

From: [Gayla Shoemake](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Written Version of Comments to Council Committee June 20, 2023
Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:27:13 AM
Attachments: [2023 Letter SnoCounty SavingForests June20.docx](#)

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Greetings Snohomish County Council Committee,

Attached should be the general idea of my comments. Let me know if you have any questions.

Gayla Shoemake
425-418-7673

Good morning, Council Members My name is Gayla Shoemake; I live in Edmonds. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about a collaboration between your offices and the Department of Natural Resources on a forest management strategy for mature forests on public lands in Snohomish County. I strongly support such a collaboration. I have been concerned with previous actions which have cut mature forests, rather than leaving them as our best carbon sequesters. My Interfaith Climate Action group has watched with dismay DNR's cutting of mature forests without seeming recognition of their value to the citizens of the county and the state, as carbon eaters and air purifiers.

I believe your participation with DNR can restrict their cutting mature forests from our public lands, which we need, not only for carbon sequestering, but also as homes for birds, whose numbers are rapidly declining, for animals who make their residences there, for providing clean, healthy air for plants, animals, and people to breath, and for providing underground communication networks that help to keep other trees alive.

I ask that the County Council seek the same invitation Com. Franz made to 3 other counties to work with her to develop a strategy for how DNR manages mature forests on public lands in Snohomish County.

I ask that you nominate, before January 1st, structurally complex, carbon dense, mature forests in our county to be protected with the \$70 million allocated by the Legislature. The funding will be used to purchase other forest lands at risk of conversion to non-forest use in counties West of the Cascades, all of Skamania, and the western portions of Klickitat.

I ask that you request of Commissioner Franz **today** a halt of the timber sale called Hog Wild while we pursue permanent preservation as part of a Trust Land Transfer.

You have an opportunity to not only save many of our mature forests, but also to address the climate crisis, to help to reduce our loss of birds and animals, and to preserve an essential part of nature for many generations.

Please do not disappoint us.

Thank you.