

Lake Road and Everett Street Intersection Improvements

American Chestnut Tree Comments

From: Lampman, Linden (DNR) [<mailto:Linden.Lampman@dnr.wa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Sarah Fox <SFox@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fw: American Chestnut

Hi Sarah

Are you aware of the tree in question referenced in the trailing email? Seems there is an effort to save it. If it is indeed an American Chestnut, they are quite rare. It would be a shame to see it lost if there was a way to preserve/retain it. I know that a similar tree in a development in Oregon was retained, with the street rerouted to highlight the tree. I would be happy to find more information about that project from my OR counterpart, if it would be helpful.

Linden Lampman
Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager
360-902-1703
linden.lampman@dnr.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Hodges and Mr. Carothers,

I've pasted below a letter from our executive director, Andy Stahl, regarding the Lake Road project. Thank you for your consideration.

Matt Rasmussen
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
(541) 484-2692
matt@fseee.org

Jim Hodges

James Carothers

City of Camas

April 23, 2019

Dear Mr. Hodges and Mr. Carothers,

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics is a national nonprofit group that advocates for the responsible use of our public lands. Although our focus is on issues affecting national forests, we also advocate for healthy urban forests, in accordance with the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

I am writing to express FSEEE's support for Preferred Alternative Option 1 for the NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Intersection Improvement Project. This option would preserve the large American chestnut tree that grows within the project area.

As I am sure you are aware, American chestnut trees once dominated the forests of the eastern United States. They were virtually extirpated around the turn of the 20th Century by the chestnut blight.

Today, efforts continue to develop blight-resistant strains of American chestnuts, in hope of one day allowing this signature tree to recolonize its former range. One strategy being pursued is to cross-breed existing American chestnuts in an effort to develop a strain that can fend off the blight. Only a few hundred mature chestnut trees remain, meaning that each individual tree that survives—including the one in Camas—is a potential source of important genetic breeding material.

We understand the need for the City of Camas to upgrade this busy intersection. We urge you to do so in a way that preserves the American chestnut tree that grows there now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andy Stahl, Executive Director

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics