

A poem to save the John Wayne Trail

by anonymous

*Washington state is justly renowned
As a place where natural beauty is found--
Islands, peaks and rainforest glens
All delight the photographer's lens.*

*Admittedly, these places are great,
But there's much more to our fair state,
Such as cliffs and canyons, sheer rock walls,
Remains of mammoth waterfalls.*

*Lyric hills of windblown soil
Provide a quiet, soothing foil
And a welcome and serene retreat
From crowded cities of concrete.*

*It's where one can regain perspective
Enjoy a chance to be reflective,
And at the same time get to know
This region that we cherish so.*

*Where once the mighty railroad train
Traversed the undulating plain
Carrying a massive load--
The Milwaukee main line railroad*

*Connected east and furthest west
For a century, then laid to rest;
A corridor right through the state---
Just what was to be its fate?*

*Then someone had a brilliant plan
To create a trail that would span
The width of our fair Washington,
And pretty soon the job was done.*

*That trail is a state resource
For those who love to ride a horse
Or bike or walk through scenery
Of farms, badlands and greenery.*

*Named for a giant of the screen
It offers much that can be seen
Only at a gradual pace---
Not like the freeway's roaring race.*

*But now there's been a shameful act,
A secret politician's pact
To sneak some lines into a law
(Lines the public never saw),*

*Hidden from the public's eyes,
To cause the John Wayne Trail's demise--
Devised by Schoessler, Schmick and Dye
To let the John Wayne Trail die.*

*As decades pass and cities grow,
More and more will wish to go
On treks just like the John Wayne Trail--
Speak now, or it will surely fail.*

*But whether you are pro or con,
Remember--when it's gone, it's gone.
Yes, there's expenses for the path,
But don't toss the babe out with the bath.*

*Attend a meeting, talk, debate,
Don't let cabals and cliques negate
The peoples' interest and desire--
Throw out those who would conspire*

*To pull off legalistic tricks
All in the name of politics.
Attend a meeting, take a stand--
This land, remember, is your land.*