



North Central Washington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2934
Wenatchee, WA 98807
www.ncwaudubon.org

North Central Washington Audubon Society would like to encourage you to write a letter in support of making the Horan Natural Area a planning priority by the City of Wenatchee and the Chelan County PUD. Now is the time to support the idea of making long-term improvements to the Horan Natural Area (HNA).

Current strategic planning by the Chelan PUD recognizes the importance of improving the Horan area. The City of Wenatchee has begun planning the Wenatchee Confluence Parkway, part of which would run along the west side of the HNA. The City recognizes that extensive mitigation will be needed to address the effects of the new road on user experience within the Horan.

Conditions that can benefit from investments in the HNA include:

- Historically, the Horan was used as a Council ground for the P'squosa/Wenatchi/Wenatchapum native peoples. Currently, there is no physical presence of this rich cultural history in the Horan area.
- Ecological conditions within the Horan Natural Area are declining. Native plants, including culturally important plants such as Indian Hemp, are limited by weed growth.
- Sources of flowing water into the Horan have been eliminated. Water in the constructed ponds is stagnant and algae growth is prominent.
- The Horan Natural Area is a natural outdoor classroom. Bilingual educational programs that emphasize cultural history and the environment are needed.

Current planning by the PUD and the City of Wenatchee creates a unique opportunity to design and implement improvements to the Horan Natural Area. Ideas that would be valuable to support in these planning processes are:

- Design and implementation of a cultural history site such as the existing site in Pateros at the mouth of the Methow River.
- Introduction of a reliable surface water source that would supply a connected network of created ponds and streams.
- Construction and maintenance of an Educational and Cultural Center to host displays and programs that emphasize cultural history and the environment. The Wanapum Heritage Center is an example of a world class building dedicated to cultural history.

- Development of a vegetative management plan that emphasizes the expansion and protection of culturally important plants, minimization of weeds, and enhancement of native plant species.
- Design, construction and maintenance of a terrestrial and aquatic trail system that encourages use of the Horan for a wide variety of multi-lingual recreational experiences.

This is legacy work. The Chelan PUD and the City of Wenatchee have an opportunity to create a world-class urban Natural Area that honors cultural history and that provides a unique recreational/educational experience for future generations.

Send your letters of support for improving the Horan Natural Area to:

Michelle Smith
Director, Hydro Licensing and Compliance
Chelan County PUD
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Steve King
Economic Development Director
City of Wenatchee
301 Yakima
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Find out more about the City's and the PUD's planning efforts here:

City of Wenatchee
<https://www.wenatcheewa.gov/Home/Components/News/News/5258/36>

Chelan County PUD
<https://ourpublicpower.org/>

/s/ Bruce McCammon, NCW Audubon