

Letter of Petition

Dr. Tracy Vallier has probably explored more geography of Hells Canyon than any person alive. In his 50 years working in the Canyon, Dr Vallier has mapped geology which has lead to an understanding of not only the geologic history of the Canyon but also of the regional tectonics of the Pacific Northwest. He has unselfishly shared his knowledge of the Canyon's history, native sites, flora and fauna, and ecology to colleagues, students, and almost everyone he has met. He has continuously shared that knowledge with generations of Forest Service employees on both sides of the Canyon and all the way to the Washington Office. Dr. Vallier is a born teacher and his love and knowledge of the Canyon is passed on to students and strangers alike.

Dr. Vallier's book, *Islands and Rapids*, is used by outfitters to explain, mile-by-mile, the geologic history of the Canyon.

The Forest Service worked closely with Dr. Vallier in the development of the videos, *Exotic Terrane*, narrated by John Forsythe, and *Exotic Canyon*, which were viewed on public television and in countless schools across the country.

Throughout his 50 years in the Canyon, Dr. Vallier has used the campground at Pittsburg Landing, even before one could actually call it a campground, as a base for his exploration and teaching of countless students and colleagues. Heat, snakes, an impossible access road, danger, and primitive camping were everyday occurrences at Pittsburg Landing. Mapping Hells Canyon is not for the meek. Death on the River faced and nearly got the better of Dr. Vallier several times.

His books, *Conversations with an Idaho Bartender* (based upon his observations in bars, coffee shops and restaurants) and *A Crow in the Seven Devils Mountains* are reflective of Dr. Vallier's ties to Idaho, Oregon, Hells Canyon, and the people of the region. His keen insights of the people, past and present, and their relation to the unforgiving Canyon are haunting.

For all these reasons, and his contagious enthusiasm for teaching others about Hells Canyon, we request, and wholeheartedly support an initiative to name the campground at Pittsburg Landing the Tracy L. Vallier Campground.

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