



Snohomish County

County Council

Jared Mead, Chair
Nate Nehring, Vice-Chair
Sam Low
Megan Dunn
Strom Peterson

October 24, 2023

Hilary Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands
Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands
MS 47001
Olympia, WA 98504-7001

3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S #609
Everett, WA 98201-4046
(425) 388-3494
FAX (425) 388-3496
TTY/TDD (800) 877-8339

Dear Commissioner Franz,

The Snohomish County Council appreciates our recent discussions with the Department of Natural Resources, Tribal communities, Junior Taxing Districts and community members on the Carbon Sequestration Forest Proviso.

In Snohomish County, DNR manages 154,844 acres. Approximately 62,526 acres of state forest lands are held in trust to the benefit of the County, State Schools, seven (7) local School Districts, eleven (11) local Fire Districts, Library Capital Facility Areas and Public Hospital District #3.

The County Council requests that DNR consider the following input as it identifies potential Snohomish County candidate parcels for inclusion in the Natural Climate Solutions (NSC) Carbon Sequestration Forest Proviso to protect structurally complex, mature forests. As a county, we are sensitive to the needs and considerations of our Tribal communities and Junior Taxing Districts. The Council also acknowledges the obligations of DNR as a trust lands manager and DNR's desire to build on existing conservation plans in identifying candidate parcels.

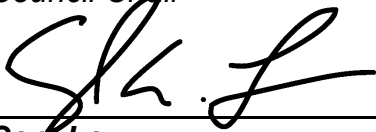
It is critically important to the Council that any transfer of trust land forests within Snohomish County include close collaboration between all impacted parties and with government-to-government communication with recognized tribes. The Council also requests that DNR seek to avoid the inclusion of parcels that will result in short-term revenue reductions for local trust land beneficiaries. As DNR finalizes its preliminary list of candidate parcels for consideration of concurrence by the Council, we would also like to understand when any newly purchased replacement lands might be expected to provide revenues to local beneficiaries compared to candidate parcels.

Additionally, the Council would like to have the opportunity to engage with DNR, our trust land beneficiaries and Tribal partners as discussions on candidate parcels continue. Please consider this a letter of our support, contingent upon a process whereby our beneficiaries do not face adverse financial impacts.

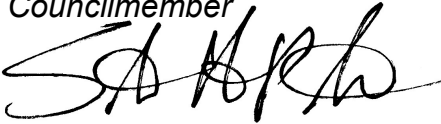
Sincerely,



Jared Mead
Council Chair



Sam Low
Councilmember



Strom Peterson
Councilmember



Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair



Megan Dunn
Councilmember