



Snohomish County

County Council

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

February 26, 2025

Duane Emmons
Board of Natural Resources
111 Washington ST SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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Everett, WA 98201-4046
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Dear Mr. Emmons and Board of Natural Resources,


The Snohomish County Council formally requests the Washington State Department of Natural Resources protect 40 acres of structurally complex and carbon dense forestland in Snohomish County, commonly described as the Wheeler Mountain, with funding allocated in the 2024 legislative session through the Natural Climate Solutions Program.


The 40 acres on Wheeler Mountain is directly adjacent to federal ownership to the south and west; that federal ownership contains what is very likely old growth forests and so the preservation of these 40 acres would add to the habitat benefits the federal ownership provides.

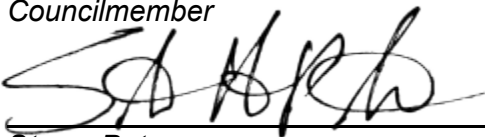
The Snohomish County Council acknowledges that the proposed property on Wheeler Mountain is State Forest Transfer Trust land and therefore, DNR must first purchase replacement lands in Wahkiakum County. After the identification and purchase of lands in Wahkiakum County, Snohomish County acknowledges the two counties would need to enter into a land pool agreement pursuant to RCW 79.22.140.

We appreciate the continued partnership with DNR, our trust land beneficiaries and are hopeful the Board of Natural Resources will consider this proposed acreage for preservation. Should the Board select other properties outside of Snohomish County, we look forward to future opportunities as legislative funding allows.

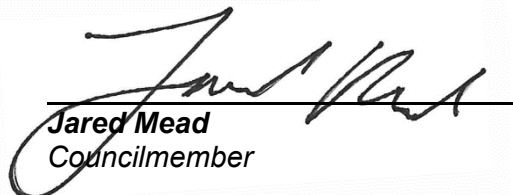
Sincerely,


Nate Nehring
Council Chair


Sam Low
Councilmember


Strom Peterson
Councilmember


Megan Dunn
Council Vice-Chair


Jared Mead
Councilmember