

# Commemorating the 2009 Nile Valley Landslide PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on October 11, 2009, a mass movement event occurred on the slopes of Cleman Mountain, along the Naches River in the Nile area of Yakima County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the combination of the landslide off of the mountain, the upward thrust of the valley floor, and resultant flooding as the river channel was destroyed resulted in the loss of homes, businesses and business activity, fish passage, and transportation infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, and wellbeing of the Nile Community, water related infrastructure and the economy of the Yakima Valley were at great risk immediately after the landslide, and with increasing risk expected as the valley headed into the flood season and the annual closing of the mountain passes due to winter snowfall; and,

**WHEREAS**, extent of economic damage to private structures immediately after the event was below the threshold for a Federal or State disaster declaration and a response to the Nile Valley Landslide was dependent upon local resources and a cooperative response across Federal, Tribal, State and Local agencies as well as private entities, Nile Community residents and the general public; and,

**WHEREAS**, the cooperative response to the landslide served as a national example of emergency preparedness and response to threats to a community, infrastructure, and natural resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the damage to infrastructure and natural resources has been repaired, and the increased future flood risk has been mitigated, but the permanent loss of residences, community members and a way of life cannot be replaced and said losses deserve recognition on this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event; and,

**WHEREAS**, lands were acquired during the emergency to allow for creation of a new river channel, reduce flood hazard to damaged structures and adjacent properties in the valley, and well as repair and reconstruct of SR 410 and the Nile Road; and

**WHEREAS** the Washington State Department of Transportation and Yakima County are completing the transfer of those lands acquired to Yakima County for protection in perpetuity: now, therefore,

**BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED**, by the Board of Yakima County Commissioners of Yakima County, Washington, that these lands on which we now stand are dedicated in remembrance of the 2009 Nile Valley Landslide, and shall be held by the County for the purposes of emergency preparedness and education, open space, flood hazard reduction, and protection and enhancement of natural resources.

**DONE** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019, at Milepost 0.7 of the Nile Road, Yakima County.

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Michael D. Leita, Chairman

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Norm Childress, Commissioner

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Ron Anderson, Commissioner

*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners  
for Yakima County, Washington*

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Attest: Melissa Paul  
Clerk of the Board