"Stewards of the land... for generations to come."

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February 14, 2024 Re: Western Gray Squirrel Uplisting

Washington State Forest Practice Board

Chairwoman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board:

For the record I'm Ken Miller, co-representing Washington Farm Forestry Association and small forest land owners (SFLOs) on the TFW Policy Committee. I don't understand all the squirrel issues but I know that most SFLOs are doing what they do in part for the critters . . as you can see from our critter inventory on the back side of this testimony. 😊

I also understand a few trees can make a big economic difference on a SFLO harvest. I recall an SFL Advisory Committee briefing by Gary Bell about WDFWs creative interactions with SFLOs to voluntarily save/create more squirrel habitat. I presume those collaborative efforts are continuing and that the lower SFLO rates of voluntary conservation have a lot to do with the relative value of a few trees on a relatively small harvest.

I believe rates of voluntary SFLO conservation could be easily be even greater than 71% with some sort of interagency/tribal memorandum of understanding that allowed WDFW/DNR field professionals some minimal/de minimis FPA negotiating ability with the landowner to offset some increased squirrel habitat leave tree's.

I'm not suggesting, nor see any justification fo any new rule or requirement for an formal Alternate Plan!! I'm just noting there is plenty of room in your Alternate Plan Guidance and I would think/hope there is enough interagency/tribal trust to allow/encourage professionals some small FPA discretion (to trade/move some trees around) to help WDFW negotiate even greater voluntary conservation measures/rates – true win-win!

In addition to more voluntary conservation for the Squirrel such an interagency/tribal agreement would be a small step back in the common sense direction of the original TFW vision of working together on common goals. . . . unless even this small step is too big for today's paradigm?

Ken

Birds & Things on our Family Forestland

American Crow
American Gold Finch
American Robin
Anna's Hummingbird
Bald Eagle
Band Tailed Pigeon
Barn Owl
Barred Owl
Bewick's Wren
Black-capped Chickadee
Black-headed Grosbeak
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Brown Creeper
Brown-headed Cowbird
Bufflehead
Canada Goose
Cedar Waxwing
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Dark-eyed Junco
Downey Woodpecker
European Starling
Evening Grosbeak
Fox Sparrow
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron
Grey Jay
Grouse
House Finch
Killdeer
Mallard
Morning Dove
Northern Flicker
Osprey
Pacific Wren
Pileated Woodpecker
Pine Siskin
Purple Finch
Quail
Red Tailed Hawk
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Red-winged Blackbird
Rub-crowned Kinglet
Rufous Hummingbird
Song Sparrow
Spotted Towhee
Steller's Jay
Swainson's Thrush
Tree Swallow
Varied Thrush
Western Scrub Jay
Western Tanager
White-crowned Sparrow
Wood Duck
Yellow Warbler

TREES

Big Leaf Maple
Bitter Cherry
Black Hawthorne
Choke Cherry
Cottonwood
Dogwood
Douglas Fir
Nobel Fir
Oregon Ash
Pacific Cascara
Red Alder
Sequoia (1)
Western Hemlock
Western Red Cedar

SHRUBS

Beaked Hazelnut
Blackcap
Devil's Club
Evergreen Blackberry
Flowering Red Currant
Hardhack-Spiraea
Himalayan Blackberry
Indian Plum
Kinnikinnick
Ocean Spray
Oregon Grape
Red Elderberry
Red Huckleberry
Red Osier Dogwood
Salal
Salmonberry
Scotchbroom
Snowberry
Thimbleberry
Tr. Mtn. Blackberry
Vine Maple
W. T. Honeysuckle

FLOWERS

Baneberry
Bleeding Heart
Canadian Thistle
Cattail
Clover
Cow Parsnip
Creeping Buttercup
English Daisy
False Lily of the Valley
Fox Glove
Horsetail
Indian-Pipe
Large Leaf Lupine
Oxeye Daisy
Pacific Waterleaf
Skunk Cabbage
Stinging Nettle
Touch-Me-Nots
Vetch
Western Buttercup
Western Trillium
Wild Rose

FERNS

Bracken
Licorice
Spiny Wood
Sword

Critters

Alligator Lizards
Bats
Bear (Oakville)
Bobcat (Oakville)
Chipmunks
Cougar (Oakville)
Coyote
Deer
Elk (Oakville)
Mice
Mink
Moles
Mtn Beaver (Oakville)
Opossum
Porcupine
Rabbits
Raccoon
Snakes
Squirrels
Turtles
Voles