

My name is Arsen Mourning. My pronouns are he/him. I am 14 years old.

When I was 8 ½ years old, my grandfather was walking our 7 year old border collie / retriever mix dog, Coal. Coal had been part of our family since I was two, and I had no memories of a time without him. He was healthy and was expected to live many more happy years. He weighed around 50 pounds.

My grandfather was walking in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, and had gone down a branching path with nothing to indicate that it was no longer part of the ACFL. There was no closed fencing and no private property signs.

He was shocked when he saw a man with wolves on leashes. Wild animals on ordinary dog leashes. They easily broke loose and killed my dog.

I saw the corpse that day after school. I was in 3rd grade. I pet him under his ear, his favorite spot, and my hand came back bloody.

That sweet, kind dog was the backbone of our family. Originally trained to be a guide dog, we adopted him when he was one year old. He was perfectly trained and was always there when I needed him.

The trauma of that unexpected loss was what started my descent into a mental health crisis that has lasted to this day, even as I prepare to enter high school.

I've struggled heavily with depression and suicide, issues that were first triggered by that loss. I now am often afraid to walk our new four year old dog in the woods I've grown up with because of this. I've had panic attacks triggered by the sound of wolf calls. The image of seeing my dear dog, mangled and gorey, has haunted me ever since. His murder was a core scarring in my childhood.

I carried an anger towards wolves as a species for several years. But eventually, I realized: there should be no blame put onto wild animals who simply acted on predatory instincts. The blame falls entirely to the Predators of the Heart program, who did not clearly mark their property, did not have adequate fences, and put dangerous animals on leashes they were able to easily break out of. They have proven to be capable of escape.

Wolves are wild animals. It's cruel and unsafe to treat them as pets. No matter how well they are trained, they have proven to be prone to violent behaviors. For an organization who claims to preserve wildlife, they keep wild animals in pet-like situations. Animals that could so easily kill a beloved pet, or human, should not be cuddled or manhandled. They should run free in a safe environment, not be walked on flimsy leashes.

For the sake of the wolves, the people who visit them, the animals they run into, and the little kids whose lives can be shattered by them, I urge you to question the validity of a group who does not have proper safety and who attempt to defy predatory instincts and put wolves in an unnatural and abhorrent environment. They claim their animals are trained to be non-violent, but they killed an animal who did not bark at them or threaten them. Imagine if, instead of a 7 year old dog, next time, it's a 7 year old human instead.

Arsen Mourning

8122123

From: [Arsen Mourning](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: PL22-0133
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:47:06 PM
Attachments: [POTH Arsen Statement.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from an external email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, you are expecting this email and attachments, and you know the content is safe.

Dear Kevin Cricchio,

Please include my signed statement, attached, in the record regarding the Predators of the Heart matter.

Thank you,

Arsen Mourning

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 7:42:12 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 8:40 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Katherine Ray
Address : 92 27th ave ct
City : Milton
State : Wa
Zip : 98354
email : katiecray77@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I went to predators of the heart in 2018 and fell in love. I loved the way everyone obviously cared for the animals, that the animals had as much room for them to be close to nature as possible but more than that, I loved that they did small private tours so that they could educate visitors on the animals that they housed and took care of and for many how they ended up there. I shared my visit with so many people who also booked tours of this sanctuary to meet the animals who have been saved by this organization. Don't shut down an organization that works so hard for the animals they have saved and who continues to provide the public education on these amazing animals.

From Host Address: 73.96.179.13

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 8:37:57 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 7:42:06 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6:55 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Ruth Bachrach

Address : 4461 Ginnett Road

City : Anacortes

State : WA

Zip : 98221

email : adlerbachrach@gmail.com

PermitProposal : Predators of the Heart

Comments : Predators of the Heart or POTH should not get a permit to keep operating as a wildlife sanctuary. I have researched this facility and found that POTH is more of a petting zoo, not a sanctuary for wild animals that have been rescued and need rehabilitation. The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife won't even take wild animals there because they have found it is not a suitable environment. It was even reported that they breed animals, including wolves!

Please do not let this facility stay in business. They are not a wildlife sanctuary. Thank you, Ruth Bachrach

From Host Address: 107.77.205.32

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 6:52:51 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 7:42:00 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jenn Brown
Address : 4020 I Ave
City : Anacortes
State : wa
Zip : 98221
email : jennbrown1219@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I am commenting on this proposal to explain my feelings of Predators of the Heart. I feel they are extremely essential to our community and I've personally seen the tremendous amount of work and care they've put into their property to protect and care for their animals. Our residence is very near their facility and us along with our 3 children have never felt unsafe in our neighborhood. I believe the POTH sanctuary does not cause a disruption to the community and we have never heard the animals howling or been worried of any escaping. We frequently hike the forest lands located around the POTH sanctuary and feel completely safe in doing so. I believe their special use permits should be approved.

From Host Address: 174.165.22.0

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 6:22:15 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:27:03 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:20 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Monte Coleman
Address : 20121 Runnymede Street
City : Winnetka
State : CA
Zip : 91306
email : montecoleman@ucla.edu

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Because We Matter is providing sanctuary to about 100 animals that cannot be released to the wild. They are doing the very difficult work of caring for the physical, mental, and health needs of the animals in their care, including wolf dogs, who become very stressed if re-homed. Denial of their permit will mean that the animals will have to be accepted by another sanctuary or be euthanized. And if there was a sanctuary that could take them, it overall is still a loss of available room at a sanctuary, for other animals in need. All animals deserve to have a home. Please, please, let these animals stay in theirs. They are loved and well cared for.

From Host Address: 174.243.128.43

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:16:09 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:56 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Krista Borneman

Address : 4407 SW Juneau

City : Seattle

State : WA

Zip : 98136

email : Krborneman@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : These animals deserve a long life with food, shelter and humans to help them. POTH needs to have assistance to help them with their Airbnb program.

From Host Address: 98.237.213.187

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:20:23 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:50 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Deanna Iverson
Address : 1920 23rd Street
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : nannacats@frontier.com
PermitProposal : #PL22-0133

Comments : I am writing in support of Predators of the Heart. I have been associated with this organization since it's inception. I have watched them grow into a valuable entity with regards to animal rescue/conservation and education. In the last 3 years this organization has helped Fish & Wildlife, Animal Control and even NAS Whidbey when animals needed to be rescued/saved from abuse and even death. They are an asset to the area, as their tours bring in people from literally around the world to visit our corner of the earth, bringing in revenue through shopping, eating and lodging. It seems logical that the county/city would want to partner with Predators so these travelers would bring business to our area.

Predators has been doing on line educational tours with schools, educating young people on the wildlife eco system and how animals and humans should coexist for the greater good.

Predators of the Heart should be allowed to continue their tours, animal rescue/rehabilitation, and educational efforts in our county, bringing awareness and helping animals in need.

From Host Address: 50.39.155.201

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:25:57 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:39 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : April Conklin
Address : 16023 SE Brooklyn St.
City : Portland
State : Oregon
Zip : 97236
email : ApeRC29@gmail.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : Hi there,

My Name is April Conklin, and I am writing in regard to Predators of the Heart and the special use permits (# PL22-0133) that are required from them. I have been witness to many of the upgrades and changes that came to be as Ashley Carr and team have taken over for the previous leadership. Not only do the animals want for nothing but they are safer and more well taken care of than any other place I've ever been witnessed to. Having been to over twenty Zoo's and Rescues throughout the country I can say without a shadow of a doubt Predators of the Heart goes well above what is required and needed for any rescue and conservation education center to operate and maintain a safe environment for all around them.

Having been able to see each day through lives via Facebook, Tik Tok, You Tube and Patreon their transparency and hard work to grow and expand and still keep safety and enrichment the main focus has been quite moving, and honestly shocking. Not every place is as such and being that they are following all other Federal standards that have been required of them asking them to go above and beyond what the federal government is requesting seems a bit off in my opinion.

They have followed each and every law and requirement and operated as such and now after so long coming to them with such outlandish and overboard requests seems not only unfair but not possible and in my opinion a request knowing that it cannot be met.

In order for the animals to maintain a healthy and enriched life their enclosures and home needs to stay as natural as possible. Having them basically remove all the natural elements of the property in order to comply to the newest requirements that aren't even required by the federal government seems like a push to not only kill these beautiful creatures but also ruin the beautiful and natural property that resides in Anacortes Washington.

Although sadly due to these requirements and the shut down of this incredible facility for over 18 months others and myself haven't been able to witness the beauty firsthand of Anacortes but I truly hope that I will be able to one day. To know that these new requirements would basically ruin the nature beauty and allure that Anacortes has always given, breaks my heart. Not only is the city itself loosing out on the revenue that Predators of the Heart bring in but it's also loosing out on a chance

to learn and be a part of something that is so needed, animal conservation.

With these unreasonable requirements not only will the land be ruined but the animals here and surrounding areas' livelihood will inevitably be threatened. So why more requirements than the federal government requires? Why bring back the pain and suffering that the previous leader caused when the new leadership has washed it away? They have proven with plenty of evidence that they are and have taken all needed steps in order to maintain a safe and healthy working environment for the animals and themselves as well as plenty of new precautions for the surrounding areas as well. Furthermore, if in fact these new outlandish requirements weren't so absurd and overboard, they would have happily accepted them and moved on. Being closed to the public for over eighteen months due to these outrageous requirements has not only put a strain on all who operate and work with Predators of the Heart, but has also I would assume the general areas to which profit from working with them and the tourists they bring in. As I stated before I truly hope that these new unrealistic requirements are put to bed as I truly believe the Federal guidelines are plenty good enough for any reputable institution to which resides in the United States.

This incredible sanctuary education and conversation center deserves to be reopened without any prejudice or unreasonable expectations based on previous leadership. Ashley Carr and Team have shown their support and true selves time and time again and its time to let them do what they do best. Educate, Rescue and Conserve.

Thank you very much for your time today.

April Conklin

From Host Address: 107.77.205.7

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:33:39 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:24 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Charlotte Stovall

Address : 5456 41st Avenue SW

City : Seattle

State : WA

Zip : 98136

email : Cstovall@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Please authorize POTH to give tours for money to save all of the animals lives. They deserve to live. My family wants to learn about them.

From Host Address: 98.237.213.187

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:34:55 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:16 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Somer Watson
Address : 5913 Glenwood Avenue #A
City : Everett
State : WA
Zip : 98203
email : somerw23@hotmail.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I have been following Predators of the Heart on social media for a year and a half or so now. I watch their lives and have gone and participated with fundraisers to keep from re-homing or euthanizing the animals they care for. I have personally met both Ashley and Holly and they are both amazing selfless women. They truly put their heart and soul into caring for their animals and providing education about them. I hope they will be able to do tours again to bring back the income they desperately need to keep things running smoothly.

From Host Address: 76.135.111.8

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:33:12 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:11 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : James Levi Simpson

Address : 8759 Ershig Rd

City : Bow

State : WA

Zip : 98232

email : levs55@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : In regards to the organization "Because We Matter", I've seen this organization under two different managers and I would like to say that under the current management it's become fully legitimate and well run organization that has the care of the animals as it's top priority, which is how it should be. Ashley's expertise and vision are what you would expect to find at an organization like this. A big part of that care is making sure it is a safe establishment and I believe they've not only improved those standards since taking over and have desired to continue to improve where they can when they can. I feel that the USDA/federal regulations are the appropriate launchpad for reopening and Ashley has gone above and beyond to meet those standards. Thank you.

From Host Address: 50.216.137.10

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:38:26 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:05 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:55 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Duncan Glen Balmos
Address : 8806 Eastview Ave.
City : Everett
State : Washington
Zip : 98208
email : Duncan.Balmos@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I could make many reasons as to why this sanctuary shouldn't be liquidated, but ultimately there is one to me that matters more than the others; this sanctuary is important, not only to people such as myself and everyone who supports this cause, but it is important even more so to the animals that inhabit it. It is their home; a home that has improved over time thanks to the efforts of the sanctuary staff. It is where they belong, and it shouldn't be taken away from them by just a few people who are against it.

I have been to this sanctuary, never once did I feel threatened by any of the animals there, even when I was with the wolves. They are such gentle and playful creatures, and that experience made me love them even more. It was an experience that I want other people to experience for themselves.

From Host Address: 50.125.251.196

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:51:45 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:26:01 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Andrew Ferlo
Address : 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900
City : Seattle
State : Washington
Zip : 98101
email : andrewferlo@perkinscoie.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : To whom it may concern:

I am counsel to the Neighbor Parties (Appeal No. PL22-0577) and write in response to the Revised Notice of Public Hearing regarding the upcoming Special Use Permit hearing for Application No. PL22-0133 (Predators of the Heart) on Wednesday, August 23, 2023. At 3:55pm today, I sent two emails to hearings@co.skagit.wa.us (ccing other Skagit County officials named in the Revised Notice of Hearing). Those emails contained the submitted written comments of the following individuals and organizations, all of whom oppose Predators of the Heart's application:

- Ed Borlin
- Lynne Borlin
- Breanne Kozera
- Matt Kozera
- Dave Knutsen
- Pam Knutsen
- Kevin Welch
- Jenny Welch
- George Hettich
- Ed Clauson
- Millicent Sweitzer
- Nolan Berlin
- Nate Schwarck
- Perkins Coie (David Perez, Esq.), on behalf of Neighbor Parties
- Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)
- Born Free USA
- Humane Society International (HSI)
- Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)

- Wolf Haven International

If for some reason those comments were not received, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,
Andrew

From Host Address: 198.22.100.222

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 4:02:16 PM

From: [Meg Mourning](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: PL22-0133
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:16:52 PM
Attachments: [A 2017 Family Dog Photo.jpg](#)
[B 2017 Sep Michael Mourning Statement Case 17-15068 - picture 9.JPG](#)
[C 2017 Sep Michael Mourning Statement Case 17-15068 .pdf](#)
[D 2017 Sep Meg Mourning Statement.pdf](#)
[E 2017 Sep Skagit County Sheriff Incident Report 17-15068.pdf](#)
[F 2018 Feb Go Anacortes Article.pdf](#)
[POTH Meg Statement.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from an external email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, you are expecting this email and attachments, and you know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Cricchio,

Please include the following into the record regarding Predators of the Heart:

Signed Statement of Meg Mourning and Attachments A through F

Thank you, Meg

Meg Mourning (she/her) ([why list pronouns?](#))
206-930-4135 Mobile/Text
MegPagelerMourning@yahoo.com





SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Name MICHAEL MOURNING Address 75 PARK HILL CIRCLE, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23602 Case Number 17-15068

I am 76 years old. My date of birth is 10/6/40. My phone number is (757) 634-7770, I have finished the 22nd grade in school.

