

What People Are Saying About The Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Additions

Elected Officials

“Congressman Reichert continues to demonstrate that spirit and celebration of the wilderness areas that are truly our common ground here in Washington. I hope this proposal and the participation of a broad range of local stakeholders is just the beginning of an expanded effort to protect these marvelous wild lands and add unprotected lands to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.”

-- Ron Sims, King County Executive

“My family has a long tradition of representing Washington’s 8th district. I am proud to continue this work by supporting Congressman Reichert’s efforts to protect the Pratt River and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The bipartisan tradition of work together to protect our state’s one-of-a-kind resources has been championed by our congressional delegation for years. This is my family and communities’ backyard and I hope to see it protected for generations to come.”

-- Reagan Dunn, King County Council Member (R-9)

“By reaching out early and often to local stakeholders like the Alpental Ski area, Snoqualmie tribe and local elected officials from both parties, the Congressman has made a compelling case for protecting this area. The protection of such areas immediately adjacent to Snoqualmie has tremendous value as it also serves to protect our local and regional tourist economies.”

-- Matt Larson, Mayor of Snoqualmie

“The City of North Bend is excited to hear about the creation of the Pratt River Valley Wilderness area and want to thank Congressman Reichert for his leadership and vision on this front. The beautiful Pratt River, together with the surrounding pristine wildlife habitat, deserves this preservation and designation. I am pleased that Rep. Reichert understands the priorities of his constituents and is willing to take the lead in protecting these natural treasures.”

-- Ken Hearing, Mayor of North Bend

Local Stakeholders

“The spectacular mountains and vast forests of the Alpine Lakes region are a great part of what makes Alpental and The Summit Ski Areas such a special destination. Congressman Reichert and local wilderness proponents have consulted with us throughout the initial phase of this process, ensuring that we will be able to continue providing a world class recreational opportunity for skiers and boarders while protecting this special landscape we are so fortunate to border.”

-- Dan Brewster, General Manager, The Summit at Snoqualmie

“These Mountains and Rivers are sacred to our people, rich in our traditions. This is our traditional home - a place where our ancestors hunted and fished. Congressman Reichert understands the importance of this

landscape to our people and he has been very respectful in consulting with us as he has developed his initial ideas for protecting this landscape.”

-- Jerry Enick, Chief, Snoqualmie Tribe

“Interstate 90 has been designated a National Scenic Byway where it traverses the Cascades, in part due to the stunning scenery of the Alpine Lakes region. Rep. Reichert’s proposed additions to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is consistent with the design approach for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project and will provide added protection to that landscape. The proposed boundaries are far enough from the highway that they will not interfere with safety and maintenance activities on I-90. “

-- Don Whitehouse, Regional Administrator - South Central Region,
Washington State Department of Transportation

“As population in Puget Sound metropolitan areas grows, the high value of the environmental and recreation resources along Interstate 90 over Snoqualmie Pass has stimulated a successful, 15-year effort to conserve this landscape, led by the non-profit Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust...The Greenway Trust strongly supports the proposed additions to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area...”

-- Nancy Keith, Executive Director, Mountains To Sound Greenway

“We moved to Snoqualmie to experience the amazing wild and beautiful places. It is important to us that these special places where we hike, fish and explore are preserved for our children and grandchildren. They are why we are proud to call this place home.”

-- Sally Rose, Snoqualmie resident and school teacher

Recreational User Groups

“For years BBTC has worked to maintain coveted mountain bike access to the mid-fork trail. Congressman Reichert and others have worked with us in good faith to ensure that we continue to have access to the trail while protecting the region’s remaining wild places that are what makes the area attractive for recreation. We look forward to continuing to work with the Congressman in the future to gain additional support.”

-- Justin Vander Pol, Executive Director of Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club

“As someone who has explored hundreds of river miles across the country and around the world, I can confidently say that we have some of the most spectacular river resources of any place in the world. Protecting the Pratt River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is an important step toward preserving recreational opportunities for hikers and paddlers desiring rare opportunities for solitude and exploration close to downtown Seattle.”

-- Thomas O’Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director for American Whitewater

“We believe in the age-old and traditional heritage of our ancestors and know that the best quality hunting and angling opportunities in the United States happen in backcountry and wilderness settings. Washington State’s Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt River Valleys are a great example of this important heritage and we applaud Congressman Reichert’s efforts to protect these areas.”

