

Date:

Recipient:



RE: EAST COUNTY WATER RESCUE FUNDRAISING

Dear

The East County Water Rescue Team (ECWR), a non-profit volunteer division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Search and Rescue, is pleased to present the following proposal for your review and consideration. We would like to ask you to financially partner with us to help maintain a safe place for people to recreate on the water in the Upper Skagit River and East Skagit County.

The ECWR team was formed in 2014. There was a recognized need to have a quicker response to water emergencies in the East Skagit River and local lakes. ECWR is a team of volunteer responders, trained specifically in water rescue. Since 2014, the team has worked with SCSO and has established a good reputation. We have responded to many on-water calls. We have provided search support, have made kayak rescues, have assisted the Navy helicopter with water-boat evacuations and unfortunately have supported distressed families with body recoveries, including the most recent search for a young boy who unfortunately drowned in the Conway area.

We meet monthly and we train monthly in all kinds of weather conditions. As with any strong team, regular training, understanding the environment that you respond in and having adequate equipment and resources can make a difference between a rescue and a recovery. The Sheriff's Office shares a boat that is housed at the Old Concrete Fire Hall, specifically for this purpose. In addition to the Sheriff's boat, two of our volunteers have their personal boats with County to be used for search and rescue needs. This allows us to cover more area in a shorter period of time and to perform a rescue without the need for a Sheriff's deputy to be on scene. Our response area is from Fruitdale Rd, east to New Halem. We also provide mutual aid to other departments and jurisdictions if necessary.

Our goal over the next year is to get our team back to 8 in size. We have recently lost three great volunteers due to changes in their life circumstances. In addition to growing our team, currently at six, we plan to update our equipment. Three of our team members need to complete their Swift Water Technical training and three others need to complete re certification in 2019 (\$3,000). We need to purchase two dry suits for team members (\$1200 ea.). Unfortunately we lost some important equipment to theft that we want to replace, including rope gear (\$400-\$600) and 4 throw bags (\$400). In addition, we want to educate the community on safe boating and PPE by partnering with agencies and local communities at public events.

We are in need of approximately \$6,500 in funding, in order to purchase the necessary safety equipment and to provide the training to keep this team equipped to respond. Any help in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated. Your donation is tax deductible and we will send you a receipt of your donation.

Thank you for taking time to review our proposal to support this important volunteer resource. Please give me a call at 360-661-2243 if you need any further information or have any questions about our program.

Thank you,

Pam Snavelly, Secretary  
East County Water Rescue  
38748 State Route 20, Concrete, WA 98237