

**Reply to our letter from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation March 14, 2013**

Hello Gary,

Thank you very much for your message and application. Please be assured that our team of Foundation members will give full consideration to your application as we conference soon. I will contact you further once we convene. It is encouraging to read such a well written application and worthy proposal you sent. For fish and wildlife conservation, Barry Nilson

**Reply to our letter from The Nature Conservancy March 13, 2013**

Dear Mr. Brathovde,

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Heart of the Cascades project. As you know, The Nature Conservancy has worked closely with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to protect and conserve more than 20,000 acres so far, with 5,500 more in progress. These lands have been purchased from Plum Creek Timber and are now in the ownership of the state (WDFW). The Nature Conservancy did retain 640 acres in the Tieton river watershed to enable us to remain a landowner in the landscape.

The parcels that you have identified in the Barber Springs area are definitely of interest to us. Our goals are to address forest management at a landscape scale by resolving the checkerboard pattern of ownership. I am very interested in looking more closely at the 3 sections you have identified. I will direct our real estate specialists to dig into this opportunity. If the parcels are in fact "on the market", The Nature Conservancy is interested.

I'll let you know what we learn and I appreciate your information and support.

Do not hesitate to contact me in the future.

All the best,

James Schroeder