I can read, write and understand the English language. Yes No

1. _____
2. PLEASE SEE MY STATEMENT ATTACHED
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____

The above information is true to the best of my knowledge and was freely given. No threats or promises have been made against or to me in order to get me to make this statement. I certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature Michael Mourning 09/29/2017 Location Signed ANACORTES WA 98221

Date and Time 09/29/2017 2:48 pm Witness [Signature]

09/28/2017

Hiking in Cranberry Lake Park in Anacortes, WA with my son's family dog a medium sized 7 year old neutered male Coltriever (Golden Retriever/Border Collie mix), on a leash. My intent was to hike a new, to me, area in the south part of the park. We entered the park by the water tower on the east side and hiked south of Cranberry Lake to trail 10 south, I had planned to take trail 118 up to the crest of the hill. Met another hiker, Robert Jeppersen, on the trail and we talked briefly about wildlife in the park and his new book. He gave me his card. A few minutes later, met a lady with her dog. I asked her about the trail and she said that it is steep but that she had just come down.

Turned right on trail 118 and soon came to a chain link gate on the trail. There were two trails a short distance before the gate, but neither was marked. The one on my right looked to be the major trail and fit my mental picture of my route. I knew that some of the park trails exited onto other entrances so was not concerned. There was a short chain link fence at the bottom of the trail with a gate that was open. I was just past the end of the short fence when a man called from above that I was on private property and that I needed to go back. I apologized and asked if he knew if the other trail was 118. He did not know. He further said that the animals with him were wolves. Both his animals were on leashes. I turned back toward the park trail. The male wolf, Max, got away from the owner and grabbed my dog by the neck. The owner came down and we tried to separate the animals. He tied the wolf's leash to the end post of the short fence, but he did not release his hold on my dog. At that point, the female, Kakoa, also broke loose and grabbed my dog by the back. A younger couple came down the hill and helped us separate the animals; however, my dog was already dead.

I called my daughter-in-law about 11 o'clock and the other owner gave her instructions to his private zoo up the hill. He also arranged for four young men to come help move our dog to the car.

I was only a short distance from the park boundary at the time. The trail that I assume was 118 was only a few feet away at the time so the lady with her dog that had come up the trail a few minutes earlier would have been in similar danger if the timing had been slightly different

The owner told my daughter-in-law that they had the wolves out for a photo op and gave the name of the park as: Predators of the Heart, 4709 Welch Lane, Anacortes.

Michael Mourning, 757-634-7770

Michael Mourning, 09/29/2017

Skagit County Sheriff's Office
Case Number 17-15068

Attached are photos I took on September 28, 2017 at around 11:00 am while I was waiting for someone to help remove Coal the Dog:

- 1) Fence gate where I turned around. See number 8 below.
- 2) Looking back down Trail 118 east. Major-looking trail to the right. Fence with open gate to the left.
- 3) Trail to the left, probably Trail 118, but not marked.
- 4) Dog after wolves were removed, about the center of the chain link fence.
- 5) Photo of the trail to the right, shows the length of the fence.
- 6) Looking back east on Trail 118.
- 7) Probably Trail 118 heading west, but not marked.
- 8) Fence gate where I turned around. Same as number 1 above.
- 9) Back down Trail 118 east. Gate on the first post clearly open.


Michael Mourning
September 29, 2017

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Case Number: 17-15068

Name: Margaret Pageler Mourning ("Meg")
Address: 2009 29th Place, Anacortes, WA 98221

I am 46 years old. My date of birth is 11/16/1970. My phone number is 206-930-4135. I have finished the 19th grade of school (law school).

I can read, write, and understand the English language. YES

I received a call from my father-in-law Mike Mourning at 10:46 am on Thursday, September 28, 2017 about my dog Coal. He said, "We've got a problem. Coal's been attacked and I don't think he's going to make it." I asked where he was and he handed the phone over to another man who told me they were at 4709 Welch Lane in Anacortes, and to follow the signs to the airbnb. I left immediately, arrived in 5-6 minutes, and drove around the property for a while looking for my father-in-law, but couldn't find anyone. My cell phone had little to no reception so I couldn't reach him either. Finally I saw a group of people (an older white man, a younger Asian woman, and another person or two) walking down a path with what looked like very large dogs. A man with gray hair and a shirt that indicated his name was Dave spoke to me. Dave told me that my father-in-law must have taken a wrong turn off the public trails and ended up on his property. Dave said his wolves had attacked my dog and that he (Coal) was already dead. (Prior to this news I was rushing to get my dog to the vet for emergency care.) He said that he was pulling the leash with all his might but that he couldn't control the wolf or get him off of my dog. And then the other wolf joined in on the attack.

He told me to wait and he would send some people to lead me to my dead dog and father-in-law and they would help us bring Coal back down to my car. After a long while, four young men arrived and did just that.

The above information is true to the best of my knowledge and was freely given. No threats or promises have been made against me or to me in order to make this statement. I certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the forgoing is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Location Signed: Anacortes, WA 98221

Date and Time: _____

Witness: _____



SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF

Incident Report

Incident #: 17-15068

Incident: ANIMAL PROBLEM

Area: SCSO AREA-

ANACORTES-FIDALGO

Location: 4709 WELCH LANE

When Reported: 12:57:16 09/29/17

Occurred Between: 12:56:20 09/29/17

And: 12:56:20 09/29/17

COMPLAINANTS:

1) **Name:** SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE,

DOB: **/**/**

Race/Sex: /

Address: 600 S 3RD ST; SCSO; #100
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

Home Phone: (360)416-1911

Work Phone: (360)416-1914 PRIV

Employer:

VICTIMS:

1) **Name:** MOURNING, MARGARET P

DOB: **/**/**

Race/Sex: /

Address: 2009 29TH PL
ANACORTES, WA 98221

Home Phone: (360)755-3639

Work Phone: (206)930-4135

Employer:

2) **Name:** MOURNING, DAVID M

DOB: 04/05/72

Race/Sex: W/M

Address: 2009 29TH PL
ANACORTES, WA 98221

Home Phone: (360)755-3639

Work Phone: () -

Employer:

WITNESSES:

1) **Name:** MOURNING, MICHAEL

DOB: 10/06/40

Race/Sex: /M

Address: 75 PARK HILL CIRCLE
NEWPORT NEWS, VA

Home Phone: (757)634-7770

Work Phone: () -

Employer:

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

1) Status: EVIDENCE 1-225	Item Type: CD
Item/Brand: PHOTO	Model:
Serial Number:	Color: /
Quantity:	Total Value: \$
Description:	
2) Status: EVIDENCE 2-225	Item Type: CD
Item/Brand: AUDIO RECORDING	Model:
Serial Number:	Color: /
Quantity:	Total Value: \$
Description:	

NARRATIVE:**Name:** DIAZ E

CORRECT NATURE: AGGRESSIVE WOLVES

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:**Name:** DIAZ E**Date:** 16:24:20 09/29/17

ACO DIAZ /MLB, Transcribed 9/29/2017

On 9/28/17 I was informed briefly by the Anacortes Animal Control about a possible attack where two or three wolves had attacked a dog near or on the hiking trails in Anacortes.

On 9/29/17 I was informed that this incident had actually taken place on DAVE COLEBURN'S property at 4709 Welch Lane. Officer NYBO did go out to the Anacortes Forest land and saw there were no trespassing signs posted on DAVE COLEBURN'S property and that there was a chain link fence. There was a trail marker sign missing so they put in a new sign and will be putting in big logs between DAVE COLEBURN'S property and the trail property. The trail is very well worn in between DAVE'S property and the trail land. She mentioned according to the information she had there was a photo shoot going which is why DAVE was out with the wolves.

Before speaking with the victims, the MOURNINGS, I looked up DAVE COLEBURN'S Facebook account and his website and saw that he is now offering photo opportunities where people are paying \$150 to come out and take photos of his wolves and meet the wolves. He also has an Air BNB where he is offering this photo shoot opportunity.

On 9/29/17 I was able to speak with MICHAEL MOURNING, the father of the owner. MICHAEL MOURNING was the one walking the dog when this attack occurred. He forwarded me his statement where he states that he was walking his son's family's dog, a medium sized, 7 year old neutered male, Labrador / border collie mix on a leash. He was trying a new to him hike in the south part of the park. He had planned to hike trail #118 up the crest of the hill. He turned right on trail #118 and came to a chain link gate on the trail. There were two trails a short distance before the gate but neither was marked. The one on the right looked to be the major trail and fit his mental picture of his route. He said

there was a short chain link fence at the bottom of the trail with a gate that was open.

He was just past the end of the short fence when a man called from above that he was on private property and he needed to go back. He apologized and asked if he knew where the trail 118 was. The male did not. He said that the man said the animals were wolves that he had with him and both animals were on leashes. He said he turned toward the park trail and the male wolf, according to MICHAEL got away from the owner and grabbed the dog by the neck. He said the owner, he later identified on the website, DAVE COLEBURN who was also wearing a nametag with the name DAVE kept yelling the name MAX over and over again when the dog got away from him and grabbed onto the dogs neck.

The owner came down to try to separate the animals. They tied the wolf's leash to the end of a short fence, but he still did not release. According to MICHAEL the wolf just held on to his dog's neck and did not let go. He said the female dog KAKOA who he identified on the website, and also heard the name being called, broke loose from a woman who was holding onto the leash and grabbed the dog by the back. Apparently a younger couple came down the hill and helped them separate the animals. However, the dog was already dead. He said there were four males who helped moved the dog to the car as he called MEG MOURNING to come pick up the deceased dog. The dog was transported to Fidalgo Animal Hospital where they will be performing a necropsy today, 9/29/17 or tomorrow 9/30/17.

According to MICHAEL he was very concerned about DAVE COLEBURN having a heart attack during this incident because as he was very worked up and kept saying he could not have this. When I asked him if he viewed the no trespassing signs, he said that he was trying to pay attention to looking for the trail marker signs and that he did see the no trespassing signs and the sign on the gate. However, he was paying attention to looking for the trail marker and admits he made a mistake and did not pay attention to the no trespassing signs. He said he was not injured and he was never threatened by the wolf. He said there was an Asian woman who was holding onto KAKOA and that he had heard she had gotten rope burns from the wolf pulling away from her, and that they were doing a photo shoot.

He said the incident took approximately 5-10 minutes. After speaking with him, I was able to speak with MEG, the daughter in law and the owner of Cole. She said that Cole is a summit assistance dog who was released after one year in the program. She said the dog is currently 7.75 years old. He was a super excellent dog, a border collie/retriever mix.

After reviewing all of the laws, I found that I could declare the wolves as potentially dangerous for jeopardizing the safety of domestic animals. I also sent an email to the civil attorneys asking for more information on DAVID COLEBURN'S status regarding the wolves and other animals on his property.

I also called Fidalgo Animal Medical Center to communicate with them about a necropsy. I will wait for their call back. No further action.

E DIAZ 9/29/17 1430 hours
MLB

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 04:30:28 10/10/17

ACO E DIAZ/GMCD, Transcribed October 10, 2017

On 10/04/17 while reviewing the photographs sent by the MOURNING'S and the photographs sent by OFFICER NYBO, from the Anacortes Police Department, I found that there were no "no trespassing" signs posted on COLEBURN'S property in the pictures that the victim took while waiting for the dog owner to arrive.

I also spoke with MICHAEL MOURNING, and while talking with him and reviewing the photographs, it was clear that the "no trespassing" signs he saw were actually the "no trespassing" signs on the WELCH'S property that is just past COLEBURN'S property.

I later viewed the photographs that OFFICER NYBO had taken later that same day of the incident 09-28-17 around 1630 hours, and there were two new "no trespassing" signs posted on the property that were not in the earlier photos.

Also during my conversation with MICHAEL MOURNING, one of his concerns was that on the website it does show DAVID COLEBURN taking KOKOA to school and many times there are service dogs a school as well. He was worried about the safety of the dogs as well as the safety of the children in these events.

No further action at this time.

10/09/17, 0903 Hrs., ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER EMILY DIAZ

gmcd

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 04:17:39 10/26/17

ACO E DIAZ/GMCD, Transcribed October 26, 2017

On 10/25/17 I filled out the Notice of Intent to declare two wolves belonging to WILLIAM DAVID COLEBURN as Potentially Dangerous, one MAX, one TAKOA. I am

sending out the Notice of Intent with a meeting date of 11/03/17 at 9:00 AM, today, the 25th of October.

No further action at this time.

10/25/17, 1510 Hrs., ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER EMILY DIAZ

gmcd

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 11:40:02 10/31/17

ACO E DIAZ/GMCD, Transcribed October 31, 2017

On 10/31/17 I was finally able to make phone contact with DAVE COLEBURN. He said since the incident he is now having himself and another employee go out with the wolves when they are doing photo opportunities on the trails. He said they send a spotter out to make sure there is nobody in eyesight on the trail on his property and that they have put solid chains out secured to the trees that when they get up to the hill for the photo shoot they secure them to the chains that are attached to the trees so that they can no longer pull out of the handlers grip. He also said he has put up no trespassing signs.

