



Snohomish County

County Council

Jared Mead, Chair

Nate Nehring, Vice-Chair

Sam Low

Megan Dunn

Strom Peterson

June XX, 2024

Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands
Board of Natural Resources
111 Washington ST SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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Re: Snohomish County Sustainable Forest Management

Dear Commissioner Franz and Board of Natural Resources,

Snohomish County recognizes the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) commitment to manage state trust lands sustainably and appreciates the recent collaboration while identifying trust lands for inclusion in the 2023 Natural Climate Solutions (NSC) Carbon Sequestration Forest Proviso. The County is also encouraged to see additional appropriation in the 2024 Supplemental Budget to continue the conservation efforts of structurally complex, carbon-dense forestland in the Stillaguamish watershed in Snohomish County.

The Snohomish County Council strongly supports the preservation of a minimum of 10-15% of DNR's mature and old-growth forests as committed to in the 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests (DNR Resolution 1208) and believes that these older forests play a critical role in avoiding devastating wildfires, ensuring clean air and water, sustaining diverse plant and animal life and are essential for addressing the global climate and biodiversity challenges.

In support of those values, the Snohomish County Council requests the following efforts: an accurate and complete accounting of our mature and old-growth forests and harvest projections (acreage amount of stands that are not mature forests and are ready for harvest in the next 1-3 years, and the acreage of timber sales planned for harvest in the next 3 years that do not contain mature forests); and a forest preservation plan in our County which is in line with the 10-15% preservation goal.

We appreciate the continued partnership with DNR, our trust land beneficiaries and Tribal partners and request ongoing collaboration in establishing a plan to sustainably manage all forests in Snohomish County, balancing the short-term accrual losses to beneficiaries with the protection of our mature forests.

Sincerely,

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

cc: