

Michael McFarlane

From: Ryan, Kevin <Kevin.Ryan@bellingshamschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 7:51 AM
To: max.sonja@gmail.com; Michael McFarlane; Christ Thomsen
Cc: Daniel Probst
Subject: Support for Pine & Cedar / North Lost Lake Trail

To Whom It May Concern,

I was made aware of the upcoming hearing/discussion on a multi-use trail to connect Pine & Cedar and the North Lost Lake Trail and wanted to pass on information about how much our team, and the community, use the Chuckanut Mountain trail system. I have coached cross country and track & field at Sehome high school for 25 years and throughout that time the Chuckanut Mountain Trail System has been a staple of our training. The kids love the running options it has and the strength it builds for them. It is a typical scenario that the kids are made aware of the trails through our program, enjoy them, and then talk about them to their parents who then become frequent users. It is hard to believe that our teams would have had the same success that they have had without the use of these trails. More importantly, the enjoyment of running on these trails has created numerous lifetime runners and hikers.

From what I have heard about this proposed new trail, it would be a great asset to the trail system. As an all access trail, it would make the trails more accessible for bikers. Having trails accessible to bikes makes things safer for runners as it provides for easier supervision and support on their runs. If it's possible to keep the character of the trail intact, and also provide access so other users may enjoy the trail, I would like to support this project. Connectivity within our parks is important for all users and when there's an opportunity to advocate for multi-use trails, I am happy to offer my support.

Thanks for considering my input and for all of the work that you do. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about our team's use of the trails and their importance to us and the community.

Best regards,

Kevin Ryan

Sehome Cross Country and Track & Field