

Villages at Mt. Hood

A Clackamas County, Oregon Complete Communities Village
P.O. Box 632, Welches, OR 97067

Department Oregon Parks and Recreation
725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301 S

December 19, 2006

Attn: Michele Scalise, Grants Program Coordinator

Re: Letter of Support for
Recreational Trails Grant Program Application for
Barlow Trail County Park Trailhead

Please consider this letter an expression of strong support from the Board of Directors of The Villages at Mt. Hood for the application from the Friends of Barlow Trail County Park as managed and submitted by the Barlow Trail Association.

The Citizens of the Villages at Mt. Hood in Town Hall Meeting on November 18 formally approved the proposed project, a parking area for the Barlow Trail County Park as a "supported activity" of the Villages at Mt. Hood. This followed from the unanimous endorsement by the Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors on September 19, 2006 and review and authorization by the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners on November 7, 2006

Barlow Trail County Park has a major problem in that it does not have any real place to park a vehicle in order to enjoy the area. One blocked road and one casual pull off are the only places for a vehicle. This leads to an inability to park safely and enjoy the trails and park environs. With its ½ mile plus of Sandy River frontage, and its hundreds of acres of adjacent public lands, neighbors and community individuals have informally developed a network of trails.

This grant would provide the means to create a small, managed trailhead to access the trails. The Friends of Barlow Trail County Park has worked for over 10 years towards this goal and now, with the help of the Villages at Mt. Hood and the Barlow Trail Association, they will be making the Park a recreation resource for the area.

The citizens of this mountain-recreation community have recently gone the extra length to engage with Clackamas County and become a "village" in the new governance program the county created. This empowers these citizens to make significant improvements in their community by having stronger standing to utilize and focus the resources of Clackamas County on project like this one.

Sincerely

Rick Applegate
Chair
Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors