



March 23, 2023

Re: Capital Budget Request: White Salmon Valley Pool Project

Dear State Legislator:

The Trout Lake Community Council (TLCC) serves the community of Trout Lake, located approximately 23 miles north of the town of White Salmon, and is within the White Salmon watershed. Our small community benefits from a variety of facilities located within the towns of White Salmon and Bingen, and many of our residents work in the White Salmon/Bingen area.

This letter is in support of the White Salmon Valley Pool Project and the Park District's 3.25 M Capital Budget request. The successful appropriation of state funds will provide much needed financial assistance to the District and its goal of constructing a new public pool facility to serve in-district residents and individuals residing in adjacent communities such as Trout Lake.

The 80+ year old White Salmon pool was closed permanently in 2019, after a noteworthy length of service to the communities in the area. The pool served a vital role in our area by providing a safe environment where swimming proficiency and physical conditioning could be achieved by residents of all ages. The pool also served as an important community gathering place for swim lessons, exercise, relaxation, and fun during our summer months.

Our communities are in close proximity to cold and fast flowing rivers, such as the White Salmon and Columbia, and cold mountain lakes. Development of swimming ability in a safe environment is crucial for our children and many were able to do so at the old pool facility prior to its closure. Since the closure of the pool, residents in western Klickitat County and eastern Skamania County have missed out on over 1600 swim lesson opportunities and over 27,000 aquatic exercise and recreation opportunities.

Funding for construction of the new White Salmon Valley Pool will allow these programs to resume with the ultimate objective of greatly enhancing water safety and community health for residents in our area.

Respectfully,

DAINA L. BAMBE

Chair, Trout Lake Community Council

Cc: TLCC members