

**From:** [Bonny Headley](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony  
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**Attachments:** [old growth testimony.docx](#)

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Attached please find the testimony I provided at council meeting this week. I sincerely hope you can find a way to protect older forests in the County on behalf of future generations. We don't have much time to make a difference.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Bonny Headley  
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Good morning. My name is Bonny Headley, I live in Snohomish. I moved here because I have a 6 year old grandson, Jack. He is a curious, fractious, energetic boy who loves bugs and books and baseball and superheroes and Legos. He is learning to read. I want him to have the best chance at a healthy life. Preserving our mature forests is part of making that happen.

When I first moved here, I asked to meet my County Councilmember Sam Low. I showed up at his office, and he showed up at my home! I was impressed by his willingness to make that trip to meet a new constituent. And I hope that such diligence is shared by all of you, on behalf of all your constituents, including those who cannot yet vote. I very much appreciate your public service.

I was at first amazed by the huge cedar log displayed in the town center. I thought it was unique. As I have come to know the area better, I now realize that MANY towns have such a slice of an old-growth tree. Logging made fortunes in this state, in this county. It has been a rich source of pride, as well as wealth.

But now, we need new ways to use mature forests on our public lands. The mature forests that we still have in this county are so much more valuable as they stand. Older trees capture carbon at a faster rate than younger trees. The ecosystems surrounding them produce clean air and clean water, and diversity of species, at a time when all of that contributes to our quality of life. Older forests are more resistant to fire, and if left alone, recover faster from fires than logged forests do with their compacted soils and disrupted vegetation.

The soil in mature forests holds carbon, too, due to the diversity of micro-organisms in undisturbed soil. Since logging has been going on here for so long, even some of our second-growth forests are now mature. We can benefit ourselves, and our grandchildren, by preserving them.

Please join Thurston, Jefferson and Whatcom Counties in working with DNR to protect our most mature forests.

I urge you to:

- Request that Comm Franz send you the same letter she sent to those counties, inviting them to work with her to preserve mature forests.

- Nominate some of our mature forests for preservation, using part of the 70 million allocated to purchase forests for preservation here in Snohomish County. The deadline is December of this year.
- Request TODAY that DNR stop the timber sale of Hog Wild and nominate it for inclusion in a proposed Trust Land Transfer called the Sultan River Conservation Area.

Saving these forests will support enhanced quality of life for Snohomish County residents. Big trees matter!

Last Thursday Jack and I went to the Farmers' Market in Snohomish. He was in a grumpy mood, so I sat him down under a huge beech tree on the Carnegie grounds adjoining the market. When I checked on him later, he was nestled between two big roots, exploring for bugs and drawing what he found. That 100 year old tree had helped to comfort him. I hope he, and others, will have such comfort available always.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.