



PORT ANGELES
WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

321 East Fifth Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

April 18, 2023

Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands
cpl@dnr.wa.gov
Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands
MS47001
Olympia, WA 98504-7001

Re: TCB 23 and Power Plant Timber Sales

Dear Ms. Franz,

The City of Port Angeles is requesting that Department of Natural Resources (DNR) delay the planned harvest sales of TCB23 and Power Plant forests and further request that these important stands be evaluated relative to their contribution to the Elwha River Watershed and the protection of steep slopes located between these stands and the river.

Numerous emails from concerned residents have been received by the City related to both TCB 23 and Power Plant cuts; all of these communications have been in opposition of the timber sales for these two sites. We have previously conveyed the critical importance of the Elwha River Watershed to the City of Port Angeles, and it is imperative that DNR take this into consideration prior to proceeding with future sales.

We do appreciate that Olympic Regional Manager Griswold took the time to write to City Council to clarify the intentions of the harvests, however, a number of elements were missing from that letter and from the previously completed State Environmental Policy Act analysis. TCB23 and Power Plant forests are adjacent to the Elwha River and play an important part in watershed restoration. Logging these forests compromises efforts to restore endangered salmon habitat; threatens other endangered and recovering species; destroys essential carbon sinks; and threatens Port Angeles' sole drinking water source.

The City will continue to oppose the State logging in the Elwha River Watershed, until such time that we can proactively and collectively discuss a long-term plan for harvests that protects the river. Delaying these timber sales can provide time to explore forward-thinking solutions compatible with larger-scale Elwha Watershed restoration efforts.

Please understand that the Elwha River is the water source which serves our entire population and over 25% of the county-wide drinking water. I look forward to future conversations on these specific harvests and to working with you on planning for the future of DNR properties within the Elwha River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Nathan A. West
City Manager
City of Port Angeles

CC: City Council
Olympic Region Manager Griswold