



May 9, 2023

Green Diamond  
Northwest Timberlands Division  
215 North Third  
Shelton, WA 98584

Re: Trout Lake WA: Little Mountain Parcel – planned timber harvest

Dear Managers:

The Trout Lake Community Council (TLCC) is an elected body of citizens serving the community of Trout Lake through which citizens can have a voice in developing solutions to local concerns. We support the Trout Lake Community in securing a sustainable future as envisioned in the Trout Lake Subarea Comprehensive Plan. We play an advisory role to government agencies, interest groups and individuals.

In February of this year we were approached by a group of citizens (now formed as the Friends of Little Mountain – FLM) regarding the Green Diamond planned harvest of a 146 acre parcel we refer to as Little Mountain. This parcel is situated east of our town and is one of the remaining intact, undeveloped, areas on the upper valley floor. The parcel is habitat for a broad variety of species and serves as thermal cover and security for elk and deer.

At our March 7, 2023 Council Meeting we invited Green Diamond representatives Jon Cole and Emily Paxson as well as community members to discuss the planned harvest. The presentation by Jon Cole was very informative and Emily's overview of the timber harvest plans provided a good basis for our community's discussions. We appreciate the time spent by Jon and Emily at our meeting.

Concerns voiced by community members and members of FLM regarding the planned clearcut harvest and follow-up herbicide treatments, of the parcel included the potential effects on not only wildlife habitat but also on the visual quality in the area. In addition, there are a number of organic dairy and farming businesses in the valley and there were concerns voiced regarding translocation of herbicides onto farmlands certified as organic. The parcel is located immediately adjacent to the Little Mountain Road which serves as a bicycle loop for residents and visitors to the area. Community members strongly feel the parcel has great potential to be

managed as community forest providing not only for wildlife habitat but also to be there for recreational use and enjoyment by community members.

FML has made preliminary contact with your office and the response they received (as shared with the TLCC at our April 4 meeting) was that if they wish to stop the harvest a purchase agreement would need to be initiated by June 2023. Given the value of the timber on the property, FLM felt that it would be virtually impossible to secure funds by that date. Their request at our April meeting was for the TLCC to submit a letter requesting that Green Diamond to delay harvest activities and allow for at least a year for FLM to work at securing funds for the acquisition.

**This is a letter of support for FLM and their efforts at securing funding for acquisition of the parcel.** A delay of harvest activities for an additional year should not substantially affect Green Diamond's ability to harvest timber as the Forest Practices permit will not expire until September 2025 and even could be extended for another 3 years. We value sustainable management of timberlands and feel that management as Community Forest is a better long-term designation for this parcel as it is truly located within our rural community and serves many resource objectives, not just timber harvest.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DAINA L. BAMBE

Chair, Trout Lake Community Council

Cc: TLCC members – via email  
FLM – via email

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