He did inform me that there was one day BONNIE BOWERS and her two dogs had accidentally gone onto his property and there were some horses. He said that the same two wolves there have been pictures of them licking professional baseball teams faces. He said that the Texas Rangers were just out at his property visiting the wolves and that these are not potentially dangerous animals. He didn't understand how it could happen.

I informed him that it was a meeting between the Sheriff and I and him and told him he could tell the Sheriff all of the things he has done and the Sheriff will then make a decision. He understood.

No further action at this time.

10/31/17, 1121 Hrs., ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER EMILY DIAZ

gmcd

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 14:20:08 11/08/17

ACO DIAZ/MLB, Transcribed 11/8/2017

On 11/8/17 I received a signed certified mail slip back in the mail. It was signed by DAVE COLEBURN on 10/31/17; which was four days prior to our meeting was set up on 11/3/17. No further action at this time.

E DIAZ 11/8/17 0430 hours
MLB

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 15:56:29 12/06/17

ACO DIAZ/MLB, Transcribed 12/6/2017

After not hearing back from DAVE COLEBURN, I called on 12/6/17 and left a message informing him that if I did not hear back from him by Monday, 12/11/17 that we would go ahead and schedule an appointment for him and hoped that he could make it. No further action at this time.

E DIAZ 12/6/17 1550 HOURS

MLB

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 05:51:48 12/18/17

ACO E DIAZ/GMCD, Transcribed December 18, 2017

On 12/15/17 I was finally able to make contact with ASHLEY CARR, the daughter of DAVE COLEBURN, to set up a meeting date. We set up a meeting date on 01/02/17 at 10:00 AM for DAVE COLEBURN to come in regarding his two aggressive wolves.

No further action at this time.

12/15/17 0943 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER EMILY DIAZ

gmcd

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: DIAZ E

Date: 05:05:09 01/04/18

ACO E DIAZ/GMCD, Transcribed January 4, 2018

On 01/02/18 DAVE COLEBURN, the Sheriff, and I were able to meet in the Sheriff's Office. After our meeting the Sheriff did find that both wolves are not to be declared as Potentially Dangerous as he did not feel they met the criteria to be declared because he did not feel there was a tendency to attack as this was the first known attack.

Later in the day I did call MEG MOURNING, the owner of the dog that was killed. I did inform her of the Sheriff's decision. She was very upset and wanted to know who to contact to make it so that in her words "a murder would not happen again so that nobody else would be murdered on his property." I informed her that the Commissioners were the ones who could change the laws in Skagit County.

I did walk her through both the Dangerous Dog and Potentially Dangerous Dog laws in Skagit County. I also walked her through the Wild and Potentially Dangerous Animal Laws in Skagit County and informed her of the exemption that the County has recognized to allow him to have the animals he currently has. I also gave her the phone number to the Sheriff's Office, as the Sheriff was willing to talk with her as well.

No further action at this time.

01/02/18 1417 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER EMILY DIAZ

gmc

Printed: 13:41:36 01/22/18

FEATURED

City concerned about wolves from wildlife refuge near forest lands

Jacqueline Allison Feb 28, 2018



The city posted warning signs in the Community Forest Lands in December informing the public that a wolf had escape nearby wildlife refuge in October, and a wolf had been captured in the ACFL in 2012. A wolf killed a hiker's dog on wildli private property in a separate September incident. The signs were intended to be educational and address public safety. City Forest Lands Manager Jonn Lunsford.

Incidents involving wolves from a Fidalgo Island wildlife refuge have prompted the City of Anacortes to put up warning signs in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands in an effort to increase public safety.

In September, wolves from Predators of the Heart killed a hiker's dog on wildlife refuge private property, and in October, a wolf escaped its enclosure and went onto a neighbor's property, according to copies of reports from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office.

Predators of the Heart is a 10-acre wooded wildlife preserve home to wolves, cougars, reptiles, birds and other exotic animals focused on conservation and education, according to its website. It is located in a residential neighborhood in unincorporated Skagit County and is adjacent to the forest lands.

A Dec. 26 city notice posted online and at four locations near the southern end of the Cranberry Lake area alerted trail users that a wolf had escaped onto private property in October, in addition to a 2012 incident in which a wolf from the refuge was captured in the city forest lands.

In October, the wolf jumped over a 7-foot electric fence and traveled onto a neighbor's property, the report states. The wolf remained on Predators of the Heart property for the majority of time, but the animal was not secured for 18 hours, according to the report.

The city's main concern was public safety and notification, said Forest Lands Manager Jonn Lunsford.

“(The Parks Department) talked about it internally with city staff, public safety staff and City Council, and we acted on it just after Christmas to make the public aware that in the area, just what the signs say, that a wolf had gotten out so the public could be informed to make the recreational choice that's right for them,” Lunsford said.

The city has also tried to clarify the trail boundary between the forest lands and Predators of the Heart, including building a natural barrier of logs and branches between the properties and putting up an “approaching private property” sign, Lunsford said.

The goal was to help hikers stay on-trail after the hiker whose dog was killed by wolves took a wrong turn onto the wildlife refuge property in September.

In a witness statement provided with the sheriff's report, the hiker wrote that he was walking a family dog on Trail 118 in the forest lands and came to an intersection with two unmarked trails. He turned onto a trail that led him past a short fence and onto the refuge property.

Predators of the Heart owner Dave Coleburn, who was nearby with two wolves on leashes and a group of guests, warned the man that he was on private property and that he had wolves with him.

Coleburn, who has presented his wild animals at schools and public events for 20 years, recently started an Airbnb "experience" that allows guests to walk and take pictures with wolves in the woods on his property, according to his Airbnb page. The guests were doing a photo shoot with the wolves when the hiker became lost, the sheriff's report states.

One wolf broke away and bit the hiker's dog, and a second wolf then broke away and joined the attack. Coleburn and others in the group tried separate the animals, but the wolves killed the dog, according to the statement.

Anacortes Police Department Animal Control initially responded to the incident and confirmed it took place on private property in the county, not in the city forest lands.

"It was unfortunate what happened with the dog, but I think the most important thing to know is that it happened on our property. It did not happen in the park lands," Coleburn told the Anacortes American.

Ever since the city posted the signs, Coleburn said he has received calls from community members concerned about loose wolves. He said the city's signs have caused people to spread rumors.

A wolf has only escaped its enclosure one other time in 20 years and had never before attacked a dog, he said.

In February 2012, a wolf jumped out of its enclosure and was captured by Animal Control in the forest lands, according to a police report.

Coleburn said the refuge is spending \$40,000 on new fences and enclosures.

“We have perimeter fences, underground fences, electric fences and locked gates,” he said.

“Nobody else has the security we have.”

In a letter to neighbors after the incident, Coleburn wrote that wolves are naturally timid and “at no point did we sense a threat to our neighbors or animals.”

He said he felt bad the dog was killed and doesn’t blame the hiker because there were no “private property” or “no trespassing” signs posted at the time. He has since added signs to prevent hikers from wandering onto this property.

He also put in place other safety measures such as better collars and leashes and requiring the wolves to be tethered to their handler’s belt so they can’t break away, he said.

“This was a one-time incident,” Coleburn said.

He said all the money from the Airbnb business is going back to make the facility safer.

People from all over the world come to Anacortes every week to take part in the “Wolf Encounter” experience, which has over 500 online reviews, he said.

“We’re the No. 1 (Airbnb experience) in the world,” Coleburn said. “And you don’t get to be there by being irresponsible.”

One recent guest wrote, “Dave has created an incredible sanctuary for his wolves and other rescued animals, and he provides an in-depth experience with them and education about them.”

Another guest said, “The Predators of the Heart experience is an extraordinary opportunity to have hands-on interaction with gentle playful wolves. Our guide and host “Dave” has an honest compassion for these beautiful misunderstood animals and shares his knowledge willingly.”

Friends of the Forest Education and Outreach Director Denise Crowe said that the organization stands behind the city’s decision to post the warning signs.

“We were deeply saddened by the initial incident in the woods and concerned about the potential for other incidents like them to occur,” Crowe said. “We fully support the city’s efforts in educating the public about the operation bordering the forest lands in an effort to increase public safety.”

Coleburn has faced concern from community members before.

His neighbors previously questioned whether the wildlife refuge belongs in a residential neighborhood and pushed for a change in county law to make ownership of many potentially dangerous wild animals illegal, except in facilities such as a state-defined wildlife sanctuary or accredited zoo. The neighbors said they wanted to see the animals moved to a legal facility or to a county that allowed them.

Skagit County passed an ordinance and sued Coleburn when he failed to comply. But the county later dropped the lawsuit after finding that while county code prohibits ownership of the animals, there is a state legal exemption for animals exhibited at state fairs, said Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney Rich Weyrich.

“We asked (the judge) to dismiss (the complaint) because he wasn’t in violation of state law,” Weyrich said.

After the September incident involving the dog attack, the county considered declaring the wolves “potentially dangerous dogs,” but after Skagit County Sheriff Will Reichardt spoke with Coleburn, he decided the animals didn’t fit the criteria.

A “potentially dangerous dog” is a dog with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack, or who bites a domestic animal off the owner’s property, according to county code.

This attack occurred on the owner’s property, Reichardt said. Whether a wolf or hybrid wolf automatically has a tendency to attack would be a question for the county commissioners to decide, he said.

“(Coleburn) is trying to be a responsible owner,” the sheriff said. “I cautioned him that he needs to take steps so this doesn’t happen because the forest lands runs right up against his property.”

The owners of the dog killed by wolves said they believe the owner of Predators of the Heart should completely contain his animals.

“We would like a real fence completely enclosing wild animals like a zoo would have,” said Dave Mourning, whose father was walking the dog when it was killed.

Meg Mourning said the short fence separating the public forest lands from the wildlife refuge woods near Trail 118 is inadequate, and that signs won’t stop a wolf from getting out.

“The law should at least require that these animals are kept away from the public,” she said. “It’s almost four times worse because it’s directly against Anacortes trails.”

My name is Meg Mourning.

On September 28, 2017, my father-in-law Mike Mourning took our family dog, Coal, on what was to be his last “walk in the woods” in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL). They both loved these walks and took them often while the grandparents were visiting us here in Anacortes from their home in Virginia. Coal was a very good dog, having been trained for the first year of his life to serve as a guide dog by Summit Assistance Guide Dogs. Summit had trained him to be a beta – not an alpha – and he was never aggressive, and Grandpa always kept him leashed.

Grandpa and Coal were on new-to-them ACFL Trail 118 and came to a place where the trail forked near some fence segments that were connected to nothing on either side (see Attachment B). Grandpa took the wrong trail, having no way of knowing that he was now on private property which turned out to belong to Predators of the Heart (POTH).

Dave Coleburn from POTH called down to Grandpa that he was on private property and that he had wolves on leashes with him. Before Grandpa could retreat, first one and then another wolf broke away from the people holding their leashes and attacked Coal the Dog. The two people who were holding the wild animals on leashes sustained serious rope burns from the leashes being forcefully tugged away from them. They tried to pull the wolves off Coal, but they were unable to save his life.

POTH had the wolves out on leases, on their unfenced and unmarked property which abuts the public ACFL trails, in order to take pictures of paying customers playing with wild animals in the woods. Read that again. It is insane that POTH has been allowed to do something as crazy as that *ever*, much less for decades.

POTH has argued that they had (a few) signs up stating that it is Private Property. Look again at Attachment B. All the signs in the world would not have prevented the wolves from moving the extra 20 feet to murder our family dog on public property. Plus, wolves can't read.

Our children were then in 3rd grade and kindergarten and were absolutely wrecked by this preventable tragedy. We naively assumed that Skagit County would make sure POTH was held accountable and they would either be shut down, or they would be unable to operate until safe and sane precautions were taken. Real zoos and legitimate animal sanctuaries must ensure that humans (and family pets) are safe from the wild animals they force into captivity.

It is bewildering and disheartening that POTH “got away” with murdering our family dog, because of the technicality that the attack happened on their property, so very close to the public forest trails. We urge you to shut down POTH immediately.

Attached are several documents we ask you to review while considering this matter:

Attachment A: Photo of Coal the Dog playing in our backyard with my two young children and their grandfather Mike Mourning.


Attachment B: Photo of Coal the Dog just after he was killed by POTH's wolves, clearly showing that the few segments of fencing that existed were totally unable to contain any animals, much less wild animals. It also shows how the two well-worn walking paths forked without any kind of signage indicating which path was Anacortes Community Forest Lands and which was private property. Please also note the lack of any warning signs or no trespassing signs.

Attachment C: Sworn statement of Mike Mourning in Skagit County Sheriff's Officer Witness Statement, Case Number 17-15068, dated 09/29/2017

Attachment D: Sworn statement of Meg Mourning in Skagit County Sheriff's Officer Witness Statement, Case Number 17-15068, from September of 2017 (I cannot find the signed copy, but Skagit County records should have it)

Attachment E: Skagit County Sheriff's Incident Report, Incident # 17-15068, dated from 09/29/17 to 01/04/2018

Attachment F: Newspaper Article in www.goanacortes.com entitled "City concerned about wolves from wildlife refuge near forest lands" dated 02/28/18


MEG MOURNING
ANACORTES, WA
08/22/2023

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:25:53 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Meg Mourning

Address : 2009 29th Pl

City : Anacortes

State : WA

Zip : 98221

email : megpagelermourning@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I emailed Kevin Cricchio a signed statement with six attachments. Please include all of this in the record. Thank you.

