

From: Jason Goetsch <JasonG@scoutanalytics.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 2:07 PM
To: Jason Goetsch; ECA
Subject: RE: A note from a resident about the wildlife corridors and construction in stream buffers

Dear Sammamish City Council,

A note from a resident about the wildlife corridors and construction in stream buffers. I've grown up in Sammamish, and enjoy the opportunities we have as residents to view wildlife. I live in the Timberline neighborhood, along the greenbelt that extends to the lake. Over the years we have spotted a cougar, a bobcat, a bear, plentiful deer, raccoon, and other wildlife in the forest – none of which have threatened anybody to my knowledge. As a hunter and outdoor enthusiast, I enjoy seeing signs of a healthy wildlife populations – which is in a large part due to the efforts of the WDFW and King County (which has slowly been securing vast amounts of acreage from development, such as the Hancock Snoqualmie Forest and more recently the Hancock White River forest).

Meanwhile in Sammamish, I've watched as forests are removed to make way for more development, usually for eyesores like apartment/condos or large homes squeezed into tiny lots. This development not only impacts the wildlife, but will in my opinion negatively impact home values over time, as the city begins to take on more of the look of a Renton or Issaquah Highlands.

I would like to voice my support for keeping wildlife corridors and restoring them if found to be developed on currently. I'd like to thank Tom Odell and any other council members who support this. Furthermore, I would like to voice my disagreement with Don Gerend's view that 'city living' is incompatible with large predators. In my view, it is not the Sammamish City Council's job to determine what wildlife lives where – leave that to the WDFW. If the WDFW found that Sammamish had an overabundance of large predators, I believe that they would authorize master hunters to take care of the problem, or relocate the problem creatures. It troubles me that Don Gerend thinks that his city council position makes him an expert on wildlife, and as a voter I will take that into account in the next election if Mr. Gerend keeps his current, uninformed view. I'd encourage Mr. Gerend to visit: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/dangerous/> if he is concerned about large predators in our forests.

Thank you,

Jason Goetsch