



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mount Rainier National Park  
Tahoma Woods, Star Route  
Ashford, Washington 98304-9751

March 9, 2010

From: Brooke Childrey and Greg Burtchard, Mount Rainier National Park

RE: Nomination of Jim and Carol Miltimore to Receive a George Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of support for Jim and Carol Miltimore's nomination for a Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award. Carol and Jim are not typical volunteers. These two truly love the park and work long days, for weeks on end, to benefit park programs.

As park curator and park archeologist-cultural resource specialist, we have the pleasure to work with the Miltimores and benefit from their diligence and expertise. For the past three winters, they have worked on a variety of projects for the Mount Rainier curation facility in Tahoma Woods. These projects include involvement in a large historic photograph identification and cataloging effort, a library conversion project, and a reports project; as well as cataloging plant and mammal specimens, and moving the museum collection. Even though their schedule ostensibly is Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:30, Jim and Carol often are present and working when the curation building opens at 7:30, and they regularly continue working well into the evening long past its closing. At the close of the week, it is not uncommon for them to work clearing trails for skiers in the winter –on those weekends, that is, when they are not continuing to work on curation projects of their own accord.

Their work quality is superior and their ability to multitask exceptional. Indeed, the amount of work they accomplish is incredible. For example, in 2008 with the Miltimores' help we sorted, identified, re-housed and cataloged over 35,000 photographs –over five times an average year for such tasks. With their help, we moved and organized the entire collection; re-housed and cataloged over 20,000 archival documents; began the library conversion project; and began cataloging the plants and the mammals. This is work that would have taken my program (one permanent employee and three summer volunteers) a good five years or more to accomplish. It sounds amazing, but it's true.

In 2009, the amount of work accomplished continued at the rate of 2008. The entire park library system was organized and converted to the library of congress cataloging system; the mammal collection was completely cataloged, and specimens were conserved to protect them from pest infestation; exhibits were designed and installed in the temporary exhibit cases in the park's new Visitor Center; the reports project (locating the original version of all scientific and cultural reports pertaining to Mount Rainier; archiving them and duplicating them for the park

bibliography) was continued; plant specimens continued to be cataloged; over 15,000 historic photographs were sorted, identified, re-housed and cataloged; a portion of the park central files were retrieved from NARA and organized by NPS filing code; storage equipment was installed to house the park's archives and stabilized for safety in the event of a geologic hazard like an earthquake; and the infrastructure of both our curatorial building and a neighboring storage garage were sealed to improve climate control and pest infestation, thus protecting the artifacts from damage by environmental causes. The list goes on and on.

Jim and Carol's efforts in regard to the park's cultural resources are not limited to curation alone. Since early January 2010, they have been working long hours to update and correct errors in the park's electronic archeological database, and to format over a decade of accumulated prehistoric and historic site forms for submittal to the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. This has been a substantial effort, requiring great care to see that entries are accurate, and completed in a manner acceptable to the state agency. Furthermore, the backlogged count of over 200 properties has made the job daunting indeed. Carol and Jim worked diligently and with great skill to bring these site forms together in a highly competent manner; have spent a great deal of time in the effort; and did so without complaint. We should mention too, that they have declined even minimal food allowance or expense compensation for the effort; accepting only housing at the park's headquarters at Tahoma Woods while working on park projects.

It is fair to say that we simply could not have completed these curatorial and archeological obligations without the exceptional effort, dedication, and competent assistance of Carol and Jim Miltimore. They are invaluable to the park, and we appreciate their efforts a great deal. They are most worthy of the Hertzog award, and we hope that the park service can recognize their many efforts for the park in this way.

Sincerely,



Brooke Childrey,  
Curator, Mount Rainier National Park



Greg Burtchard  
Archeologist-Cultural Resource Specialist, Mount Rainier National Park