John Anderson

Regional Representative-Southwest Washington

Office of Governor Jan Inslee

I am writing to Governor Inslee on behalf of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness (the Broads), the Cascade-Volcanoes chapter.  The Broads advocate for protection of public lands in Washington and the nation.  The Cascade-Volcanoes chapter encompasses northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. I am writing to urge your support for the No Place for a Mine campaign to support the protecting the Green River Valley. We are proud member of the Green River Valley Alliance, a coalition of more than 70 businesses and organizations working to secure permanent protections against open-pit mining for the Green River Valley by Mount St. Helens.

The Green River Valley is home to many outdoor recreation opportunities and trails, including the Green River Horse Camp, Goat Mountain Trail (with vistas of Adams, St. Helens, Rainier, and Hood), and the Green River Trail. The area also provides critical habitat for local wildlife including threatened steelhead, and it is located just over 10 miles from Mt. St. Helens, an active volcano. Furthermore, the Green River Valley offers pristine water quality, roadless areas, and it is a unique ecosystem recovering from the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption.

The Green River is also a state-designated gene bank for steelhead as well as an eligible Wild and Scenic River. Recently the Department of Ecology has designated portions of it as an Outstanding Resource Water. Additionally, the Quartz Creek watershed within the withdrawal area is classified as state-designated critical salmon habitat.

The Green River Valley has significant historical and cultural value to the local Indigenous communities, including the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

We are supportive of a legislative mineral withdrawal as a solution because it prohibits mining activities within a given boundary without impacting other permitted activities such as recreation, trail maintenance, or timber harvesting. We are asking Governor Inslee to publicly state his support of the Green River Valley and the No Place for a Mine Campaign.

Securing permanent protection for the Green River Valley is a priority for us. Some of the lands were purchased with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which has the stated purpose of safeguarding natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, and fostering outdoor recreation opportunities

We understand that you are the main contact for this issue and ask that you forward this message to your relevant policy colleagues.

Sincerely,

Laurie Kerr

Leader, Cascade Volcanoes Chapter

Great Old Broads for Wilderness