

**From:** [Nancy Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** Please save our State's legacy forests from DNR logging!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 2:07:33 PM

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Good morning, Councilmembers.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you about the importance of legacy or mature forests.

My name is Nancy Johnson. I'm co-chair of the Sno-Isle Sierra Club group, which consists of about 3000 members in Snohomish and Island counties. Our group focuses on tackling the climate crisis, conservation and environmental justice. We also work with students - behind me you will see the poster made by 7th and 8th grade students interested in preserving forests in the Climate Solutions class at Maplewood K-8 school in Edmonds.

These students have done their research and know how important it is to preserve legacy or mature forests (those forests that were logged before 1945 and regenerated naturally).

Here are some of the facts they have found:

- Studies have found that not only do older trees store more carbon than younger ones, but their ability to absorb carbon grows continually as they age. [[Nature](#)]
- 80-85% of the carbon that forests store is released into the atmosphere when they are harvested and manufactured into wood products. [[Cascadia Wildlands](#)]
- The diversity of legacy forests protect salmon populations by streams and enhancing instream flow in the summer, combat erosion and landslides due to winter flooding, are more fire resistant than younger trees, and provide habitat for animals, birds and plants,
- Here in Snohomish County, there are 6,000 acres of mature forests that are at risk of being logged in the near future by the Department of Natural Resources. How will we recover all that carbon storage? New plantings take 10-20 years to start storing carbon and carbon recapturing technology is not advanced enough and is too expensive to offset those emissions.

Whatcom, Thurston, and Jefferson Counties, and the Port of Allyn Commissioners have all requested that the DNR stop their timber auctions of mature forests in their prospective counties.

We respectfully ask the Council to consider requesting that the Department of Natural Resources do the same for Snohomish County.

Sincerely,

Nancy Johnson

Co-chair, Sno-Isle Sierra Club

Mentor, Climate Solutions Class, Maplewood K-8 School, Edmonds, WA

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