

February 16, 2011

To whom it may concern;

This letter is to support Wilderness International's grant proposal to Metro for funding from the Nature in the Neighborhood grant program. The Juvenile Department has partnered with Wilderness International for the last five years. This partnership has resulted in significant accomplishments in the lives of the youth we serve, and has made an impact on them, their families, and the community as a whole.

Wilderness international works closely with Community Connections, our restorative community service program, and Project Payback, our paid restitution program. Together we conduct work crews for our youth throughout the year. Some of these youth have never been exposed to the experiences that Wilderness International offers them around our county and beyond. Not only are these youth given the opportunity to develop an appreciation and respect for the environment around them, but they are also given the opportunity to think of the environment as a source of income and job potential. The Juvenile Department hopes to continue our partnership with Wilderness International throughout the coming years.

In closing, I would like to express my confidence in Wilderness international as a proven partner that is helping us work towards the good of the community. If you need any further information regarding my experience with Wilderness International, please feel free to contact me at 503-655-8342 ext 3171.

Sincerely,



Ellen Crawford
Juvenile Department Director