-- Greg Bafundo, Chair, Washington Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

“WTA has been maintaining trails in the Middle Fork Valley for more than a decade, and have worked hard to protect the recreational and scenic values that make this area so special. We look forward to working with Congressman Reichert in his continuing efforts to consult local community members, recreation advocates, land management agencies and other critical stakeholders to ultimately protect additional areas to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and designate the Pratt River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.”

-- Jonathan Guzzo, Director of Advocacy, Washington Trails Association

“For many of us and our families the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is our first experience in the backcountry. It’s a place where so many of us have first made a connection to the lands that we call home. Since 1923, our members have come together for climbing, hiking and skiing trips at our Guye Cabin less than 5 miles from the proposed Wilderness additions. Every weekend throughout the year, members of the Washington Alpine Club spend time at Snoqualmie Pass. We are excited about Congressman Reichert’s efforts to protect this special area that we consider our home.”

-- Mike Mahanay, President, Washington Alpine Club

“It’s a special experience to glide through high alpine meadows on a crisp winter morning or brake trail with snowshoes up a frozen ridge. It’s even more unique to have these opportunities only minutes from downtown Seattle. That’s part of what the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness additions and Pratt River valley provide for us. The Winter Wildlands Alliance is committed to protecting our winter wildland recreation opportunities and we are truly excited to support Congressman Reichert’s recent efforts to designate new wilderness and wild and scenic rivers in the region.”

-- Gus Bekker, Volunteer, Winter Wildlands Alliance

"Since 1906, the Mountaineers has dedicated itself to the responsible enjoyment and protection of the mountains, forests and waters of the Pacific Northwest. We appreciate Congressman Reichert's efforts to preserve and enhance the recreational opportunities that make the Middle Fork and South Fork Snoqualmie River Valleys such a special destination."

-- Bill Deters, President, The Mountaineers

“The Northwest Fly Anglers serve as stewards of the river bar at the confluence between the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and the Pratt Rivers. This is one of our most popular fishing spots, and a place where we share our passion for the outdoors with our families. We are excited about the Congressman’s efforts to preserve the Pratt River through Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations.”

-- Rob Switalski, Conservation Chair, Northwest Fly Anglers

“As an organization dedicated to North America's coldwater fisheries and the watersheds that support them, we are pleased to see that Congressman Reichert is looking at designating new additions to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness as well as special protections for the Pratt River itself with a Wild and Scenic designation. The fisheries in the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River and the Pratt River will benefit from this effort, thus securing healthy fish populations into the future for the region in an area well-loved by anglers that frequent the region.”

-- Mark Taylor, President, Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

Other Stakeholders

“It is especially critical to protect intact wild rivers now as we invest in restoring rivers around Puget Sound. It is tremendous to see such enthusiasm from Congressman Reichert for protecting our rivers and for supporting this Wild and Scenic designation.”

– Dr. David R. Montgomery, Professor of Geomorphology in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington and author of *King of Fish: The Thousand-Year Run of Salmon*

“Protecting our wilderness heritage is a worthy cause that fits with traditional conservative ideas about stewardship of our nation's great natural inheritance. We commend Congressman Reichert for this important conservation initiative and for his inclusive approach towards building support for it.”

-- Jim Dipeso, Policy Director, Republicans For Environmental Protection

“Preserving healthy forests, free flowing streams and our remaining wild areas is essential to the well-being of all creation and allows us to fulfill our duty to be good stewards of the earth. Through his efforts to protect this beautiful area, Congressman Reichert is helping to ensure that the people of the Northwest retain important natural sanctuaries that offer a much-needed spiritual connection to our Creator.”

-- LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director, Earth Ministry

“The Pratt River and the Alpine lakes Wilderness provide important and distinctive native fish habitat. Congressman Reichert's proposal to protect this remarkable watershed would be an important step toward conserving genetic diversity and ecosystem functions in the central Cascades and preserving a wild heritage that has been an integral part of the cultural, economic and ecological fabric of the region.”

-- Kurt Beardslee, Executive Director, Wild Fish Conservancy

“ALPS has long believed that the Pratt valley is just the kind of place needed to round out the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Its long snow free season makes it critical wildlife habitat in winter and spring months when lands in the existing Wilderness are under snow. Protecting the Pratt valley as Wilderness will insure that it stays wild, and will complement the efforts of ALPS and other groups over the past 20 years to protect and develop appropriate recreational opportunities in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie watershed, of which the Pratt is a key part.”

-- Don Parks, Alpine Lakes Protection Society