



Kittitas County, Washington

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Paul Jewell

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Mark McClain

July 6, 2010

Kittitas Environmental Education Network
421 North Pearl Street, Suite 216
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear KEEN,

The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners is writing this letter of support for the Washington State Department of Transportation's and the Kittitas Environmental Education Network's 2010 application to the Transportation Enhancement Grant Program.

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway (SR821) Implementation Plan is beneficial to the public interest of the citizens of Kittitas County for many reasons. The Yakima River Canyon is a significant recreational asset and creates commerce which benefits local businesses. The enhancements proposed in the plan for this valuable corridor will certainly have a positive impact on the level of enjoyment both residents and visitors will experience receive. The improvements in public safety are also welcomed as they are sorely needed and will have a positive impact and the health and safety of those utilizing this natural resource.

The purpose of this project is to fulfill the goals of the 1968 Corridor Management Plan (CMP) which, apart from public agency land purchases, has never been fully implemented. The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway was the first designated scenic byway in the state and the CMP was the first written. However, until now there has never been a coordinated effort to fulfill the CMP or to coordinate between private and public groups and community members with an interest in the byway.

We believe that this proposal represents the best opportunity to coordinate this critical work and to fully implement the CMP for the Yakima River Canyon.

Please accept this letter as our request that you will consider full funding for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark McClain, Chair