



## MUCKLESHOOT WILDLIFE PROGRAM

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Alex Pedersen  
Seattle City Council  
Chair, Transportation and Utilities Committee  
PO Box 34025  
Seattle, WA. 98124

Nov 17, 2020

RE: Cedar River Municipal Watershed Forest Thinning Projects

Dear Councilman Pedersen,

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Wildlife Program is writing to express our support for two upcoming ecological thinning projects in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. We recommend approving the ordinance authority that allows for the sale of surplus timber from the 510 and 71 Road forest thinning projects.

The Muckleshoot Tribe has a long history in the Cedar River Watershed. Our Tribal ancestors have influenced that landscape to improve foods and medicines for centuries. We believe the proposed thinning projects will help improve forest health and add much-needed biodiversity to dense, second-growth forests. Previous forest management in the Cedar River Watershed has left 70,000 acres of second-growth forests, which shade out numerous plant and animal species important to tribal members.

In order to help improve forest health and accelerate old-growth conditions in these younger forests, more thinnings across the landscape need to occur. It is our belief that the city should allow science to guide the volume of timber being harvested from the CRW, not political feelings. We appeal to the Seattle City Council to allow for increased forest management in the future to help improve Tribal foods and medicines, provide for healthy forests, and increase biodiversity across this important landscape.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me.

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Mike Jerry  
Muckleshoot Tribal Council Member  
Wildlife Committee Chair

**cc:** Mami Hara, SPU GM/CEO  
Lorena Gonzalez, Seattle City Council  
Lisa Herbold, Seattle City Council  
Debora Juarez, Seattle City Council  
Andrew Lewis, Seattle City Council  
Tammy Morales, Seattle City Council  
Teresa Mosqueda, Seattle City Council  
Kshama Sawant, Seattle City Council  
Dan Strauss, Seattle City Council  
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