



HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

December 18, 2023

Councilmember Rod Dembowski, District 1  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, District 2  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Sarah Perry, District 3  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District 4  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Dave Upthegrove, District 5  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Claudia Balducci, District 6  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
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Councilmember Peter von Reichbauer, District 7  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Joe McDermott, District 8  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Councilmember Reagan Dunn, District 9  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

County Executive Dow Constantine  
King County Chinook Building  
401 5th Ave. Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Councilmembers and Executive Constantine,

I am writing to inform you that Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff have completed the preliminary identification of the lands to be included in the 2,000 acres of structurally complex, carbon dense forestland to be set aside directed by the Legislature's Natural Climate Solutions proviso.

In King County, 292 acres have been identified as candidates to be transferred out of trust status after replacement land has been identified. Of that, 136 acres are State Forest Transfer trust, which benefits King County and the junior taxing districts where the lands are located. The full trust breakdown is:

### **West Tiger Mountain**

<b>Trusts</b>	<b>Acres</b>
State Forest Transfer	136

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Scientific School	31
<u>Capitol Grant</u>	<u>125</u>
Grand Total	292

In selecting areas for consideration, the department worked to meet multiple co-benefits. We sought to conserve areas adjacent to existing habitat, in areas to improve habitat connectivity, and to avoid isolated small fragments scattered across ownership. The West Tiger Mountain parcels (see attached maps) were selected due to their proximity to an existing Natural Resource Conservation Area, being located within the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, and adjacent to Hwy 18.

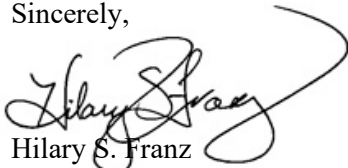
Although there was a desire by some members of the public to set aside individual timber sales, most of those areas did not meet either the structural complexity or multiple objectives outlined above. It would also have had near-term impacts to revenue for junior taxing district beneficiaries.

These parcels will be added to the list of initially identified acres and will be presented to the Board of Natural Resources during its January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The purpose of this presentation is to cover details of the parcels and answer any questions that the Board may have.

As the proviso states, DNR will need written concurrence on the parcels from “*the legislative authority of the county*” before they can be transferred. Ideally, that concurrence would occur before January 31, 2024, so the department can finalize parcels and work to acquire replacement lands, especially those that benefit the county and junior taxing districts. The department must know which trusts are to be replaced, necessitating finalized parcel selections.

We would be happy to meet with the Council to present on the parcels listed above and answer questions that you may have. Please contact Sarah Ogden, Trust Outreach Specialist, at [sarah.ogden@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sarah.ogden@dnr.wa.gov) and she can coordinate a discussion.

Sincerely,



Hilary S. Franz  
Commissioner of Public Lands