Dear Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Community,

As the Board of Directors of the Friends, we want to let all of you know that we are thinking of you during these difficult and uncertain times. We hope all of you are staying safe, healthy, and practicing proper social distancing as recommended by the CDC and WHO.

At this point, the Refuge is now closed.

Now, more than ever, it's important to maintain a relationship with nature. We encourage all of you, if possible, to find peace of mind in the natural areas available to you - your yard, your street, your green spaces. It is amazing how nature can find its way to us.

With the situation changing daily, the best advice we can give is to check on alerts from the Refuge regarding closures and programming changes - check the <u>Friends</u> or the main <u>Refuge</u> websites. The Ridgefield Friends will post any changes on social media as soon as they are known. You can check Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and NextDoor Downtown for important updates.

Again, we want to assure you that we are working closely with the Refuge to not only keep you aware of the ongoing situation and how it affects visitation and volunteering, but to also ensure that everyone who volunteers or works at the Refuge is taken care of, and feels safe. And above all, doing all that while continuing to work behind the scenes to complete our mission as best we can.

Please look after yourselves, and thank you for everything you are doing to keep your community safe. We look forward to seeing you on the trail again soon.

Sincerely,



Board of Directors, Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge