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Trout Lake Community Council
P.O. Box 31
Trout Lake, WA 98650

Thank you for reaching out about the plans for the area known locally as Little Mountain. As I believe you are aware, Green Diamond Management Company is under contract with the landowner, Twin Creeks Timber, to manage this and other timberland property. The current harvest plan for the area was carefully created to comply with all rules and regulations and to be in accordance with our voluntary compliance with the Forest Management Standards of the Sustainable Forest Initiative. We believe the plan protects public resources, minimizes non-economic community impacts, and strengthens the region's working lands base and forest products economy; all while meeting the objectives of the landowner.

This harvest will be conducted under a permit which has been approved by the state's Department of Natural Resources in compliance with all state laws and regulations. These regulations are among the strictest in the nation and require, as a standard, no impact to public resources. They also require any harvested lands to be replanted within three years, a standard that we typically exceed. The approved permit allows for a post-harvest herbicide treatment used to help establish a new forest on the harvest site. To reiterate, state regulations require zero impact to public resources; this includes no impact to water from herbicide treatment. Protective practices are required and will be in place to assure that no herbicide drift occurs on neighboring lands. This harvest and subsequent regeneration are consistent with our third-party certification as a sustainable forestry operation under the multi-national Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Local Green Diamond team members have engaged in extensive community outreach, including multiple public forums and press calls. They have stood in front of the community on many occasions to explain the harvest plan and to answer questions. These are often uncomfortable experiences and go well beyond their minimum job responsibilities. We stand behind their professionalism and expertise as forest managers. These people are well-educated and professionally trained foresters with years of experience implementing modern, science-based, forest management techniques and we are proud to have them on our team. We understand that not all community members may feel we have listened and reacted to their satisfaction; however, we are confident that plans were not made in a vacuum. Community feedback was given significant consideration and contemplation.

The current harvest was postponed, upon request by the community, so that options for purchasing the area as a community forest, or other use, could be explored. The resulting conversations, including those with local land trusts, failed to create a path with predictable timelines and appropriate valuation. Therefore, we are proceeding with the approved harvest activity. Interested members of the community

are certainly welcome to reach out to us after harvest if there is still an interest in the land for a future community forest.

We respect your concerns and thoughts about Little Mountain. These were heard, considered, and evaluated. We understand that forest management issues are, at their core, local issues. They affect the landowner, the community, and the local economy. It is after weighing these varying considerations that we have concluded it is time to move forward with the harvest plans.

This area has been open for free public access both during the ownership of SDS and Twin Creeks. This is a community amenity that we are happy to provide, but please note that access will be restricted during the harvest operations and reforestation process. This will be a temporary closure to ensure the safety of our operators and any recreationalists who may otherwise be on the property. This is a standard safety measure used throughout the company. The property will be reopened to public access when it is safe to do so.

Most respectfully,

Brian Saylor

Vice President, GM Northwestern Timberlands
Green Diamond Management Company