 October 30, 202

To Whom it may concern,

 I have been asked by Edward Cross, Wilderness Program Ranger on Mount Adams Ranger District to write a letter of support in seeking approval for a grant through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. I am very pleased to do so. I am currently the leader of the Cascade Volcanoes Chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness located in SW Washington/ Portland area.

The Great Old Broads is a national grassroots organization led by older women who seek to advocate and steward for public lands, as well as provide education about these areas. Several of our volunteers attended the Wilderness Stewardship Skills Training in 2015 provided by the rangers in Trout Lake, Wa. We have worked closely with the Mount Adams Ranger district in providing solitude monitoring data during the 2018 -2019 seasons from a grant-funded program with National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. Our stewardship continued during 2020-2022 seasons in the Mark O Hatfield and Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness regions in Oregon in providing recreational site and solitude monitoring data for the wilderness rangers. During our volunteer efforts with the FS, we require training and follow-up by wilderness rangers to maintain the highest quality of service.

As women who enjoy recreating on public lands, we understand the value of local wilderness rangers and their role in maintaining a high-quality recreation experience for everyone as well as the importance of education and enforcement in the sustainability of wildlife and fish populations. Wilderness rangers also are highly skilled at resolving conflicts between user groups and are critically important in the link between Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement connection. As hikers and backpackers we often observe the user impacts on trails, trailheads, and recreation sites and recognize the critical need for additional rangers. This grant would provide for an additional 3 rangers for 2 years in addition to supplies and equipment to support their service. We strongly support funding for these services and wish to continue our partnership with Mount Adams Ranger District.

For these reasons, we strongly support the Mount Adams Ranger District in seeking grant approval for these additional rangers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (360)773-5192 or lauriekerr@pacifier.com.

Sincerely,

Laurie Kerr

Laurie Kerr

Leader, Cascade Volcanoes Chapter

Great Old Broads for Wilderness