

November 3, 2017

Ms. Lindsey Ozbolt
Associate Planner
City of Sammamish
Sammamish, WA. 98075

Re: East Lake Sammamish Trail Segment 2B – SSDP2016-00415

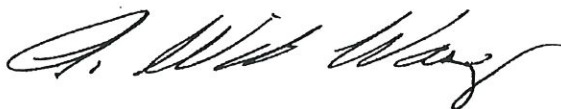
Ms. Ozbolt:

I am an adjoining property owner to the regional trail and an avid supporter.

The County's preference for off-site wetland banking mitigation, presumably located near the headwaters of Laughing Jacobs Creek, does not provide mitigation where the impacts occur: on and adjoining streams and wetlands and along the lakeshore of the east side of Lake Sammamish. It is here where the kokanee population is near extinction and where other listed salmonids like Chinook live – the fry work the hardstem bulrush along the lakeshore on their journey to saltwater. Lakeshore vegetation and emergents such as hardstem bulrush are being removed on an unparalleled scale by private parties as part of beautification projects. This refugia is something the County could do their part in saving and restoring as mitigation on their own right-of-way. Do to requirements of wetland mitigation sequencing, trail impacts are fairly modest. Restoration work on kokanee streams within the right-of-way, already shown with fish passable culverts, plus revegetation in a few locations along the lakeshore, should satisfy all stream and wetland mitigation requirements. Value will be exponential to investment. On-site mitigation is clearly the right thing to do.

I note that the County drawings now show a fish passable culvert on Stream #0143L at far north end of trail segment at approximate Station 464+00, presumably in response to my earlier review letter dated 1/23/17. However, the County shows no stream restoration on the upstream sand-bedded ditch that parallels the trail for 305 linear feet. As a result, the shown fish passable culvert is a route to nowhere: no spawning/rearing habitat is available upstream of the County's existing ditch. Given slope of ditch, removal of sands and placement of gravels will result in spawning habitat for kokanee. Kokanee and other salmonids are known as "strayers" and will find available habitat to spawn in without seeding. Not only is stream restoration spectacularly useful for a kokanee population on the edge of extinction, it would be exceptional mitigation for wetland and stream impacts for the rest of the corridor. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



A. William Way
Professional Wetland Scientist #970
3451 East Lake Sammamish Shore Lane N.E.
Sammamish, WA. 98074

cc. David St. John – Kokanee Working Group