From Host Address: 50.46.196.33

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 4:20:57 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:08:28 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Mark Lundsten
Address : PO Box 1376
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : mlundsten@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : As I wrote to you last November, I write again: Please enable the re-organized Predators of the Heart (POTH) to re-open under the new owner/managers. They are dedicated to taking care of animals and also to being responsible members of the community. The new owners have worked hard to build a foundation of sensible, viable choices for the long haul, both for their animals and for the neighborhood. Their goal is to make POTH a benefit to the county, not a liability.

I urge you to enable POTH to resume giving tours under USDA guidelines and to allow them to reopen as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, ?
Mark Lundsten

From Host Address: 208.74.157.177

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 3:03:54 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:06:21 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:15 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Mae Grossruck
Address : 312 N Yakima Ave Apt B3
City : Tacoma
State : WA
Zip : 98403
email : mgrossruck@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Because We Matter is doing such important conservation work! Please allow them to continue. These animals have nowhere else to go. They bring such wonder and joy just by their existence, and they deserve a chance to live full and happy lives. Because We Matter is giving them that. I believe they belong in our community.

From Host Address: 24.22.152.109

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 1:13:37 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:06:14 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Zak Thatcher
Address : 4429 Bryce Drive
City : Anacortes
State : Washington
Zip : 98221
email : zak.thatcher@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Thank you for taking the time to read my comment on the Special Use Permit for Predators of the Heart.

I am strongly opposed to the expansion of this facility due to the owners' continued lack of regard for the safety of the community and their inability to keep their animals contained and under control. I think it is outrageous that we still have sections of the Anacortes Forest Lands system which require signposting as "potentially unsafe for use" due to their close proximity to the Predators facility. And I find it infuriating that the owners of Predators are never held accountable for the times when their animals get loose and menace people who try to use the public trails, nor are their dangerous animals confiscated when they escape and kill domestic pets.

Predators of the Heart is not a "wildlife sanctuary" (as they like to bill themselves). Wildlife sanctuaries house actual wildlife, while Predators' "wolves" are domesticated dog/wolf hybrids who have no place in the wild. Nor does Predators of the Heart serve any manner of conservation purpose, as again, their "wolves" are not purebred examples of their species at all, but rather they have been hybridized with domestic dogs, rendering their genetic contribution to any captive breeding program worthless.

Please do not allow Predators of the Heart to expand. I am so tired, as a taxpaying homeowner in Skyline, of being unable to use portions of our community funded trails because this profit-driven roadside zoo has rendered them unsafe. I want our community forestlands to be safe again. I want my neighbors to not have to worry about losing their beloved pets to escaped zoo animals. Predators of the Heart is a blight on our community and making it bigger will only magnify this negative effect.

From Host Address: 45.115.207.178

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 1:02:19 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:06:02 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Luke Hamacher
Address : 204 Chucker Dr
City : Summerville
State : South Carolina
Zip : 29485
email : lukehamacher10@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments :

From Host Address: 172.58.255.2

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 12:56:01 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:03:36 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jana
Address : 14504 NE 85th Circle
City : Vancouver
State : Washington
Zip : 98682
email : janakittydaze@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I petition you to seek what is best for the well being of all the animals at Because We Matter/ Predators of the Heart Sanctuary & Rescue. They have federal & state permits to rescue and give forever homes to wildlife that would otherwise be euthanized. Fish & Wildlife call them to not only take on an animal in need, but also ask for their assistance at times in the safe capture of wildlife. They meet the standards required and it doesn't make since to not grant them the needed permits. Granting the permits will not only save the Sanctuary's current residents, but also allow for future rescues & lives saved. Continued Education Worldwide! Make a Wish Dreams to be fulfilled. Opportunity's to help others, as well as bringing in Vital Funds to Skagit County and local businesses. I pray you will do what is right and grant all needed permits immediately. Doing so will bless many, including Skagit County.

Thank you. Beautiful Blessings Flow

From Host Address: 71.36.117.2

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 2:52:36 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:03:43 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:30 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Gabriele Meiringer

Address : POB 10530

City : Napa

State : CA

Zip : 94559

email : be_well@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : Please let the Because we Matter organization remain intact. Their educational value is unsurpassed. We take our grandchildren to Skagit County to visit the sanctuary every year. We stay in hotels, eat out, fill our tank.

The sanctuary is the reason we come.

Thank you

Gabriele Meiringer and Michael Hospelt

From Host Address: 104.53.182.56

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 2:26:39 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:05:10 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:20 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Andrea Franco
Address : 10846 Osceola Mills
City : Las Vegas
State : Nevada
Zip : 89141
email : andreadogs@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Hello I've been following Because we matter rescue for almost a year. I watch there post and live videos almost daily. I have witnessed the love that they have for these animals. They whole heartately put all there love ,patience and so much time into caring for them. This rescue is these animals home. Please help them keep their homes. ????

From Host Address: 107.115.41.66

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 2:16:38 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:05:24 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Analia Pierini
Address : Corso Vercelli 20 - citt. 38
City : milano
State : Lombardia
Zip : 20145
email : analiapierini@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : Please, defend these creatures, protect and love them.
Please, don't close this project, they are doing a wonderful job.
Thank you.

From Host Address: 157.97.121.94

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 2:04:39 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:05:34 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Bria Wright
Address : P.O. Box 927
City : Heppner
State : OR
Zip : 97936
email : boiu5354@outlook.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I support Predators of the Heart 100%. I personally have been there and enjoyed every minute of it. Both my husband and I learned so much while on the tour. While on the tour we were taught the importance of the wildlife they have at their preserve. The importance of places like this in our communities is beyond words. At what point do we give up education on wildlife? This is just as important as health classes in our schools. To not allow this group to keep their permit would be appalling and create a void.

From Host Address: 66.228.17.152

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 12:29:16 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:05:53 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Kristie Castle
Address : 20832 12th Ave W
City : Lynnwood
State : WA
Zip : 98032
email : krispiepiglet66@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : October 10, 2020 was an amazing day! My husband & I were part of a small group touring Predators of The Heart (BWM). Upon arrival, we were immediately impressed by the size & appearance of the facility. Fully fenced, gated, clean & in the most beautiful, forest setting. Ashley & the tour givers were friendly, informative & provided clear directions of how we on the tour were to behave within the facility & with the animals.

It was a wonderful way to see such a variety of animals, in a habitat so much more than a concrete zoo. Each animal in a safe area of their own with structures, plants, food & activities to meet their specific needs. The animals in turn appeared healthy, content, playful & at ease with the small group there to admire them. The tour became a truly rare & special experience when we were able to join the wolf dogs within their exclusive area. We were able to interact with them while they ran, played, explored & howled. A magical day I would wish for others to have the opportunity to experience as well. An experience we hope to have again in the future!!

From Host Address: 206.208.64.194

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 12:56:55 PM

From: [Debbie Sodl](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: #PL22-0133
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:51:19 PM

#####

CAUTION: This email originated from an external email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, you are expecting this email and attachments, and you know the content is safe.

#####

Apologies if this is not how to submit a comment for the hearing but I am finding the county website quite confusing at the moment.

I am writing in support of Predators of the Heart (Because We Matter) animal rescue to be able to continue their hard work in saving the animals that cannot speak for themselves.

I was lucky enough to spend a day with these amazing people and the animals they care for and it was so obvious to me that their top priority is caring for the animals they rescued and/or raised. The animals were happy and healthy and absolutely LOVED.

As a conservation photographer, I would not ever show such support of any organization that doesn't put their animals needs first. Ashley and her staff gives 110% of themselves to these beautiful creatures day in and day out without fail. Please, please help them maintain their sanctuary.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
Debbie Sodl
Debbie Sodl Photography

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:12:48 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jennifer Lovett
Address : 25 Lyman Ave,
City : Pequannock Township
State : NJ
Zip : 07440
email : lovettjennifer1@gmail.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : This sanctuary should and needs to stay open

These people here have done nothing wrong and it's been here for a long time and is home to the animals here that need a home. They shouldn't be taken away from their homes. There is no reason for this place to shut down. The people who want it shut down obviously have no heart or compassion especially for the animals. Please do the right thing and let it be.

From Host Address: 172.58.233.205

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 9:36:33 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:12:56 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Patrick Dodds

Address : 409 York St Apt 1017

City : Bellingham

State : WA

Zip : 98225

email : patrick.d.dodds@gmail.com

PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : POTH is a worthwhile and valuable cause and should be allowed to re-open immediately. Thank you for you for your time and attention.

From Host Address: 97.113.28.188

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 10:03:24 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:13:42 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Arna D. Cortazzo
Address : 1303 Avalon Drive
City : Rockledge
State : FL
Zip : 32955
email : advocates@cortazzolaw.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Because We Matter 501c3 has been saving animals and engaging in conservation efforts for over 20 years. Wolves, birds, and other animals are worth protecting. They contribute to property value. They do not endanger humans. USDA standards for zoos & sanctuaries are enough to keep people safe.

If you shut them down, many of the animals who have been safe here will be killed. A needless tragedy and injustice that most people in Washington and throughout the U.S. do not support. In a changing world, wildlife needs human allies more than ever. These animals need a safe home. All over Washington and the US people have learned to coexist with nature. Please don't let the voices of a few outweigh the voices of the many who support Because We Matter. Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

From Host Address: 107.146.20.173

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 11:28:48 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:19:36 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Samantha Revis
Address : 1920 23rd Street
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : Samanthaliverson@gmail.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : I have grown up with POTH as part of the community since I was born. I have first hand witnessed the passion that POTH has for the animals not only in the care but in the education of the community with the animals. POTH has been an asset to the community bringing in out of town visitors who also then eat, stay, and shop at the local stores. POTH has been very professional with the animals and management of the facility. I would love to see this organization continue to serve the community, the animals they care for, and future animals they rehabilitate.

From Host Address: 174.204.200.22

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 12:11:58 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:28:06 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Stephanie Iverson
Address : 1920 23rd Street
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : stephiiverson@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : I think POTH is a wonderful organization that has helped the community to learn and grow. I have grown up in Anacortes, and POTH has been around my whole life. I have seen and experienced the ways that they truly value teaching people about wild animals and their importance in our world. They strive for excellence in the care and safety of animals and it shows in how the organization is run. Not only do they run a great organization, they bring people in to town to stay, eat, and shop. I see that this is beneficial to the community. It would be wise for the City of Anacortes and Skagit County to work alongside POTH. More could be accomplished for the animals and the community if everyone worked together.

From Host Address: 174.204.199.227

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 12:23:41 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 11:56:18 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jaime Turgeon
Address : 3906 Glazebrook Dr
City : Fredericksburg
State : VA
Zip : 22407
email : jaime.turgeon@me.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : Keep Because We Matter in Skagit County!!

From Host Address: 73.171.52.60

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 9:39:56 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 11:49:13 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 11:45 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Leslie Grossruck
Address : 1511 State Hwy 532
City : Camano Island
State : WA
Zip : 98282
email : lgrossruck@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Having personally observed the facility and treatment of the unique animals under the care of Predators of the Heart, I fully agree that they be allowed to operate with events and functions that help to support them, including tours under USDA guidelines.

This not only directly benefits the animals in a healthy environment but provides wonderful learning opportunities in our community.

Sincerely,
Leslie Grossruck

From Host Address: 172.92.201.250

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 11:43:11 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 8:42:53 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 8:05 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Brian Hazlehurst and Hilary Forrest

Address : 2507 Shannon Point Rd

City : Anacortes

State : Washington

Zip : 98221

email : brian.haz@gmail.com

PermitProposal : #PL22-0133 Special Use Permit (Predators of the Heart)

Comments : RE: City/County consideration to permit operation of the Predators of the Heart sanctuary for dangerous animals.

We are strongly opposed to allowing the existence of this wild animal facility in it's current location, or anywhere on Fidalgo Island. Not only does Predators of the Heart lie adjacent to ACFL hiking trails that we use frequently, which creates a public safety hazard when there are animal escapes, but it is also very close to our residential property, which creates a safety hazard for our family.

Our property on San Juan Blvd is the second or third property an escaped animal from Predators of the Heart would encounter should it follow the private road (closed portion of San Juan Blvd) up the hill from the compound. I estimate this distance to be less than 1000 meters, or roughly 1/2mile.

Putting aside concern for ourselves and our dog who is outside on our property many days a week, we don't think Predators of the Heart is safe enough to merit the public safety risk. Regardless of the published record of "only a few" escaped animals, it will only take one event to create a tragic encounter with a wild animal. It is not in the interest of the neighborhood, the wider community, Anacortes or Skagit County to issue Predators of the Heart a license to operate this facility.

Brian Hazlehurst and Hilary Forrest
2507 Shannon Pt Rd
Anacortes, WA 98221

From Host Address: 45.115.204.93

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 8:00:18 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:50:32 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 6:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Christina C Fischer
Address : 2806 C Ave
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : christyfischer@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on the Special Use Permit for the Predators of the Heart facility. I am still strongly opposed to this expansion due to the owners' lack of regard for the community's safety and their inability to keep the animals contained.

In September 2018, a wolf from the Predators of the Heart facility killed my friend's dog, who was leashed. Since then, I have been appalled to learn that this happens every few years and is allowed to happen without consequence. This is absurd and can not be encouraged by allowing this permit to be approved. I do not feel safe walking the trails near the POTH property. I feel that it is only a matter of time before a child is hurt by a wolf who was allowed to run loose in our community forestlands.

Additionally, the applicant was dishonest in their response to the county's inquiry when they stated that only once had a wolf escaped its enclosure. There have been documented citations of their wild animals escaping their inadequate fencing, one of which resulted in the death of a service animal.

Predators of the Heart is a liability for our community and a danger to our children and pets.

I respectfully request that their application for a Special Use Permit be DENIED due to the adverse impact on public safety.

I sincerely hope you consider the families living around the Predators of the Heart facility before allowing this expansion to proceed. I would be happy to discuss this further if you need more information. I can be reached at (360) 391-3084.

