



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 7, 2017**

**Motion 14817**

**Proposed No. 2017-0050.1**

**Sponsors** Dembowski, Balducci, Kohl-  
Welles, McDermott and Upthegrove

1           A MOTION recognizing the value of federal public lands  
2           to King County.

3           WHEREAS, there are more than three hundred sixty thousand acres of federal  
4 public lands in King County, and

5           WHEREAS, these federal public lands comprise nearly twenty five percent of all  
6 land in the county, and

7           WHEREAS, these federal public lands offer a wealth of landscapes, including  
8 forests, mountains, rivers and wetlands, and

9           WHEREAS, these federal public lands provide essential habitat for a range of  
10 native wildlife populations, including chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, elk,  
11 deer, bald eagles, black bears, mountain lions and many other species, and

12           WHEREAS, these federal public lands provide clean water and serve as a source  
13 of municipal water supplies, and

14           WHEREAS, these federal public lands have historically been, and continue to be,  
15 an important source of food and medicine for Native American tribes, and

16           WHEREAS, these federal public lands enhance the livability of King County by  
17 offering a broad array of recreation opportunities, including hiking, camping, fishing,  
18 hunting, rock climbing, skiing, foraging, birdwatching and many others, and thereby  
19 contribute to state and local economies, and

20 WHEREAS, businesses in King County attract and retain employees in part  
21 because of the magnificent landscapes and abundant recreational opportunities that the  
22 federal public lands provide, and

23 WHEREAS, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, which comprises the  
24 bulk of federal public lands within King County, supports one thousand four hundred  
25 jobs in western Washington communities and nearly sixty six million of labor and  
26 business income each year, and

27 WHEREAS, these federal public lands are owned by all Americans, who value  
28 federal public lands as a vital part of our national heritage, and

29 WHEREAS, continued United States ownership and management of federal  
30 public lands in King County ensures public access to and environmental protection of  
31 these lands and the resources they contain;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

33 A. It is the policy of King County to support continued federal ownership and  
34 management of existing federal public lands in King County, as well as in Washington  
35 state and the United States generally, because of the irreplaceable value these public  
36 lands provide to our environment, economy and quality of life.

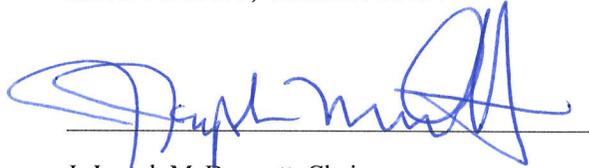
37 B. It is the policy of King County to oppose the transfer of federal lands to  
38 Washington state or to local jurisdictions such as King County, both because of the  
39 financial burden such a transfer would impose upon local residents, and also because of  
40 the limited local resources available to safeguard and manage these lands in a manner that

41 ensures careful environmental protection, prevents inappropriate uses and provides  
42 appropriate public access.  
43

Motion 14817 was introduced on 2/13/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 3/6/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None