



SVENA

Skykomish Valley

Environmental & Economic Alliance

svena.org

July 18, 2016

Dear Candidate for WA State Commissioner of Public Lands,

Hello from SVENA and thank you for your commitment to serve the State of Washington's people and public lands. SVENA stands for Skykomish Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance. We are a young non-profit organization formed last year after a massive herbicide spray on tree farms in Sultan Startup area. Herbicides are toxic chemicals that pose a tremendous threat to public health and safety and the environment. Please find more information on [CHEMICAL SPRAYING](#) page at [SVENA website](#). We have already convened a working group before the Senate Natural Resources Committee, supported by Senator Pearson, and presented a [rule petition](#) before the Forest Practices Board.

Our mission is to protect an environmentally and economically sustainable future of the Skykomish River Valley. We are working towards a safer, cleaner, healthier and more beautiful place to live and to visit. We represent interests of local residents as well as hundreds of thousands visitors to the valley. Our supporters include numerous local and regional families, businesses, non-profit and government organizations. As set forth in our name, we recognize that a sustainable future involves both environmental protection and economic development, and we try to thoughtfully marry the two ideals. In our advocacy we partner with nonprofit and business groups.

Skykomish Valley is a part of the famous [Cascade Loop](#) with Hwy 2 as the [National Scenic Byway](#). Skykomish River is legally protected as the [National Wild Scenic River](#). With annually 175 thousand visitors to [Wallace Falls State Park](#), 350 thousand visitors to [Stevens Pass Ski Resort](#), and 4.2 million cars passing through the valley, local tourism and recreation industries are rapidly growing. Guests come to the valley from all over the world. Most popular recreational opportunities include hiking, camping, skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, mountain biking, kayaking, fishing, rafting, swimming, river snorkeling, tubing and local attractions.

Because we are not a registered 501(c)(3) organization seeking tax-exempt status, we are able to provide endorsements. The primary is underway and we are considering to endorse one of the candidates for Commissioner of Public Lands and would like to know your view on some of the most urgent local issues.

We also welcome you to visit the area if you are ever free. Please let us know your position on the following questions:

1. As commissioner, would you support advanced notice to local communities prior to aerial spraying of forest chemicals;
2. Wallace Falls State Park is a local treasure and crucial economic driver that receives more than 175,000 visitors annually. DNR manages all of the surrounding land for commercial timber production. The forests directly adjacent to the park are pristine second growth that is nearly 100 years old and is part of a developing trail network. As commissioner, would you support suspending timber sales directly adjacent to the Wallace Falls State Park, and finding alternatives to those timber sales;
3. As commissioner, would you support expanding Wallace Falls State Park by incorporating more land to the park;
4. Do you see DNR's responsibility as including protection and restoration of aesthetic values of the Skykomish Valley and other highly active tourism and recreation zones by finding alternatives for clearcutting practices.

We are looking forward to learning more about your position on the above matters and to working with you in the future. Please respond by email to facilitate our process.

Sincerely,

Inessa Pearce
President
SVENA (Skykomish Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance)
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