



MUCKLESHOOT WILDLIFE PROGRAM

39015 172nd Ave. S.E. • Auburn, WA 98092
Phone: (253) 939-3311 • FAX: (253) 876-3312



The Hon. Joy Hollingsworth, Chair
Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee
Seattle City Hall
600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

22 January, 2024

Via email pdf to joy.hollingsworth@seattle.gov

RE: Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan: ordinance for thinning and associated timber sales

Dear Council Member and Committee Chair Hollingsworth:

I am writing on behalf of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Wildlife Program (MITWP) to encourage you to adopt an ordinance allowing for thinning and associated timber sales proposed in the recently completed Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan (FMP), adopted for implementation by Seattle Public Utilities. The FMP integrates new management objectives into existing HCP goals, using the best available science to achieve water quality and supply, old forest habitat, climate resilience, wildlife biodiversity, and wildfire risk reduction. The MITWP was actively involved in developing the FMP and supports the forest management activities in the FMP. Many stakeholders were involved in developing the FMP, and while each had their own interest, everyone accepted compromises that resulted in a balanced plan to achieve its goals.

The Muckleshoot Tribe has a long history in the Cedar River Watershed. Tribal ancestors have actively used the landscape for food, medicines, and spiritual well-being for centuries. We believe the proposed thinning projects will help improve forest health and add much-needed biodiversity to dense, overstocked second-growth forests, while protecting existing old forest and its ecological value. Thinning a forest is expensive, and the sale of wood from those thins will help offset the cost of the projects. By actively managing some portions of the Cedar River Watershed it will benefit wildlife, forests, and ecosystem health. Furthermore, the FMP identifies proactive monitoring that will track the results of forest management.

The MITWP supports forest management in the CRMW that includes thinning and sale of surplus timber, and I encourage the Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee and the Council to approve the ordinance. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mike Jerry, Sr.
Muckleshoot Wildlife Committee Chairman

cc: Amy LaBarge, Watershed Management Division Director Amy.LaBarge@seattle.gov