



March 15, 2024

Green Diamond  
Northwest Timberlands Division  
215 North Third  
Shelton, WA 98584

Re: Trout Lake WA: Little Mountain Parcel – planned timber harvest

Dear Managers:

The Trout Lake Community Council (TLCC) is an elected body of citizens serving the community of Trout Lake through which citizens can have a voice in developing solutions to local concerns. We support the Trout Lake Community in securing a sustainable future as envisioned in the Trout Lake Subarea Comprehensive Plan. We play an advisory role to government agencies, interest groups and individuals.

In May of last year we sent a letter requesting a delay in the harvest of the Little Mountain parcel located on the east side of the Trout Lake valley to allow time for Mt Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) to explore funding opportunities for acquisition as community forest. This was in addition to MARS negotiating with Green Diamond representatives to leave more trees on-site to preserve future options for management as community forest. As you well know, the work to explore funding opportunities takes time. MARS was moving forward with arranging for an appraisal of the property when they were informed that Green Diamond was no longer interested in any further discussions on the parcel. The rationale given was that the timber volume was needed to meet Green Diamond's timber harvest commitments as well as it was in the best interests for Twin Creeks investors to generate the greatest amount of value via an open market sale of the parcel.

It has been brought to our attention that Green Diamond is moving forward with the clearcut harvest of this parcel in the coming months. Many in our community are distressed by this news. This parcel has great value due to its close proximity to our community. Clearcut harvest of the parcel will severely limit the social and educational benefits of the parcel as community forest, especially in the near-term.

According to your website, your company claims that your Washington forestlands are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Under SFI, one standard is "Urban and Community Forest Sustainability". Taken from the SFI website the following refers to the standard:

**“Communities rely on forests for jobs and economic development, recreational benefits and human health. These links between people and forests have always been important, but are even more relevant in an increasingly connected and changing world. Our work is focused on nurturing a positive relationship between people who live near and work in forests, and the goals of a sustainable marketplace and healthy forests.”**

Additionally, SFI Performance Measure 8.2 states:

**“*Organization* supports and elevates planning efforts by consulting relevant and interested community *interested parties*.**

**• Indicator 8.2.1: *Organization* seeks input from advisory groups, professional consultants, intra-agency departments, and other community *interested parties* to advise on the establishment, *conservation, protection, and maintenance* of urban and community trees and forests, to ensure inclusivity and collaboration”**

To this point, it appears that adherence to this standard is not your company’s priority in regard to this individual parcel. We, as a community, struggle to understand why this 146 acre parcel could be of such critical economic value to your company (given annual revenue of over \$70 million) that you cannot step back and allow the time for community partners to pursue funding that would enable acquisition of the parcel. Jay McLaughlin, representing MARS, was in conversation with your representative, Jon Cole, about the opportunity to leave more trees on the parcel to not only provide for wildlife habitat but also to ameliorate the visual impacts of the clearcut harvest. That conversation was recently terminated and Jay was informed that harvest will start this spring once the soils dry out.

Our letter of May 2023 requested a delay of harvest for a year. We appreciate that Green Diamond did respect that request and are asking that further delay of harvest activities be granted in order for conservation partners to continue efforts towards valuation and acquisition of funds to be able acquire the parcel at a competitive price. An extended delay in harvest should not substantially affect Green Diamond’s ability to harvest timber as the Forest Practices permit will not expire until September 2025 and could be extended for another 3 years.

In the event that you are not able to accommodate our request, we are requesting that you give full consideration of a Conservation Easement on this parcel. It is included as a possible parcel on the map that was submitted by Columbia Land Trust’s application for Forest Legacy Program funding.

We value sustainable management of timberlands and feel that management as Community Forest is a better long-term designation for this parcel as it is truly located within our rural community and serves many resource and social objectives, not just timber harvest.

Please feel free to contact me at [troutlakecommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:troutlakecommunitycouncil@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DAINA L. BAMBE  
Chair, Trout Lake Community Council

Cc: TLCC members – via email  
TLCC agendas mailing list – via email

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