



King County

Dave Upthegrove

Councilmember, District 5

Metropolitan King County Council

February 27, 2024

Commissioner Hilary Franz
Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands
MS 47001 Olympia, WA 98504
cpl@dnr.wa.gov

Dear Commissioner Franz:

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the King County Council and on behalf of King County in support and concurrence of the Department of Natural Resources' plans to protect 292 acres of mature legacy forest on West Tiger Mountain through the Natural Climate Solutions program. We understand these acres can only be transferred out of trust status once replacement land has been identified. Locating replacement sites for trust recipients and junior taxing district revenue generation will be a key next step, and one King County is eager to assist with.

This structurally complex, carbon dense forestland, in proximity to an existing Natural Resource Conservation Area - Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area - will have the dual positive impact of increased opportunities for carbon sequestration and habitat connectivity for flora and fauna.

Protecting mature legacy forests within King County is critical to reaching our climate goals as a county and as a state. The Natural Climate Solutions program provides King County with an incredible opportunity to co-manage mature legacy forests with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for climate and biodiversity benefits, and we thank DNR for its prioritization of these acres within King County.

This opportunity for preservation is consistent with King County's established interest in managing all mature legacy forests within our borders for purposes other than timber harvest (expressed in our July 20, 2023, letter to DNR) and our 2024 Legislative Agenda, which prioritizes increasing Climate Commitment Act funding for the Natural Climate Solutions program.

King County formally concurs with DNR's intent to preserve 292 acres on West Tiger Mountain through the Natural Climate Solutions program and welcomes the next step of siting of replacement parcels within King County.

Thank you,

Dave Upthegrove
King County Council - Chair