



05/31/07

Dear Executive Sims,

Middle Green River Coalition would like to commend you on your leadership and long time support for protecting Icy Creek. Purchase of the upland parcels known as the Icy Creek property is an important keystone in the protection of the Green River Gorge. In particular the purchase of these parcels will result in protection of a significant section of the springs feeding cold unpolluted water into the river system. The Gorge and springs are key to protecting the water quality and quantity in the Green River system for the protection of and recovery of Chinook Salmon and Bull Trout that are particularly reliant on cold water sources for survival.

Also the protection of these parcels totaling approximately 270 acres will help ensure the Green River Gorge remains a viable wildlife corridor in a developing area, where large blocks of land are converting from forestry and farming to residential land use. The uplands protect wildlife migration for bear, deer and elk as well as providing a critical buffer for these springs that feed the Gorge.

We are committed to working with your office and the landowner to find away to conserve these parcels, which have long been a priority target for conservation.

We would also like to commend your support on protecting existing public land along the Green River Gorge including land owned by Department of Natural Resources. Protecting existing public land is key to connectivity with other open space systems such as the Kanasket Reach, and the Bass / Beaver / Dandy lake complex.

We look forward to hopefully finalizing the protection of the Icy Creek acreage and working with you in the future on the Green River Gorge Mountains to Valley Greenway.

Sincerely

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Middle Green River Coalition  
"Preserving the Best of the Last Wild Places in King County"