



Snohomish County

County Council

Jared Mead, Chair

Nate Nehring, Vice-Chair

Sam Low

Megan Dunn

Strom Peterson

June XX, 2024

Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands
Board of Natural Resources
111 Washington ST SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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Re: Snohomish County Sustainable Forest Management

Dear Commissioner Franz and Board of Natural Resources,

Snohomish County recognizes the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) commitment to manage state trust lands sustainably and appreciates the recent collaboration while identifying trust lands for inclusion in the 2023 Natural Climate Solutions (NSC) Carbon Sequestration Forest Proviso. The County is also aware of the additional appropriation in the 2024 Supplemental Budget to set aside more structurally complex, carbon-dense DNR forestland, which included a reference to the Stillaguamish watershed in Snohomish County.

The Snohomish County Council strongly supports the preservation of a minimum of 10-15% of DNR's mature and old-growth forests as committed to in the 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests (DNR Resolution 1208) and the State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan. Older forests play a critical role in providing habitat for endangered species, ensuring clean air and water, and sustaining diverse plant and animal life in the face of climate change.

The Snohomish County Council also strongly supports the important economic and beneficiary revenue contributions of DNR state trust lands. As we seek to continue balancing all these important objectives, we request the following information: a complete accounting of mature and old-growth forests on DNR lands in Snohomish County, including state forest transfer lands, and how they contribute to the 10-15% preservation goal; and a three-year projection of DNR's planned timber harvests and associated revenues from state forest transfer lands and estimates of both the short-term and long-term impacts to timber volume and beneficiary revenues from deferring harvest on all mature forests.

We appreciate the continued partnership with DNR, our trust land beneficiaries and Tribal partners and request ongoing collaboration in sustainably managing all DNR forests in Snohomish County in a manner that balances economic and revenue benefits while meeting DNR's mature and old-growth forest preservation goals.

Sincerely,

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

cc: