



Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Supporting Environmental Awareness at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
Post Office Box 294 Cheney, Washington 99004

DIRECTORS

President

JOANNE POWELL

Secretary

LINDA LONG

Treasurer

ROBERT LIEPOLD

Board Members

CRAIG CORDER

JUDY CORDER

LOUISE O'LEARY

PETER PORTER

ROBERT QUINN

Choices for Cheney Policy Workshop

c/o Community Development Dept.

City of Cheney

112 Anderson Road

Cheney WA 99004

The Friends of Turnbull NWR is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization that is committed to supporting the refuge. We have 152 members, most of whom live in the Cheney area.

The Board of The Friends of Turnbull NWR has voted unanimously to oppose the City of Cheney's proposed increases in its urban growth boundary in the area south of the Columbia Plateau Trail and west of Cheney / Spangle Road. This proposed expansion is within Turnbull NWR's stewardship area. The water from this area makes its way into the refuge, which contains numerous wetlands and sensitive habitat. Any development would negatively impact the water quality of the refuge and the hundreds of plants and animals that live there, of which two are threatened species (*howelia aquatilis* and Spalding's catchfly).

A buffer zone between Cheney's urban development and Turnbull NWR is critical in order to lessen the disturbance to Turnbull's wildlife. For example, thousands of migrating birds depend on Turnbull for feeding and resting to recover their strength to continue their migration. Nesting waterfowl depend on sufficient water levels to successfully rear young. The health of aspen groves depends on adequate water supplies. Aspen groves are a declining and sensitive habitat where many birds and animals thrive.

We appreciate the work that you have put into this plan but feel it is not appropriate for this specific area.

Sincerely,

Joanne Powell, President
Friends of Turnbull NWR
P.O. box 294
Cheney, WA 99004