Sincerely,
Christina Fischer

From Host Address: 174.165.17.7

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 6:03:42 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:50:19 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 6:35 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Darene Follett
Address : 2014 Piper Cir
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : Darenefollett@comcast.net

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Do not allow POTH to continue. They have had multiple escaped wolves and two people I know personally have had their dogs killed by them. There is always some loophole, and the city will be responsible for the death of a person at some point. They do not have the funding to keep their fences in tact. It should not be on our local resources to corral them when they escape, and fear at all times walking in the woods with or without my own leashed dog.

From Host Address: 50.125.30.82

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 6:31:01 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:50:08 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 6:45 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Kristin Rogers
Address : 2504 Oakes Ave
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : krogers1018@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I am an avid trail runner, frequenting the ACFL trails multiple times a week. After a friend's dog was attacked by the wolves from Predators of the Heart, I have felt uncomfortable running (either alone or with my dog) on certain trails that get too close to the wolves. No one should have to go through what my friend did while taking a walk in the woods. Predators of the Heart have had multiple wolf escapes causing multiple family canine deaths. They have shown they cannot control the animals in their care. Please keep our community safe and shut down Predators of the Heart.

From Host Address: 174.61.181.125

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 6:40:03 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:49:37 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 7:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jonathan M Fischer
Address : 2806 C Avenue
City : Anacortes
State : WA
Zip : 98221
email : mysteriousfish@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on the Special Use Permit for the Predators of the Heart facility. I am still strongly opposed to this expansion due to the owners' lack of regard for the safety of the community and their inability to keep the animals contained.

In September 2018, a wolf from the Predators of the Heart facility killed my friend's dog, who was leashed. Since then, I have been appalled to learn that this happens every few years and is allowed to happen without consequence. This is absurd and can not be encouraged by allowing this permit to be approved. I do not feel safe walking the trails near the POTH property. I feel that it is only a matter of time until a child is hurt by a wolf who was allowed to run loose in our community forestlands.

Predators of the Heart is a liability for our community and a danger to our children and pets.

I respectfully request that their application for a Special Use Permit be DENIED due to the adverse impact on public safety.

I sincerely hope that you consider the families living around the Predators of the Heart facility before allowing this expansion to proceed. I would be happy to discuss this further if you need more information. I can be reached at (360) 391-3084.

From Host Address: 174.165.17.7

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 7:02:48 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:49:30 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 7:10 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Chris Zimmerman

Address : 2416 37th Street

City : Anacortes

State : Washington

Zip : 98221

email : gocougs87@gmail.com

PermitProposal : Special Use Permit #PL22-0133 Comments

Comments : In the oil refining business we always had multiple Layers of Protection to try to prevent a serious safety accident. Multiple safety measures would all have to fail together for a bad incident to occur.

This facility needs to be held to the same standard because a failure could result in a serious injury or death should an animal get out. You can never truly guarantee 100% effectiveness of any safety system (dig-proof caging, multiple layers of fencing, gates left open, etc.).

Living adjacent to the A Avenue ACFL trail entrance and using Trail #10 multiple times per year putting my family and I close to their facility, I never feel totally comfortable when I hit the corner of the Forest Lands closest to the preserve that I am safe based on animals escaping in the past.

It's extremely hard to win back the public's confidence any time you lose it. I would prefer that the facility relocate to an area of the state that is more rural with less potential exposure to the unsuspecting public.

From Host Address: 174.165.16.214

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 7:06:44 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:48:58 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 8:00 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Rachelle Marchese
Address : 1211 144th PL SW
City : Lynnwood
State : WA
Zip : 98087
email : rachelle.suff@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : Please allow for their permit.

From Host Address: 73.53.83.1

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 7:58:38 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:43:11 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:35 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Bronwen Bradshaw-Balmos
Address : 8806 Eastview Ave.
City : Everett
State : WA
Zip : 98208
email : bronwen.bradshaw@gmail.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : I have participated in the Howling with Ambassadors experience 4 times since 2019. From my first tour hosted under previous leadership to my most recent tour just prior to their shutdown, I have witnessed extensive improvements since Ashley took the reins. This includes reconfiguring enclosures to allow more space for the animals, adding new enclosures for the smaller mammals, implementing better husbandry of the cougars, creating supplemental curriculum for public schools through a virtual education platform, and participating in their first granted wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

I have visited sanctuaries and participated in animal encounters at zoos around the world, seeing both good and bad examples. Predators of the Heart has taken incredible care to create a wolf experience done the right way. They know their animals well and do not force them to do anything they are not comfortable doing. The Ambassador wolves, in particular, really enjoy visitors, and I am sure Max is missing his belly rubs. Visitors and wolves have a choice whether or not they want to have closer interaction with each other. By showing this mutual respect, no one is forced outside of their comfort zone. I have never felt anything other than safe when I have visited their sanctuary.

To address any of the noise complaints, I can say that in watching their live streams over the past year and a half, I have heard various noises, including wild coyotes yipping, the neighbors' ATVs and dogs barking as well as jets flying overhead, none of which is coming from the sanctuary. I've rarely heard the wolves howl, but it is certainly a magical serenade when they do.

A wolf experience is truly the most impactful way to leave a positive lasting impression of why wolves matter. I believe Predators of the Heart is a valuable asset to the community. I respectfully ask that you grant them their special use permit.

From Host Address: 50.125.251.196

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 12:31:53 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:42:39 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:20 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Anna Dolce
Address : 911 135TH ST SW
City : Everett
State : Washington
Zip : 98204
email : Annakrizh@gmail.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : These animals are well cared for and loved. They have not been a threat to the community, and because of one incident should not face the loss of their care and home. These animals should live and thrive at their location.

These animals gave so many people great family memories and a lot of families are heart broken over this law suit and possibly of loosing the sanctuary.

Please let the sanctuary go back to it's functioning.

Thank you.

From Host Address: 172.56.104.100

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 4:15:25 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:42:28 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6:00 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Maritza a Romero
Address : 2818 bayrose dr
City : Texas city
State : Tx
Zip : 77568
email : Choriromero88@gmail.com
PermitProposal : #PL22-0133
Comments : We need to support ??

From Host Address: 76.142.198.204

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 5:56:45 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:42:25 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:25 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Stephanie Peckham

Address : 15711 topaz dr se

City : Yelm

State : Wa

Zip : 98597

email : Sstevenson@outlook.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I believe that Predators of the heart/because we matter should be granted their special use permit with the property as is. I had the great pleasure of visiting this wonderful organization right before they were forced to shut down. It was a magical experience to say the least. I felt very safe, as the enclosures were secure. Ashley, and the staff were incredibly knowledgeable, and you can feel the passion and respect they hold for these amazing animals. I have learned so much from them. I've been a longtime follower of their live videos as well. I have seen many improvements made to the compound made over this time to improve not only safety, but the space for the animals. I had never even been up to skagit county until my tour. It's a beautiful town. They bring business to the hotels, shops, restaurants when they are open. I would love for them to open again so I can share this special place with my family and friends. Please grant them the special us permit so they can re-open to continue the care of these animals, and continue to educate this, and future generations.

Thank you for your time.

From Host Address: 76.135.84.14

Date and time received: 8/22/2023 7:20:36 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:09:23 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Bruce Bunten
Address : 7640 Sw 153rd Ct, Apt 102
City : Miami
State : FL
Zip : 33193
email : buntenb@gmail.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : The amount of knowledge I have learned by watching Because We Matter. My fear of two specific animals raccoons and opossums. The facility has done everything to be in compliance with the USDA. The things that are being asked of this organization are for a zoo and they are not that at all. You can see on a regular basis, how secure the facility is, and by not allowing them to be open Not only are you taking away the opportunity of them helping Other rescues, but you're also affecting the quality of life of each, and every single one of those animals that deserves exactly what Because We Matter does. I thank you for reading my comment in support of the permits being issued. I hope to hear great news and I'm sure the animals will as well.

From Host Address: 108.83.87.48

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 2:11:02 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:09:51 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Angie Latorre
Address : P.O. Box 1287
City : Kekaha
State : Hawaii
Zip : 96752
email : angielatorre@outlook.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Twenty one years. That is how long the folks at Predators Of The Heart / Because We Matter have been saving the lives of countless animals and giving them a home. I visited this incredible place in 2019, and witnessed first-hand the love and dedication this amazing team of people offer to animals that had no other options. These folks have truly dedicated their lives to this cause. They are not "in it for the money" in the least. They offer tours to raise the funds it takes to maintain a place like this. The tours, in turn, educate people - especially future generations - about the importance of taking care of nature and of being a voice for the voiceless. This is not a fun hobby for these folks, this is their lives' work. They honestly care about these animals that, without them, would have very limited options and likely would not be alive. Personally, I just cannot make sense of this suit. If those folks want to uproot an established facility, they could offer to cover all expenses of purchasing a new location and moving the operation. Instead, they are wasting money, and worse, making POTH/BWC spend money they don't have to try to save the animals' lives. Insanity.

From Host Address: 216.24.45.22

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 11:52:21 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:12:07 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Meghan Hardy
Address : 206 Bay Dr
City : Cary
State : North Carolina
Zip : 27511
email : meghanhardy7@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I had the pleasure of visiting Because We Matter Rescue (then called, Predators of the Heart) in July 2019. My family and I visited as part of a trip for my mom's 70th birthday. She has been a wolf lover her entire life and getting to interact with the wolves there was a dream come true. We still talk about it to this day and have framed pictures from our visit up in our houses.

I'm an animal rights advocate and at first was a little concerned about visiting, as so many places with exotic animals (rescued or otherwise) do not care for them properly. However, I was THRILLED to see how loved and well cared for the wolves (and other animals) were at Because We Matter. You could easily see that every caretaker there treated the animals with respect and love, while honoring the wild that remains in them. It was a moving experience that I will never forget, to say the least, and one my family and I hope to repeat again in the future.

They deserve the opportunity to continue to educate the public and help these endangered creatures - something very few people are doing these days. Thank you for your time.

From Host Address: 99.3.68.113

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 11:45:09 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:12:26 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 11:20 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Sara-Victoria Place
Address : 40 Forest Green Drive
City : Mandeville
State : Louisiana
Zip : 70448
email : saravictoria.place@gmail.com

PermitProposal : #PL22-0133

Comments : Because We Matter is doing something for amazing animals who would otherwise have no place to call home. Their educational and conservation efforts are paramount for animals who have been misunderstood and villainized for generations. Please, allow them to continue this important work that so few among us are willing to do. I stand with the Howl, and I hope you will too.

From Host Address: 98.163.234.7

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 11:15:13 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 9:58:19 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 9:30 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Brianna Lubanovici

Address : 706 Mill Avenue

City : Snohomish

State : WA

Zip : 98290

email : bwelk90@gmail.com

PermitProposal : #PL22-0133

Comments : Predators of the Heart should be approved for special use permitting. This organization adds economic value to the area, and provides ongoing education about wildlife. Losing the opportunity to conduct business would be a great loss to the community.

From Host Address: 50.46.53.162

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 9:27:08 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 9:28:20 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 8:25 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : JOLEEN SIMS
Address : 4500 HARBOUR POINTE BLVD., #311
City : MUKILTEO
State : WA
Zip : 98275
email : joleens75@hotmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I encourage the county to issue the permit for Because We Matter.
For the last year, I have watched Ashley, Holly and Jeremy on lives, followed their social media and learned SO much from their wealth of knowledge. It is obvious in just one viewing these animals are loved, cared for, safe and thriving. Animals which without the help of Ashley and team would have not survived in their current state or in the wild.

We should be so fortunate to champion a wildly respected and sought after team when there's an animal in need. In order to slow the process of animals, exotic pets or wild being in situations where they'd fail in the first place, having a sanctuary like Because We Matter available to educate current and future generations on species, breeds, history, diet, care, respect in the wild is a win win.

Ask yourself why Ashely is who is called by many agencies when an animal is in need of rescue - she is trusted and respected.

Please save this sanctuary and their animals by approving their permit.

Thank you so much for your time.

Joleen Sims

From Host Address: 44.235.66.247

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 8:24:43 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 8:16:48 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 8:15 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Tracey McIntosh
Address : 164 Mountain View Ave, Trailer 25
City : Colville
State : WA
Zip : 99114
email : Tmcintosh532@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I had the privilege to do one of Predators of the Heart/Because We Matter's Airbnb wolf encounters back in 2020. It was an amazing experience! The animals are all very well cared for. We were allowed to interact with some of their ambassador wolves with very specific instructions on what to do or not to do. The rest of the animals in their care were for viewing only. Ashley and her team are very knowledgeable and passionate about caring for the animals above and beyond what is required. While we were there, they also recommended other activities and places to eat in Anacortes. I have been following them on Facebook ever since and they are very open and honest about everything that has transpired and their struggles these last couple years. I have been privileged to help with a few donations of money and enrichment for the animals. But, what they really need is for you to approve their permits and allow them to re-open. They bring so much more to the community than just their experience. They have programs for Make-A-Wish, and Veterans that they could implement once they re-open. They would be able to welcome more rescue animals and provide them with an amazing forever home. They would also be able to implement all their plans for renovations to improve their facility even more. Please approve their permits so they can continue with their mission of rescue, conservation and education!

From Host Address: 174.204.71.143

Date and time received: 8/21/2023 8:11:26 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 7:55:17 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 9:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Aaron Welk

Address : 3977 Erlands Point Rd NW

City : Bremerton

State : WA

Zip : 98312

email : aaronwelk@hotmail.com

PermitProposal : Special Use Permit application #PL22-0133

Comments : Ashley and her team provide an invaluable service to the community & local government as well as to the students they help educate. They help care for and educate students on beautiful animals that need rescuing, many of which would be euthanized. I believe they should be approved for their special use permit.

