

**SULTAN CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

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ITEM NO: Consent C 6

DATE: May 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Letter of Support - Reiter Foothills Recreation Area

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

**SUMMARY:**

Ed Husmann provided information to the Council on April 9, 2009 regarding the Reiter Foothills Recreation Area and requested a letter of support from the City to increase off road vehicle use. The Mayor has prepared a letter of support (Attachment A) for the Council's consideration.

Pursuant to Legislative action, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) established the Reiter Recreation Planning committee to provide insight and to obtain input to help DNR develop draft recommendations for management of recreation in the Reiter Foothills.

DNR presented three options to the Committee for recreation in the Reiter area. The three options reduce the current area for ORV use significantly. Ed Husmann as the City's committee representative, recommends the Council support increase the area available for ORV use and motorized access.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize the Mayor to send a letter supporting the Reiter Foothills Recreation Area.

Attachments: A. Letter from Mayor Eslick  
B. Report from Reiter Foothills Planning Committee

May 14, 2009

Peter Goldmark  
Commissioner of Public Lands  
PO box 47000  
1111 Washington Street SE  
Olympia WA 98504-7000

Re: Reiter Foothills Recreation Area

Dear Commissioner Goldmark:

Last year, the Legislature funded and set forth a process to recommend increased public recreational opportunities on our State Public Lands. This letter concerns the area known as the Reiter Foothills Recreational Planning project, located in the Skykomish valley near the City of Sultan in Snohomish County.

As you may understand we, in this area, have lost many of our recreational opportunities over the past few years. With more than 65% of our National Forest now designated "wilderness", the closure of the Mt Pilchuck Forest to motorized recreation, the NRCA designation to several DNR parcels located in the Sultan Basin and the many ecology blocks and gates restricting access to our Public lands it becomes very clear that recreation has become very restricted.

In addition, the Sultan area has grown and we now have a much larger population that desires access to their Public lands for recreation. We believe that the Legislature recognized this and promulgated this legislation to help with this need.

The Reiter Foothills Planning Committee now has draft form of three options for recreation in the Reiter area. The options under consideration restrict motorized recreation to less than ten percent of the Reiter Foothills area. There appears to be no additional plan for access to the areas West and to the North of the Wallace Falls State Park. This will be a severe reduction to what is currently and historically, has been used as a motorized recreation area. We do not feel that it is the intent of this legislation to reduce recreational opportunities or access, on and to our Public lands.

The City of Sultan insists the Committee consider additional options that provide greater access for auto traffic and increased motorized recreational area for this project. We strongly feel that the Reiter should plan for increased use, not a curtailment or current activities.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Eslick  
Mayor, City of Sultan

Cc: Kirk Pearson  
Dan Kristensen  
Val Stevens