

From: [Clara Hsu](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Clara Hsu's 6/6/2023 testimony to Snohomish County Council Public Infrastructure and Conservation Committee
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023 11:06:08 PM
Attachments: [6_6_23_Snohomish_County_Council_Clara_Hsu.pdf](#)

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Good morning, Council Members. I am Clara Hsu and I live in Edmonds. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about Snohomish County legacy forests and to tell you about my 14-mile hike to Hog Wild.

I speak for many in our county to ask that the Council protect our carbon-dense, ecologically complex, mature forests. We need the Council to exercise its authority and leadership to communicate with Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz to stop timber sales on state lands in our county. There are 18 Snohomish County forest parcels, including Hog Wild, on DNR's 2023/24 list, to be auctioned for timber if Snohomish County does nothing. Simply this - without the Council's voice to DNR, our legacy forests will be lost, since DNR must hear from the council in order to be moved.

Many reasons to save them. One is, by not logging the 77,000 acres of the state's mature forests - (only 3% of DNR's managed forests) we would avoid emitting 31 million metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere.

Spada Lake & Sultan River watersheds could be compromised if legacy forests like Hog Wild are logged. Hog Wild is just north of the Sultan River. It would be ideal for a Trust Land Transfer, but again, the Council must contact Commissioner Franz. It is also next to USFS lands that have salmon and marbled murrelet plans and near a carbon reserve.

On New Year's day, my friend and I could not drive on the service roads as they were blocked by a gate so we returned on the 10th to hike that road 7 miles to visit Hog Wild. Along the way, we witnessed the results of clear cutting - dried grass and debris dominated these acreage, the altered landscape was dry and exposed, no snow and whatever water was left, trickled alongside the gravel service roads - like a ditch - not participating in a live ecology anymore. DNR sprays these clearcuts with herbicide and replants them with one or two species making these areas

croplands,
not forests.

While at Hog Wild which is also next to the service road, there was still snow on the ground, pools of water throughout, moisture and fresh air. We saw a variety of different trees and cones - silver firs, douglas fir, cedars, hemlocks - both mature and young of varying diameters, and lichen and such growing profusely on them. There was full understory, to name a few - deer ferns, bracken ferns, swords, licorice ferns, bunchberries, salmon berries, salal, youth on age, dead leaves but also broken green branches and moss - all indications of a lively forest ecology with a complete forest village of young, old, new and nurse logs and decay. Springiness to the ground as you walk on it.

Please open attachment for map of Hog Wild and Sultan River, Spada Lake and pictures. I would appreciate action today, as Hog Wild is already approved for logging. Thank you.

Regards,

Clara Hsu

viidoves@live.com
19106 88th Ave W
Edmonds, WA 98026

P.S. Please adopt the following and other actions:

Take a strategy page from other county councils and elected leaders who have successfully stayed DNR's hands on their county lands - Thurston, Whatcom, Jefferson.

Use the state legislative tools to protect our county lands - Trust Land Transfer, Natural Climate Solutions funding allocated this year, Reconveyance, Carbon Project, etc.

Work with local scientists, groups, concerned citizens who have collected the data and history to help gain quick understanding of the issues and dynamics and with the communication with DNR

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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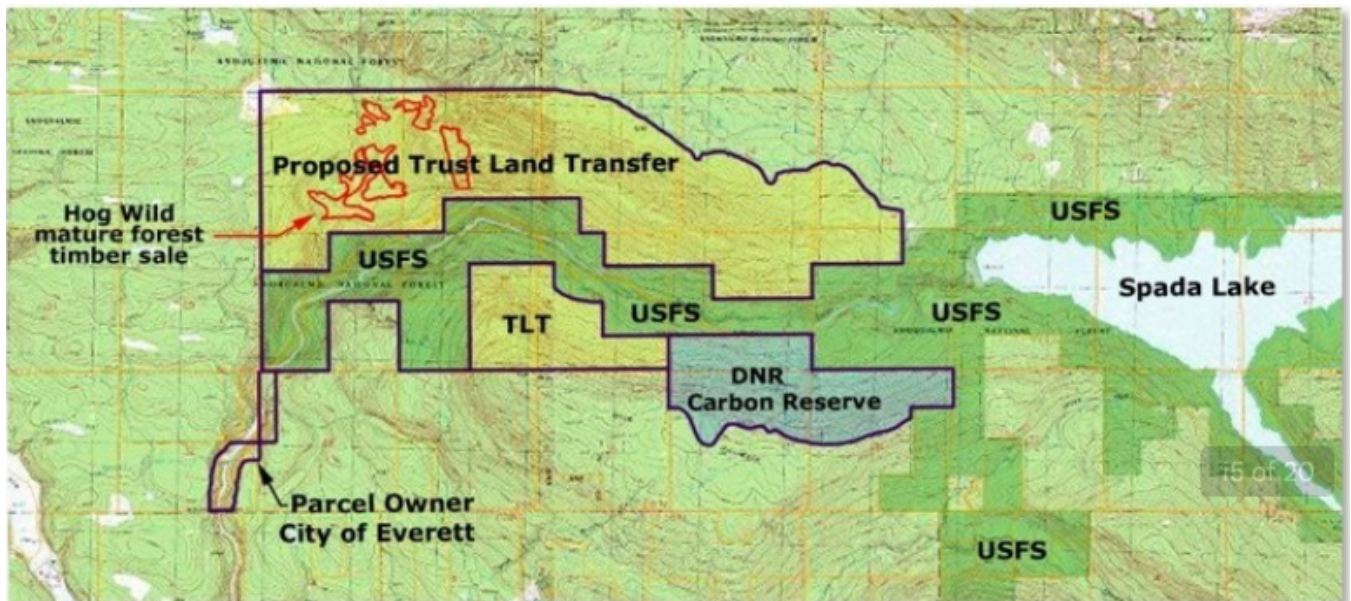
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Map of Hog Wild (Red outlines) adjacent to the Sultan River

Please send a letter to the WA Board of Natural Resources requesting a delay in the Hog Wild Timber Sale. This will allow a stakeholders group to develop a management plan for the proposed Sultan River Watershed Conservation Area (SRWCA) as a candidate for a Trust Land Transfer.



Clear Cut on Service Road hike to Hog Wild 2 photos (1/10/2023)



Hog Wild 2 photos (1/10/2023) - More photos are available

