

## Michael McFarlane

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**From:** jjyy@earthlink.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 7:09 PM  
**To:** Michael McFarlane; Christ Thomsen; Sonja  
**Subject:** Raptor Ridge site visit follow up.

Here is the text. If you can, please see the attached Word document with photos

### **Chuckanut Mountain, Raptor Ridge multi-use trail proposal**

Raptor Ridge site visit follow up.

On Monday, I had a great time leading a tour up to Raptor Ridge for several of the commissioners. So fun to see everyone in person. Here are a few important takeaways that were discussed.

#### **Who would fund the project?**

The project sponsor would be responsible for covering all known costs, including a land disturbance permit if required. The project is a donation to the Chuckanut Mountain trail system and all who use the area. The physical construction would be completed with volunteer labor. \$0.00 dollars would be needed from the Parks budget.

#### **Who would lead the construction?**

Washington Trails Association would lead project planning and volunteer build days. WTA is a non-profit trail advocacy group that has decades of experience building and maintaining trails throughout the northwest. WTA's Northwest Regional Manager Arlen Bogaards had this to say following a previous walkthrough.

"I walked the Raptor Ridge route with Jackie to try and determine if improving the existing route to help make a vital connection was feasible. After walking a couple of options, I think with a short realignment around the narrow and steep area near the rock face and some improvements on the upper portion, this would be an achievable option and create a much needed connection for all users. This would be something that Washington Trails Association would be interested in helping local users to achieve and we would be willing to work on the alignment and build if approved."

#### **Character preservation**

The iconic stone stairway will be preserved, with an alternate built for horses and bikes to pass.

#### **Planning History**

In 1996 a Chuckanut Mountain Master Trails plan was created for Whatcom County Parks and other land managers. A great deal of work went into the plan. Two items from the plan are notable relative to the Raptor Ridge project. First, the authors of the plan interviewed many users and most agreed that the major trails in the system should be multi-use. Second, a multi-use connection between the Pine and Lakes area to the Lost Lake trail was proposed and recommended as a high priority for the trail system.

### **Project Sponsor**

Jackie Yereance is the project sponsor. She is a member of the Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington State. Has a BA in geography from Western Washington University. Has lived and ridden in the Chuckanut mountains weekly for the past 45 years, she may be the highest volume, long term user of the trail system. She has loved, built, maintained, and promoted trails on the mountain consistently for most of her life.