



October 15, 2021

Mark Reed, Conservation Transaction Unit Supervisor
Washington Department of Natural Resources
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Mt. Adams Forest – Phase 1 FY 2023 Forest Legacy Project

Dear Mr. Reed,

On behalf of the Trout Lake Community Council, I am writing to express our support for the Mt. Adams Forest Phase 1 application to the USFS Forest Legacy Program for fiscal year 2023 and beyond. The conservation easements purchased through this voluntary transaction would keep about 6,000 acres of working forest in the Trout Lake (Klickitat County) area in Washington State in production. Trout Lake's economy benefits from the presence of working forests. Certainty about their productive future will allow us to better plan for our future.

The Mt. Adams region grows high quality Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine logs. It benefits from strong timber markets including access to at least four regional buyers and multiple transportation routes for moving logs and lumber to markets. These forests support a regional forest products industry composed of dozens of contracting companies and hundreds of well-paid jobs.

We want to note that two parcels owned by SDS and not included in Phase 1 are of critical interest to us, as they affect the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve. We understand that work is underway to sell these two parcels to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, who manage the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve. This outcome would be our first choice, but if DNR ownership is not feasible, we would like these parcels included in the easement process.

The Columbia River region has long benefitted from generations of sustainable forest management. We value our resource base, and this conservation easement proposal seeks to maintain that legacy long into the future. It's our hope that this initial phase of working forest conservation is the first of many. We urge your support of the Mt. Adams Forest Legacy project.

Sincerely,