



Dear Commissioners

We are property owners on the Dike Road. Five and one half acres are on the river side of the dike and mother owns 12 acres adjacent to our five. Our home and acreage is the original farm. It is still intact, is still productive and has been so since before Washington became a state. We love our land and look forward to passing it on to the fifth and sixth generations.

I would like to share a few reasons why a trail on the dike would become an even worse nightmare for property owners. Everyday we deal with trespassers. These people come from town VIA the dike and think that this is a free for all. The true joggers, aside from ignoring the DO NOT TRESPASS PRIVATE PROPERTY signs are rarely a problem, but 95% of the runners are dog owners, some with as many as five dogs, many on the dangerous dog list. Apparently they feel it is OK to run their dogs unleashed in rural areas. Two women jogging on the dike had two pit bulls. They saw my brothers dog on his back porch, charged off the dike, through the field and up on his porch and ripped his dog to pieces. The women kept jogging. These irresponsible people and their dogs have become a serious threat to us, our pets and four small granddaughters who ride bikes, picnic and camp on our property.

Disrespect for wild life is also a problem. One example would be the pack of coyotes who had dens on our property. These animals were a part of our farm as they kept the rodent and rabbit population under control. (The rabbits eat the root systems of the nursery stock.) Trespassers came and killed all of the coyotes. Others came, stomped a nesting duck nest, shot song birds and have done hundreds of dollars of damage to farm equipment. We have even had people sighting in their rifles on the sandbar shooting toward the property. We have two active eagle nests that could become an issue if yet even more people come tromping through our place.

Ron Norlie stood up at the public hearing and said he has witnessed first hand the crime that goes on behind the dike. I can only imagine what goes on that we don't know about. It is routine that we pick up litter, garbage, used condoms, underwear, empty booze bottles and drug paraphernalia. People have come on quad runners, motorcycles and in cars to joy ride and tear up the fields that are producing grass hay that is cut at least three times a season, baled and sold. Imagine the chaos if legal access were opened to the public!

We keep our land maintained. We pay the taxes and insurance premiums. I am enraged when we have to interrupt our activities, gather up the dogs and children and put them in the trailer every time Joe Public decides to trespass through. The list could go on and on.

I would also like to share with you that last year we hired a brusher to clean out the blackberries to ready the area for a three day family reunion. We also purchased a mower so that we can mow once a week. In November my husband was diagnosed with lung cancer. In anticipation of his impending surgery and excruciating recovery he hauled wood to our campsite hoping to spend time recovering at the river. Before that could happen some joggers jogged through, saw how beautiful it was, pitched a tent, burned our wood then went home, got their chain saw and came back and cut down one of our trees! Amazing!!! Their excuse was that they didn't see any of the three PRIVATE PROPERTY signs. Then the knotheads had the nerve to ask if we would haul their stuff out? They had hiked in from town and didn't have a vehicle and their gear was heavy.

I doubt that you would want the public in your back yard so please help keep them out of ours.

Respectfully

Handwritten signatures of Ronald and Christine Peterson in cursive script.

Ronald and Christine Peterson  
16450 Dike Road  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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