From Host Address: 24.113.55.34

Date and time received: 8/20/2023 9:03:49 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 7:54:47 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 5:45 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Krista Myers
Address : 7028 Sleret Avenue
City : Vancouver
State : Washington
Zip : 98664
email : Kristajade@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I support Predators of the Heart and its cause. Please allow this sanctuary to continue to operate here, and support the animals who live there. I understand there was an incident with a domesticated dog, which is horrible, but we have to help protect all animals, wild and domestic, as best as we can. I support this non-profit sanctuary in WA state, where I also live. I was hoping to visit, and it was very concerning to see it was closed indefinitely to the public and may have to close completely. Don't let that happen!

From Host Address: 71.193.158.221

Date and time received: 8/20/2023 5:44:19 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 7:54:13 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Bianca Maldonado
Address : 6230 Welles Brook Drive
City : San Antonio
State : Texas
Zip : 78240
email : Bm434561@aol.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : We had the opportunity to visit the Because We Matter organization two summers ago and see firsthand the outstanding work being done to educate the public on animal rescue and conservation as well as the great care that the animals receive. This organization is a treasure to these animals and the Washington community. The need to continue their efforts and care for all these beautiful animals

From Host Address: 45.30.140.32

Date and time received: 8/20/2023 2:39:26 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 18, 2023 10:30:49 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 9:35 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Sarah Bauer
Address : 1629 Mackenzie St
City : Washington
State : IL
Zip : 61571
email : sjbauer1961@gmail.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : I was born in Washington state, and I lived there for many, many years. I have lived in Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties over those years. I hope to come back to the area once we retire. Places like Because We Matter Rescue are a large part of what makes the Pacific Northwest special, and the best place to live in the country. It is critical that the Pacific Northwest continue to be a place that values compassion and diversity, as opposed to just money and power. I urge you to allow this rescue, which has operated peacefully and responsibly for many years, to continue in its mission to educate the public on the value of life in all its forms. Because We Matter Rescue is a unique and precious jewel and adds great value to Skagit County and the entire region. Please don't destroy it.

From Host Address: 207.179.195.141

Date and time received: 8/18/2023 9:31:10 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 18, 2023 9:29:30 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Cynthia Winter
Address : 37611 SE Fury St Unit 101
City : Snoqualmie
State : WA
Zip : 98065
email : cindywinter9989@aol.com

PermitProposal : PL-0583

Comments : Please re-open Predators of the Heart.

Predators of the Heart (POTH) is dedicated to helping all species of exotic animals who, for various reasons, are without a place to live the rest of their lives. In addition to housing exotic animals, we pride ourselves on wildlife education. Many of the animals saved by POTH are used as ambassadors to further instruction regarding the importance of their species and the need for conservation. Our goal is to reach the hearts of people and leave them with a new appreciation for wildlife and its importance.

From Host Address: 73.83.8.154

Date and time received: 8/17/2023 5:47:53 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 18, 2023 9:23:16 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:55 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Laura Federico
Address : 7358 N 85th street
City : Omaha
State : Nebraska
Zip : 68122
email : craftychk@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Predators of the heart (POTH) AKA Because We Matter are an essential part of animal husbandry and rescue. They take care of animals in need, for so many reasons. They are a huge help to the wolf dogs, among so many other animals under thier care,as by what I understand would be euthanized if certain people got thier way.

They also bring revenue into the surrounding areas by having tourists like my family visiting them to see and learn all about the many animals they take care of. Not permitting them to carry on with thier good work is basically cutting your nose off to spite your face.

Please allow them to open back up and educate people and keep doing thier good work?

From Host Address: 72.196.8.67

Date and time received: 8/17/2023 8:50:26 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 4:20:20 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Paula Kellams
Address : 720 Vickie Street
City : Fort Morgan
State : Colorado
Zip : 80701
email : wndrgto@sbcglobal.net
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : Subject: Because We Matter - Support from Colorado

Permit Number - PL22-0133

Let me start by saying I have followed this sanctuary for about eight months. I watched multiple livestreams viewing of this sanctuary before I ever donated or sent supplies to help these beautiful animals. I truly from the bottom of my heart support this team. I have seen the awesome care that they receive on the daily. This amazing team have the knowledge and the dedication to this beautiful sanctuary in helping these animals thrive. This team deserves the right to show the next generation how to be ambassadors to all of God's creatures in this world and how each play such an important role. These animal's home doesn't deserve to be put in jeopardy; they deserve to live out their lives in peace. This sanctuary has approximately fifty-two different beautiful species, totaling about one hundred animals. This sanctuary has people watching and learning from all over this beautiful world, that willingly help this dedicated team continue their amazing work. Please allow this sanctuary the right to re-open and show the world the importance of educating and why every life matters. Please take the time to learn for yourselves the importance of saving these animals lives and let them re-open. Then they can continue their work like the Make a Wish Foundation, Helping Veterans with PTSD, and so much more. As someone that has only rescued abused/medically mistreated dogs my entire life. All animals help heal and bring peace to people's souls.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Respectfully,

Paula Kellams , Fort Morgan Colorado

From Host Address: 184.166.130.194

Date and time received: 8/17/2023 4:02:01 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:12:26 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 5:55 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Emily Hathaway
Address : 7009 Topaz Dr SW
City : Lakewood
State : WA
Zip : 98498
email : ejh_2132@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Predators of the Heart is a special place. I have personally been there four different times and cannot wait to go back. The animals are spectacular. I have experienced the wolves up close and personal each visit and they are so gentle, loving, and kind. The support the animals get is top notch. Please allow these special people to continue to do the amazing work they do, as it is not easy but essential. Thank you.

From Host Address: 73.239.108.53

Date and time received: 8/17/2023 5:51:12 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:11:53 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 7:05 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Shelley Worton
Address : 20314 Sequoia Trace
City : Spring
State : Texas
Zip : 77379
email : msworton@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Visited this place with my family a couple of years ago and we were amazed at all that they do for these animals. Please help them continue the love and support for these beautiful creatures of ours, they need us. Thank you!

From Host Address: 76.143.105.147

Date and time received: 8/17/2023 7:01:49 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](mailto:Kevin.Cricchio)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:18:26 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jessica Young
Address : 32011 124th St SE
City : Sultan
State : WA
Zip : 98294
email : jessica@predatorsoftheheart.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I had the pleasure of visiting POTH in person, after Ashley Carr took over as Director. At no point in time did I feel unsafe or that I was in danger. In fact, when I first entered the property, I felt like I was entering a very secure facility. I did not know what to expect, but I was surprised with what I received. From the very beginning of the tour, everything was handled with extreme professionalism, and a no nonsense attitude. My guided tour included viewing and learning facts about the animals that were not nocturnal, no animals were forced into being viewed, and there was zero interaction with any of the rescued animals by our visiting group. We were able to spend a short time with the conservation wolf dog ambassadors, and again at no time did I feel in danger, the rules were very well laid out by our hosts, and the experience was incredible.

I suffer from PTSD, and this tour/interaction with wolf dogs was a gift from a friend, in hopes that it would help me. It did.

A few months later I heard the news that POTH was closed do to a permitting issue, and I like hundreds (possibly thousands) of others assumed it would be a quick resolution. I checked back often to see if it had been resolved, and was disappointed each time.

After a couple of more months, when I heard Ashleys plea for help, I decided to answer that call, and get more involved, as what they had provided for me was something very special, it was peace in my heart and mind.

At this juncture I began to contact local businesses to donate for a raffle, almost every single one I called, donated without question, also stating they hoped they (POTH) could re-open soon, and that they were surprised the permitting was taking so long. These businesses benefitted massively from POTH being in business, as nearly all guests of POTH came to Anacortes from out of town. Their closure has lost millions in revenue for the city, and its local businesses.

In January of 2023, Ashley invited me to join the Board of Directors. I accepted. Having learned more at this point about the previous leadership, and the direction Ashley was moving with the organization, I wanted to be more involved.

As a board we decided a name change would be appropriate to signal these changes to the community, and to help convey that things were indeed in the hands of capable individuals who cared about the facility and the community. POTH became Because We Matter.

During these last few months, while continuing to assist with fundraising, I have come to see that this organization seems to have been targeted, unfairly by several groups, in almost all cases citing issues that previous leadership was responsible for. Some even stating that the encounter they provide is cruel to their animals, and somehow makes them a subpar organization, although their rescued animals are not subject to interaction beyond that of their handlers.

At this time, I would like to point out that, just last week I paid for a rhinoceros encounter at the AZA accredited Woodland park zoo, with my 3 & 4 year old children, and have been paying for similar experiences for over a decade at the WPZ. (Giraffe feeding, penguin feeding) Which they offer on a daily basis, for hundreds to enjoy each week. The only differences between the two being that BWM does not offer experiences to children, or feeding of its animals during the private tours.

BWM (POTH) has never claimed their wolves are purebred wolf, they are always referred to as Wolf Dogs, or Wolf Dog Ambassadors.

I'd like to note that this has been a very emotional process for me, being on the board of directors, seeing all of the things this organization has been through simply to continue to care for the animals.

Being involved in the fight for these animals lives is something I passionately believe in, but I could have never anticipated that funding for the care of live animals would be suspended for such a long duration of time, with their lives hanging in the balance.

To withhold this permit any longer, which simply allows adults to visit the property, would indeed be a great injustice to this organization and the community. I am beyond disheartened that it has taken so long, but grateful that the day has finally come to be heard, and thankful for the opportunity to comment.

In closing, I would like to state that I do not believe BWM (POTH) should be held to a higher standard than what the USDA & AZA regulations outline for safety of a facility.

I believe this organization is a massive asset for the community, and if further actions are required to meet the permit standards, they should be granted a temporary permit to operate, as their current facility is very secure.

Additionally, continuing to ask the community to fund, after an 18 month wait for this permit is excessive, but the fact that the community has stood up to fund this operation should be noted, and speak to the importance and integrity of this organization.

Furthermore, once able to resume operations, BWM intends to resume offering programs such as Make A Wish, and begin their Military outreach for those that suffer from PTSD, which once again are incredible assets for this community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jessica Young

From Host Address: 98.97.35.220

Date and time received: 8/16/2023 4:04:56 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:16:21 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Rebecca E. Behrendt

Address : 3403 Field Ave.

City : Anacortes

State : WA

Zip : 98221

email : behrendtre@gmail.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I live within a mile of the Animal Preserve. I've met its wild inhabitants. (However, I am not personally acquainted with anyone involved in this proceeding.)

I think this facility provides an important service and this is a good location for it. These wild animals have been put in a bad situation by humans and they deserve a sanctuary. And the facility serves an important function of wildlife education. The physical interaction with wild animals is in regards to two "ambassador" animals which were already habituated to human interactions and therefore is not inappropriate.

I know that there have been some incidents, but the current owner has taken steps to make the facility more secure and complying with other requirements. And this is despite the fact that the cost of these legal proceedings is cutting into the budget that could better be allocated to addressing those issues.

There is a lot of misinformation about and unfounded fear of wolves. While they do pose a danger to pets, healthy wolves don't attack humans like cougars do. Wild wolves generally avoid humans. These animals are well-fed, secured, and several incidents, over decades, and under different management, should not be used to condemn the facility.

I am a dog owner. I know just how devastated I would be if a wild animal killed my dog. There may be some hard feelings and bad blood, and maybe justifiably, but just because a few people hate something or had a bad experience doesn't mean it should be completely eliminated. There are many people living here and our voices should count too.

We are surrounded by coyotes. They make much more noise and present a greater danger to pets than anything at the sanctuary. And I know that I can't leave my dog outside unsupervised. And yet, I would not want to live without them. The wildlife on Fidalgo Island is part of what makes it such a

wonderful place to live. I fall asleep to the sound of coyotes yipping, and it makes me grateful to live here. I don't think we should try to change this town to be like the places everyone left to come here.

Let's not start banning everything that someone takes a dislike to, or soon there won't be anything left.

From Host Address: 98.247.242.254

Date and time received: 8/16/2023 4:12:55 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 2:25:57 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 1:35 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : ELLEN GLOWEN-LEON
Address : 407 N 3RD ST
City : GARFIELD
State : WA.
Zip : 99130
email : LEONN@PULLMAN.COM
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : PLEASE, please, please.....grant this permit! There is so much at stake here...loosing their home. It's not just the animals that would have to have a new home, but think also of the children & the family. How do you explain to young children that all of a sudden that just about everything they know & love will be gone. What a sad, sad experience for these children!?! I could understand if these animals were being abused- but they are not. They have secure living spaces, grooming medical attention, healthy foods & love. Not to mention the valuable lessons they can teach the world. Knowledge is beautiful! And since there are no animal rescues or teaching zoo's close by, where are they gonna learn? And like I mentioned before, this is a clean, healthy learning animal RESCUE! I can understand that there are a lot of animal haters out there & have there own messages to convey & that is their right. But didn't they know when they moved there that the Rescue was there? If it has been there for 21yrs, how could they not know!? Every neighborhood has it's pro's & cons & you can't please everyone. That is a fact of life! There are a lot of supporters out there, that would love to see the Rescue be able to continue in "their home" & treated with respect. THANK YOU!

From Host Address: 64.126.170.38

Date and time received: 8/16/2023 1:31:58 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback Submission
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 9:48:46 AM

From PDS email.

Thank you!

From: website <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: FW: Feedback Submission

From: feedback@co.skagit.wa.us <feedback@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 1:05 PM
To: website <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: Feedback Submission

Department : Planning and Development Services

Name : Melody Shipley

Email : melodyshipley@kw.com

Other : Looking to see if a property can be used for ministry and event venue options?

14405 Leslie Lane, Mt. Vernon
P15390

Thank you,

Melody

From Host Address: 66.172.104.208

Date and time received: 8/15/2023 1:00:32 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 9:48:24 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 10:05 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Christopher Elliott

Address : 4709 Vesper Dr. Apt. 7

City : Everett

State : WA

Zip : 98203

email : cspdeicist@gmail.com

PermitProposal : Appeal #PL-0583

Comments : To whom it may concern - thank you for reading my comments,

I have visited the Predators of the Heart (POTH) property twice, for their tour and wolf encounters. I am eager to return, and to bring many people with me.

