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June 11, 2019

To: Dan Miller, National Parks Service

Kevin Tyler, Clark County Parks Department

From: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

New Columbia Garden Company, Inc

SUBJECT: Lewis and Clark Regional Trail segment from Vancouver Lake to Ridgefield

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the latest proposed route of the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail segment from Vancouver Lake to Ridgefield. The USFWS and WDFW provided in-depth comments regarding the previous version of proposed trail alternatives and the associated impacts to the properties and natural resources in the area that we have been entrusted to conserve. Based on that feedback and reviewing the recent revised trail alternatives, we are open to discuss the proposed routes for the trail that are on the east side of Lake River at the June 20th meeting. However, based on the concerns we previously provided, we believe the alternative routes that are on the west side of Lake River (i.e., routes that transect Shillapoo Wildlife Area, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and New Columbia Garden Co. Inc. properties) should be removed from all future proposed Lewis and Clark Trail maps and discussions and be included in the appendices of proposed alternatives that have been considered but are not feasible options. We recognize the importance outdoor recreation has to the public and are willing to provide points of interest as well as have the Lewis and Clark Trail connect to existing recreational features on our properties. We feel that choosing one of the alternative routes on the east side of Lake River will serve all of our interests in providing recreation, while conserving fish, wildlife, and natural habitats. We look forward to the continued discussion on June 20th.