effort is an inspiration to everyone who learns this story, and the long-term ties between Stanwood High School and the Barnum Point Park will be a legacy to this work.

This choice added yet another dimension to the students' learning. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust has used the students' choice as a catalyst in their funding campaign for the acquisition of this pristine natural habitat on Camano Island. When my students and I met the Land Trust staff at Barnum Point to deliver the \$10,000 check, we learned that their mentioning my students' decision to give the grant money to the Barnum Point acquisition had already led to \$300,000 in donations!

The Stanwood High School seniors were passionate about the volunteer work that they undertook to earn this distinction and are proud to assist in this way to the ongoing, urgent efforts to protect Barnum Point.

Sincerely,

Val Schroeder

National Board Certified Teacher

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