The property is well-cared for, as are the animals, and the security of the property never gave me a second of concern. The education provided by the staff (who are clearly dedicated and passionate) was thorough, entertaining, and very informative. The overall experience was life-changing, hence why I've attended twice and would like to return again and again.

In a world that consistently pushes animal and nature to the side, these resources are constantly used up and mistreated; yet POTH seeks to protect and preserve them, a necessary step in protecting the planet from the climate disasters we face and disruption to the ecosystems that inhabit this world. In a world that sees people increasingly at odds with one another, POTH seeks to bring closer to nature and to each other through education and exploration. While there is an inherent risk to caring for some of the animals on the property (and sadly some family pets paid that price), we do not ban vehicles or harmful chemicals from that area and even cursory research shows untold damage done to animals and nature within Skagit by careless actions of humans (already there have been 10 motor vehicle fatalities in Skagit Co in 2023, according to the Skagit County Coroner (a URL cannot be provided on this form)). Moreover, many of the animals cared for on that property are there because of human carelessness or ignorance. Yet, we punish the animals, and their caretakers, and the would-be visitors by shutting POTH down.

Any person who sees pictures of me with the wolves or near the porcupine, sloths, or other wonderful animals is immediately energized to ask about this magical place, and I encourage each to go and see for themselves.

I have run for Congressional office, served on city diversity boards, obtained a PhD in forensic psychology, run a successful private practice, have two non-profits (both focusing on nature and animals), worked in a prison/group home/mental health programs, and have dedicated most of my adult life to improving the world around me in anyway I can, for the betterment of all living things that inhabit it - never for personal gain beyond a standard livelihood - and I know that many statements will be spoken, read, and heard regarding the matter here. If POTH is to close, irreparable damage will be done to the animals and people attached to it. We will lose out on education and experience that is becoming rarer to find. And we will have a difficult time reclaiming any of this if it is decided to try again.

Reactions seek to shut down this endeavor (if the news stories are to be believed), but again we do not shut down bars, cigarette factories, or fast food restaurants despite the damage they do. We continue to use vehicles that pollute and damage the environment. The list could go on but yet despite the damage from these, and other, human inventions and actions, many of them continue with full support from communities. Yet, places like Predators of the Heart seek to do the highest amount of good in a difficult situation.

It is imperative that we do not simply shut down a place like this, but work together to strengthen it. Restorative justice is a strong and effective legal mechanism and if we apply the same ideology here, a community could come together to support and uplift Predators of the Heart, not condemn it and move forward without any gain.

Again, I am grateful to have my comments read. Thank you.

Dr. Christopher Elliott
Everett, WA

From Host Address: 73.239.222.150

Date and time received: 8/15/2023 10:00:07 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 9:47:59 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 6:40 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Katrina Akioka
Address : 36314 SE Forest St
City : Snoqualmie
State : WA
Zip : 98065
email : Katrinajkemp@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I appreciate this wildlife sanctuary and everything they do for advocacy. They should only be held to the USDA standards. Please give them their permit so they can continue operations.

From Host Address: 67.161.100.217

Date and time received: 8/16/2023 6:39:20 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 7:39:38 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 6:45 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Rachel Magnavite

Address : 1051 East 3rd St

City : Flora

State : IL

Zip : 62839

email : magnavite@gmail.com

PermitProposal : I Believe in Ashley because of her work for Wildlife Providing a Sanctuary of Love and Excellent care for 20 Plus years. Ashley puts her heart into her Work with Our Wolves and All Wildlife. Many of us want her work to continue also to SAVE Our Wolves etc... Home. ACTIVIST FOR WILDLIFE RACHEL MAGNAVITE

Comments : #PL22-0133

From Host Address: 174.240.252.250

Date and time received: 8/15/2023 6:44:49 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 7:39:09 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 2:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jenna Edwards
Address : 1809 SE 145th Ct.
City : Vancouver
State : WA
Zip : 98683
email : Montag.451@outlook.com

PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : With all of the ugliness in the world, we should be protecting and honoring the beauty that our animal companions represent. It is a penultimate lesson for children and adults alike. Thank you for your consideration.

From Host Address: 76.183.102.51

Date and time received: 8/14/2023 2:23:23 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:41:25 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 9:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Bradley Crosier
Address : 8658 Black Stone Crossing
City : Avon
State : IN
Zip : 46123
email : Brad.crosier@gmail.com
PermitProposal : #PL22-0133

Comments : I've been following this issue for a while now, and am pleased to have the opportunity to comment on it. Wildlife throughout the nation is increasingly under pressure from humans in numerous ways, and sadly people are becoming more and more disconnected from the natural world and the importance of its preservation. While not all of the animals at this facility are purely wild, they are living creatures who deserve to have a safe sanctuary where they can live out their years. Facilities such as this serve a multiple functions -preserving the animals, providing opportunities to educate people about these creatures and the environment in general, and in turn helping people to reconnect with nature; hopefully leading to humanity doing a better job of caring for the environment and ultimately preserving our species as well. I in the strongest possible terms urge you to permit this facility to reopen as soon as possible, and to do so without creating undue burdens or unnecessary obstacles. The USDA guidelines are a uniform, nationwide set of standards, it neither necessary or beneficial for local municipalities to attempt to add additional layers of regulations which lack the backing of the federal government.

Please act to help preserve these valuable resources for future generations. Thank you.

From Host Address: 172.56.55.25

Date and time received: 8/12/2023 9:22:03 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:43:15 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 9:15 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Lloyd Lytle
Address : 23929 Marine View Dr. S.
City : Des Moines
State : WA
Zip : 98198
email : lloydelytle@gmail.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Predators of the Heart Sanctuary ought to be supported with a permit to operate and be open to the public. They take good care of their animals and provide a positive way for people to connect with the animals and learn about them. As a Washington State educator and science teacher, I would say it is important that kids and adults have places like this to learn about the natural world. When we learn to respect and care for nature, nature will respect and care for us. If we disrespect and destroy nature, the same happens to us. Thank you for supporting Predators of the Heart Sanctuary. It is a beacon of light and love in Washington State and shows the kind and caring nature of the people of Skagit County. God Bless.

From Host Address: 166.198.252.45

Date and time received: 8/13/2023 9:11:18 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:43:25 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 7:40 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Heather Fotch
Address : 8318 57th Street NE
City : Marysville
State : WA
Zip : 98270
email : Heather.Fotch@gmail.com
PermitProposal : Permit #PL22-0133
Comments : Please approve!!

From Host Address: 73.53.119.70

Date and time received: 8/13/2023 7:35:25 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:43:35 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 5:45 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Karin Winter
Address : 8809 NE 163rd St.
City : Kenmore
State : WA
Zip : 98028
email : karin.nwgsdrescue@hotmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning and Development,
I am writing in full support of letting Predators of the Heart continue their fantastic work at this amazing sanctuary. These animals don't deserve to be moved or put to sleep because some neighbors decided they didn't like the noise, or whatever else complaints they have! This sanctuary has been run beautifully under Ashley Carr and her team. I have been following and supporting Ashley and Predators of the Heart for years. The work they do, day in, day out, for these animals can't compare to MOST rescues and sanctuaries. I have been doing rescue work myself for close to 20 years and I have seen A LOT of poorly-run, shotty, rescues over the years. BY FAR, the team and POTH is the best I have ever witnessed! Please, let them continue their important work, educating the public about these animals and the plights they end up in when ending up in the wrong hands. Let these animals continue to live in their home, well-cared for, happy and healthy. Please, let Predators of the Heart continue their work. I appreciate you reading and considering my request.
Sincerely,
Karin Winter

From Host Address: 71.231.169.241

Date and time received: 8/13/2023 5:42:55 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:43:53 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 5:35 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Karin Winter
Address : 8809 NE 163rd St
City : Kenmore
State : WA
Zip : 98028
email : jkagwinter@aol.com

PermitProposal :

Comments : I am writing to urge you please to help Predators of the Heart. I have been a supporter of this sanctuary for years. Ashley and her team are REALLY good people! The work they do, the time they selflessly give, hundreds and hundreds a month, day in-day out to keep this place going and keep these animals healthy and happy, is like to other sanctuary I have ever known! These animals deserve to spend their lives safe and under the care of Predators of the Heart.

I beg of you, please let them continue their outstanding work, continue to educate the public, continue to care for and love all the animals at POTH. Do it for all the animals there, please!

Thank you so much,
Karin Winter

From Host Address: 172.56.201.240

Date and time received: 8/13/2023 5:33:26 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:44:03 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 4:30 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Kay Cahill
Address : 403 - 3505 West Broadway
City : Vancouver
State : BC
Zip : V6R 2B5
email : kaycahill@hotmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : We were fortunate enough to visit Predators of the Heart while they were still open to the public, and I'd like to submit a comment in support of their permit application. This was an impressively well-run facility; the animals all had secure, spacious enclosures, and it was abundantly clear how much all of the staff adore the animals and what great care they take to ensure their comfort and health. We learned so much from the tour, and the sanctuary does really important work helping people understand why it's not appropriate to keep animals like these as pets. It was wonderful to see that they still had a safe place to live out their lives; I hope that the permit is approved and that they can continue doing all of their good work caring for animals that can't be rehomed elsewhere and serving as an important educational mechanism. Our family has never forgotten how amazing it was to see such beautiful creatures up close, and I do hope that one day we'll be able to visit and see them again if they're able to reopen.

From Host Address: 207.6.201.46

Date and time received: 8/13/2023 4:25:03 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:44:10 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 11:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Jaime Turgeon

Address : 3906 Glazebrook Dr

City : Fredericksburg

State : VA

Zip : 22407

email : jaime.turgeon@me.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I support BECAUSE WE MATTER EXOTIC RESCUE. This is the only hope these animals have at a chance for a decent life.

From Host Address: 73.171.52.60

Date and time received: 8/12/2023 11:21:50 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:40:55 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 12:40 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Melissa Eikle

Address : 2190 Highway 329

City : The Lodge

State : NS

Zip : BOJ 1T0

email : meikle@gnspes.ca

PermitProposal : Permit Number # PL22-0133

Comments : Hello. I follow Because We Matter Exotic Rescue on social media, and regularly attend live streams from the facility with April Grossruck and her team. I believe that the rescue can be a win-win scenario for your area and for the animals.

When doors to the facility are opened to the public, tourism and a general flow of visitors will provide an opportunity for businesses in the area. Overnight guests will go out into the community for meals and activities. Travellers will stop at gas stations and shops along the way. Furthermore, the Rescue is not a zoo, and attendance is controlled. The roads will not be overrun with vehicles.

A positive relationship with the Rescue may be beneficial to the area, similar to marketing, since the Rescue hosts live stream and are able to talk about the vacation opportunities nearby. Supporters would be compelled to visit Skagit County if they could access the Rescue and make a vacation out of it.

I would like to point out that the Rescue is fairly insular and few neighbours surround it. Houses are acres away. It is my understanding that wolf howls sit between 90 and 115 decibels, while the average domestic dog bark sits at 120 decibels. Neighbouring dogs run along the fenced boundary of the Rescue, barking at times, which is technically more of a nuisance than the wolves themselves. Admittedly subjective, the rhythmic, melodious sound of howling is pleasurable, versus the annoying bark of dogs. The wolves also need a reason to howl, and most of the time, they are silent. I do not believe that the "nuisance howling" argument is legitimate, and is no more of an issue than a hobby farm would be.

Lastly, it is important to acknowledge the charitable nature of the Rescue. It does a public service, taking on wild animals that people attempt to tame, and safeguarding genetic material that provides a deeper gene pool for wolf conservation. If one is unaware of the importance of wolves and other apex predators, it can be observed through the story of Yellowstone National Park. National

Geographic has a beautiful video detailing the impact the reintroduction of grey wolves has had on the ecosystem there (titled Wolves of Yellowstone). North America needs wolves!

Without the permission for the Rescue to open its doors to visitors and guests, it is unlikely to survive. Therefore, many of the animals are unlikely to survive. Skagit County will lose representation as a tourist attraction to animal lovers, and a bitter taste will be left in thousands of mouths. But if this office allows the Rescue to carry on, there will be support and windfalls, and good things to come.

Thank you for your time,
Melissa Eikle

From Host Address: 129.222.185.86

Date and time received: 8/12/2023 12:38:04 PM

From: [Alyssa Homan](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: Predators of the Heart Hearing Comment
Date: Sunday, August 13, 2023 11:43:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an external email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, you are expecting this email and attachments, and you know the content is safe.
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Mr. Cricchio,

Wildlife preservation is uniquely important, now more than ever. With increasing land development the animals that were here long before we were are losing their homes. Many can't be returned to the wild and therefore need specialized care and assistance. There are even fewer people able to offer this care.

The idea that a fully functioning sanctuary, that's existed for 21 years is now having their wallets bled out for the sake of property values and permitting issues is absolutely abhorrent. The world is already a dumpster fire and we are adding the rehoming and euthanasia of a huge amount of wildlife for the sake of what? Money? All of that thrown on top of everything else in a pandemic is just so unreal.

The funny thing for me is that as a child I purposely listened to wolf howling to put me to sleep. My small town had a huge, raptor rehabilitation center that offered educational programs and going out there for school and for individual learning are core memories for me. For that to be taken away from local children because a group of adults decided that money and a sound inconvenience is more important than education and caring for the most vulnerable sure is teaching one hell of a lesson.

A friend of mine lives near a primate sanctuary in Ohio. None of them protest the noise and even if they wanted to none of them have the kind of money to drain the sanctuaries assets just to get what they want. So what do they do? They live with it because it doesn't fucking matter that primates are loud. It must be nice to have so much money and free time that these neighbors can waste it on something this asinine.

