5/1/2018

**From:** "True, Christie" <Christie.True@kingcounty.gov>
**To:** "Sean Nielsen" <xxxx>
**Cc:** "Dunn, Reagan" <Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov>, "Baldi, Josh" <Josh.Baldi@kingcounty.gov>, "Martin, Richard" <Richard.Martin@kingcounty.gov>
**Subject:** **FW: Save De Leo Wall - Cougar Mtn - Against Logging Application #2420111 KC:0029000962**

Dear Mr. Nielsen:

On behalf of King County Executive Constantine, I want to thank you for your recent email regarding the Dalpay forest practices application for the De Leo property adjacent to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.

As you may know, King County has worked hard for decades to preserve open spaces surrounding Cougar Mountain. Thousands of acres of open space are protected at Cougar Mountain and Talus Open Space, but many other areas continue to be subject to development pressure and/or forest management activities.

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) believes well-managed commercial timberlands can provide important buffer to parks and natural area preserves. Further, parcels enrolled in Designated Forestland, as is the Dalpay application, are required to be managed for commercial timber production. However, due to the concerns of you and others, I asked DNRP staff to review the Forest Practices application submitted for the De Leo property.

Our internal review raised concerns about steep slope and erosion hazards associated with the proposed harvest. Such concerns are particularly sensitive in the May Creek drainage given potential impacts to salmon and steelhead, sustaining agricultural uses and potential damage to instream habitat features installed in both Long Marsh Creek and May Creek as part of the County’s sediment removal investments.

Given these potential sedimentation concerns and the proximity of the proposal to a County park, King County is formally requesting the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to consider the Dalpay application for the De Leo parcel a Class IV-Special forest practice rather than a Class III.  If DNR grants this request, additional environmental analysis and possible mitigation will be required as part of the process.

Thank you again for your attention to conservation of open space in King County. We share your interest and are working hard to preserve lands with high conservation value including farmlands, forest lands, natural areas, and trails.

If you have further questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Martin, Environmental Programs Managing Supervisor, at (206) 477-3876 or Richard.Martin@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Christie True

Director

Department of Natural Resources & Parks