

**Central Michigan University | Conservation Northwest | Great Old Broads for Wilderness |
Leavenworth Mountain Association | Mountains to Sound Greenway | Mt.
Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest | Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest | Rocky
Mountain Research Station | Trail Mixed Collective | TREAD | The Mountaineers |
Washington Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers | University of Washington |
Washington Department of Natural Resources | Washington Trails Association | Y.E.T.I.**

May 3, 2024

To: Network for Landscape Conservation

We are writing to express support for the Alpine Lakes Collaborative's grant application. The Catalyst Fund recognizes the scarcity of funding for collaborative efforts and offers a critical opportunity to support this work. This grant would accelerate the Alpine Lakes Collaborative's efforts and improve management of a beloved landscape. We strongly support this application and believe investing in partnership support and group facilitation will have landscape scale impacts.

The Alpine Lakes Wilderness is a more than 400,000 acre urban-proximate wilderness area spanning the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forests in Washington. The Alpine Lakes Collaborative, formed in 2022, is a network of organizations and individuals working together to develop a modernized and enduring method for collaboratively managing visitor use in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and surrounding adjacent wildlands.

Land managers feel the intense pressure of outdated management approaches and experience limited ability to address visitorship with current management resources and staff capacity. The Alpine Lakes Collaborative has two organizing goals: a.) develop a shared set of recommendations on user management in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and b.) create a group that will partner with land managers in stewardship of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Accomplishing these goals will bring lasting change to the preservation of this beloved Wilderness area that is in need of an updated management strategy.

Investing time and energy into trust-building and developing good processes is critical to the long-term partnerships within our group. Funding would be used to solicit a skilled facilitation practitioner with experience in environmental collaboration and conflict management. This neutral actor is vital to trust and the progression of timely feedback cycles. Our most immediate goal (user management recommendations) requires compromise and mutual understanding. Securing a facilitator will further grow the Collaborative's strength in group work, particularly through this challenging goal of consensus recommendations, to prepare the Collaborative for self-organization as a lasting stewardship body.

Signatories of this letter represent members of the Alpine Lakes Collaborative. We contribute in-kind resources and investments to this work. We hope the Catalyst Fund can be a key piece of our ambitions to create a better future for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

Benjamin Cooksey
Senior Project Manager
Washington State Department of Natural
Resources

Betsy Robblee
Conservation & Advocacy Director
The Mountaineers

Chris Armatas
Research Social Scientist
Rocky Mountain Research Station, USFS

David Dunphy
Executive Director
Youth Experiential Training Institute
(Y.E.T.I.)

Dr. Bob Dvorak
Social Scientist
Central Michigan University

Janna Treisman
ALC Member
Great Old Broads for Wilderness,
Polly Dyer Broadband

Kurt Hellmann
Senior Coordinator, Wildlife Recreation
Coexistence
Conservation Northwest

Mat Lyons
Executive Director
TREAD

Ryan Niemeyer
Conservation Director
Washington Chapter of Backcountry
Hunters and Anglers

Sama Winder
Research Scientist
University of Washington

Quena Batres
Director
Trail Mixed Collective

Michael Schlafmann
Public Services Staff Officer
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Cynthia Sandeno
Acting Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Caroline Villanova
National Heritage Area Coordination
Manager
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Lauren Redmore
Research Social Scientist
Rocky Mountain Research Station
USDA Forest Service

Michael Miller,
Board Member
Leavenworth Mountain Association