Our wildlife deserves so much more than to be used as a pawn in a battle of bureaucracy.

At the end of the day, if the sanctuary is shut down, I hope that everyone who filed this suit are forced to sit there and watch every euthanasia. They should be the people making the calls trying to rehome these animals. If the neighbors and the county are so determined to stick their noses into this business then they should be able to face doing that work themselves. They clearly have the time.

-Alyssa Homan

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 12:22:07 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:30 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Adrienne Baerny
Address : 8320 Trimbelle Ter
City : Parrish
State : FL
Zip : 34219
email : ajbaerny@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I'm speaking in behalf of predators of the heart/because we care. I was lucky enough to go on one of their tours before they were shut down. It was so amazing, informative, and respectful to the animals in their care. The fact that you want to remove these beautiful animals from their home is unfathomable to me. I pray that you come to a decision that allows this organization to stay in their current location. People in the neighborhood need to learn to adapt. This rescue has been there for 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

From Host Address: 97.100.63.135

Date and time received: 8/11/2023 8:28:26 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 12:16:19 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Judy mitchell
Address : 20 Dwight st
City : Halifax
State : Ma
Zip : 02338
email : Jm7866@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PI22-0133

Comments : I have been watching the live stream of predators of the heart for over a year! I would feel one hundred percent safe going to this sanctuary in person! I live in Massachusetts and I intend to plan a vacation to Washington state to visit this sanctuary! My plans will include staying in a hotel and dining in your restaurants. Please help make mine and a lot of other people's dreams come true by granting the permits they need to allow us the privilege of seeing these amazing animals in person ! Thankyou for allowing me to participate in this hearing! Sincerely Judy mitchell

From Host Address: 75.67.28.168

Date and time received: 8/11/2023 10:16:09 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:03:14 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 6:45 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Tammi Priggins
Address : 330 East 308th St.
City : Willowick
State : Ohio
Zip : 44095
email : tam-01@att.net
PermitProposal : 440-221-5160
Comments : God Bless, Please save God's creatures

From Host Address: 99.189.188.251

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 6:43:29 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:03:01 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 10:55 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Susan Bates
Address : 31831 Paseo tarazona
City : San Juan capusteano
State : CA
Zip : 92675
email : susanb.123@hotmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Because We Matter is a wonderful and badly needed animal rescue organization The City of Anacortes should be proud and thankful for such a unique rescue I was born and raised in Washington State and continue to be involved in environmental and animal issues with the beautiful evergreen state. Please do what is right for the protection of these magnificent creatures. Thank you Susan Bates. Ca

From Host Address: 76.219.234.116

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 10:52:38 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:02:37 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 10:00 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Greg Onsel
Address : 205 178th Pl NE
City : Arlington
State : WA
Zip : 98223
email : 09_flux.derby@icloud.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : Save Because We Matter Exotic Rescue!

From Host Address: 193.37.33.245

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 9:59:37 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:02:14 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Alexander Horton
Address : 33 Nanigian Road
City : Paxton
State : Massachusetts
Zip : 01612
email : alexh4070@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : The animals of this sanctuary are cared for and protected by people devoted to working with them. These include, but not limited to, sloths, bobcats, opossums, crocodiles, emus, and mountain lions. Some of these animals are used to educate people about how important their species are. Many of these animals are displaced, and can't be returned to the wild. If the sanctuary shuts down, these animals are mostly likely to be doomed.

From Host Address: 73.16.53.12

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 7:18:36 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:01:46 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:00 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : C Rossie
Address : 2702 N Jay St
City : Chandler
State : AZ
Zip : 85225
email : rossiec@icloud.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : because they do matter!

From Host Address: 172.56.81.251

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 6:58:25 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:01:14 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Daniel J Naylor
Address : 5431 1st AVE SE
City : Everett
State : WA
Zip : 98203
email : danielnaylor10@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133
Comments : To whom it may concern,

Because We Matter exotic rescue is an important rescue and provides meaningful services to this area. They follow all applicable laws and the rescue is run by amazing people of our community. I highly encourage you to allow this rescue operation to continue in their current location.

Thank you.

From Host Address: 98.59.190.199

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 6:26:45 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 8:00:28 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Kathleen walls
Address : Katewalls.kw@gmail.com
City : Belfast
State : Northern Ireland
Zip : 1406
email : Katewalls.kw@gmail.com
PermitProposal : 14 06

Comments : I would love to see the sanctuary opening again to private tours so they can have an income to help feed and be able to look after the animals that they take care off and love. Ashley and the staff are amazing people and work very hard for the animals they have struggled for months now and have tried everything and everyway to fundraise to keep the sanctuary opened and all the animals safe until now.I have learnt and been educated about so many different animals and the importance of them in the ecosystem it has been amazing I have a different understanding of all animals. I found Ashley and the BWM TEAM on fb just at the right time as I was in a dark place but watching them everyday I have become a great supporter and they have made me feel part of them so I hope and pray they get the permits so they can continue the great work they do and also educated people ??

From Host Address: 86.30.20.24

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 4:21:49 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:37:06 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Pam Grey Horse
Address : 2259 Teronda Drive
City : Coupeville
State : Wa
Zip : 98239
email : eaglesng@whidbey.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Please let the Predators of the heart, because we matter, reopen. I have been to visit several times and I can honestly, say they treat all the animals with such love and compassion. I have missed be able to visit this beautiful peaceful place. So much to learn from these beautiful animals.

This non-profit is important member of our community.

I have had friends come from out of state just to visit and we all have great memories to last a lifetime. One of my dad's last special days was visiting with the all the animals, especially the wolves. He talked about how much this meant to him. He died from Cancer, a few months later. So please allowing them to get their permit to reopen. My wish is that everyone should be able to experience this beautiful place.

From Host Address: 50.34.140.119

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 12:55:25 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 3:36:37 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Nicole Bachman
Address : 578 Mary St
City : Scranton
State : PA
Zip : 18508
email : nikkibachman33@gmail.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Hi, I'm writing about the Because We Matter Sanctuary. This a wonderful organization that is providing service to educating the children of Skagit County. I know from living where I live, we don't have anything like what you have. You have a gem! That has been taken away from the children of your county. Not just only that but also your local businesses. Your local businesses have taken a hit and loss with that closure of this Sanctuary. Also with this Sanctuary being closed, that is endangering the welfare of these beautiful creatures they house. I would love to travel to your county from PA and visit and also go to the Sanctuary and bring friends with me. I hope that will happen in the near future. Thank you for taking the time for reading my comments on this matter.

Have a great day
Nicole Bachman

P.s., Know that BWM also does tours for Make a Wish is also near and dear to my heart because my sister passed away from childhood cancer. I also support them in memory of my sister.

From Host Address: 71.120.97.87

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 12:54:13 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:51:02 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Dana Nelson
Address : 570 Timberline Dr
City : Akron
State : OH
Zip : 44333
email : dnelsoncns@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : I have been to the animal sanctuary with my family, including children. At no time did we feel at risk! It was amazing to see and learn up close. It's a much loved discussion to this day! We want to return. Please save the sanctuary and the animals! It is a valued place despite neighbors issue after 20 years? Save it please!

Comments :

From Host Address: 76.34.187.115

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 7:46:46 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:50:27 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:00 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Mary Lynn Sebek

Address : 331 N. 78th Street

City : Seattle

State : WA

Zip : 98103

email : mamasebek@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : Please deny this permit and place any remaining animals in legitimate sanctuaries where they and the public are safe from dangerous and harmful wild animal "tourism" interactions.

From Host Address: 98.247.74.200

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 6:56:28 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:49:55 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:15 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Lisa M. Mintz Kavas

Address : 2011 142nd Pl SW

City : Lynnwood

State : WA

Zip : 98087

email : lmkavas@yahoo.com

PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : Please grant this permit!

This is an excellent organization providing outstanding and critical care for the animals and education for the public.

From Host Address: 76.146.19.44

Date and time received: 8/10/2023 7:11:38 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 3:15:37 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Alma Deckert
Address : 343 sudden valley drive
City : bellingham
State : wa
Zip : 98229
email : angharakirhama@gmail.com
PermitProposal : # PL22-0133

Comments : I have had the pleasure and the privilege to have been a guest at the "Predators of the Heart" sanctuary near Anacortes on two separate occasions. I hve found the sanctuary to be well run by people deeply dedicated to the welfare of the animals housed there and I firmly believe that the action of neighbors against this property and its purpose is more in the nature of a NIMBY (not in my back yard) sphere rather than any genuine concerns. I believe the loss of this facility would be a deep and genuine one - I would like to see them become able to re-start their public tours and education outreach programs, and I for one would return for another wolf encounter experience in a heartbeat. Please do not indulge wolf-phobia in people who really do not know better. Do not penalise a good facility which is also potentially a great draw for visitors to your area because a neighbor doesn't like it there - that is NOT a good enough reason.

From Host Address: 73.225.25.227

Date and time received: 8/9/2023 2:35:04 PM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 3:58:51 PM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:40 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Susan Clement
Address : 84 Peavine Way
City : Obstruction Island
State : Washington
Zip : 98245
email : sclement16@comcast.net
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : I respectfully and whole-heartedly request that you deny the request from Predators of the Heart to re-open their facility in Anacortes. POTH, a.k.a. Because We Matter, is not an accredited sanctuary and does not meet the standards necessary to obtain accreditation from the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, the "gold standard," of which reputable sanctuaries will seek accreditation. Reputable sanctuaries will NEVER allow the public to touch, hold, or enter the enclosure of wild animals kept under their care. Additionally, the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) does not support POTH and will not send wild animals to POTH for rehabilitation or rescue, citing safety concerns for the animals. Given that they meet none of the standards of care, this organization should not be allowed to re-open.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Clement

From Host Address: 172.56.169.39

Date and time received: 8/4/2023 8:35:36 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:32:21 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Misti Belille
Address : 7074 Sandypoint
City : Couderay
State : Wisconsin
Zip : 54828
email : mistibelille0@gmail.com
PermitProposal : #PL22-0133
Comments : Let the animals have a home too!!!

From Host Address: 174.192.132.33

Date and time received: 8/9/2023 10:02:22 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:32:05 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Craig Durant
Address : 111 Burwell Road
City : Middlesbrough
State : UK
Zip : TS3 0QD
email : craig@dylansstore.co.uk
PermitProposal : #PL22-0133

Comments : Hello, firstly thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment with regards to the Because We Matter Sanctuary.

I am based in the UK but I watch the live streams that are just amazing, from my observations I have to disagree with the appeal against Ashley and her team. After reading each point of the appeal I would like to note a few areas that I have noticed. With regards to the continuous howling from the wolf dogs as an example over a minimum of the last 2 weeks during the live stream there has not been any howling happening. With regards to a number of vehicles using the driveway causing a nuisance obviously whilst you have had the Sanctuary closed for 18 months it's only been staff vehicles. When open yes there are approximately 7-14 vehicles when the amazing tours are running but I personally don't see this as excessive to be honest. With regards to the noise on the site there have been a good few times that I have noticed there are dogs continuously barking in the background, this can only be local to the site as the dogs on site were not barking at the time. I did make a note that on these days luckily with the site so secure the wolf dogs did not raise their heads or react in anyway whatsoever.

The wolf dogs howling is such a calming sound and I would urge you to visit the sanctuary yourself to see the wolf dogs and other animals in a habitat that is as true to their natural surroundings as possible.

After reviewing the evidence provided I noticed on the maps that there is a vast array of forestry but I could only really notice 1 neighbour that is within close proximity to the sanctuary. I also noticed on the maps and on the lives that animals are very secure with hot fencing, also a security measure in place incase a wolf dog did get out off the enclosure, there are additional areas around the fencing so they would need to escape a minimum of 2 enclosures to get out. They also have 6 sided nighttime enclosures to keep them safe & secure.

On a personal note having watched the live streams I have been brought to tears at times, the work, passion and dedication that Ashley, Holly, Jeremy & Angela do show towards the animals is just

amazing. I just feel that the process of getting the permits that hadn't been required previously has taken far too long. It is not fair on the animals or team to have this hanging around for so long when at times Ashley has been unsure if the beautiful animals are going to be euthanised.

Finally I feel a great deal of the appeal points are when the former president was in charge and seeing the hurt in Ashley's eyes with her having to lose a relationship with her father to ensure the animals and team are managed in the correct way as set out in the USDA guidelines.

Thank you for hearing my comments I hope they are taken into consideration when making the correct decision.

Should you need to please feel free to contact me for further assistance with my reasoning why the appeal against the permits should be rejected.

Kindest Regards, Mr Craig Durant.

Sent from my iPhone

From Host Address: 82.21.5.141

Date and time received: 8/9/2023 9:21:49 AM

From: [Planning & Development Services](#)
To: [Kevin Cricchio](#)
Subject: FW: PDS Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:28:56 AM

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Barb Petry
Address : 8143 Longworth
City : Holland
State : Oh
Zip : 43528
email : Petrybarb@yahoo.com
PermitProposal : PL22-0133

Comments : This is a wonderful thing that this place is doing for those animals and supplying education to the public on how they behave and how they receive them. I have enjoyed listening about these animals and learning things never would have thought about. This has been their home for a very long time and it would be like telling us as humans that we have to leave due to someone has moved close by that did not want us living on our land or home. I know others that have been through a similar situation where everything was good till they no longer needed to use part of the property and tried to pretty much do the same thing and this place has been around since the 1940's. So it is totally unfair to make choices for someone or someplace or for animals that are not harming anyone Sound more like someone wants the property and this is a way to try and get it. This sanctuary is a needed place for these animals can live out their lives. One day no one will ever know about these beloved animals at the rate humans are developing into their home and forcing the out.

From Host Address: 76.34.163.11

Date and time received: 8/9/2023 7:46:31 AM