



November 1, 2009

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Mary Hawvermale  
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Dear Friend,

As we begin our 85<sup>th</sup> year, Steep Rock has much to celebrate but also much to accomplish.

In 1925 Ehrick Rossiter preserved the original 100 acres called Steep Rock. Today we either own or have responsibilities over 4774 protected acres.

- 36 miles of trails
- Bridges and road systems
- Over 50 acres of farmland
- Monitor easements for over 2500 acres

All this is done through countless hours of volunteer service from our Board and committees and a part time staff of three. We receive no federal, state, or local funding for our operation. 86% of our annual budget is funded by gifts by members of our community and an additional 9% comes from specific use grants. We, along with other non-profits, experienced a 40% reduction in annual gifts due to the general economy and a major change on our giving pool. Steep Rock, since its beginning, has relied on our community, but especially on a few individual givers who always “made up the difference”. These individuals have moved on. We need to change how Steep Rock is funded.

We have, and will continue to:

- Better explain our mission, value to the community, and how we are funded
- Make our case to the community, potential local, state, and federal foundation for grants
- Involve our major stakeholders

All with the goals of:

- Making available Steep Rock, Hidden Valley, and Macricostas Preserves for the use of Washington citizens and the people of the surrounding area
- Implementing all aspects of our long range plan including a new 10 Year Stewardship/Biodiversity program
- Acting as an educational hub for our local schools and sister land trusts

We have something special in Steep Rock and I am asking you to help us keep its heritage of open access and management of what amounts to more than 20% of Washington’s open space.

As Governor Rell said at our Annual Picnic and Shepaug River Celebration – what Steep Rock did to protect the Shepaug and its surrounding region will become a catalyst for the future of land and water preservation.

Please partner with us and give generously.

Thank you,

Edmund J. White, President

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