

Tulalip Tribe Support For North Creek Forest Conservation

On behalf of the Tulalip Tribes, I wish to express our support and endorsement for purchase and permanent preservation of 64-acres of mature second-growth forest located along the I-405 corridor, north of Bothell, WA. The purchase of this property will help to ensure the continued protection of the sensitive nature of our watersheds and unique habitats upon which the Tribes' Treaty Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Rights depend. We have reviewed the "Case Statement" and additional documents provided through your website (<http://www.friendsnorthcreekforest.org> <<http://www.friendsnorthcreekforest.org>>); we agree with the proposal and highly recommend funding the project.

Forest lands have been converted at an alarming rate across Washington State over the last several decades, threatening the existence to treaty-protected resources of which the Tribes' culture relies on. In addition, the unabated loss of forests that provide carbon sequestration, fish and wildlife habitat, and unique or sensitive ecological plant communities degrades the value of our watersheds; this is especially true in the North Creek basin where urban pressures have threatened the near local extirpation of many of our valuable fish and wildlife resources.

We are concerned that further development of this area would only exacerbate the fragmentation of this mostly forested property and would ultimately lead to the degradation of water quality, as well as fish and wildlife habitat. Due to the extreme developed nature of the North Creek basin, water quality and quantity is a concern; avoiding further impacts by restricting this property to protected forestland would be an incredibly cost-effective and ecologically responsible preventative measure.

We commend the Friends of North Creek Forest and their willingness to undertake such a meaningful endeavor to purchase this forest gem. Again, we endorse and highly recommend funding this project as part of an overall forest and watershed protection strategy.

Respectfully,

Derek Marks

Tulalip Tribes-Timber Fish & Wildlife Program Manager