

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: engert23@gmail.com
Cc: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Oliver Oriako](#); [Jenna Kay](#)
Subject: RE: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments
Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 9:18:32 AM

Good day, Tonya,

Thank you for your comments regarding the EIS and 2025 Comprehensive Plan. I have forwarded to staff, and will add them to the Index of Record.

Regards,
Jeff Delapena

From: Clark County <webteam@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 9:13 AM
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments

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Submitted on Mon, 08/05/2024 - 9:13 AM

First Name

Tonya

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Message Subject

Stop auction of Legacy Forests

Comments

Thank you for your work in creating an environmental action plan.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that Clark County's legacy forests - (that is: naturally regenerated complex forests approaching old growth age) are still being auctioned away for clearcutting by the DNR. If the council was not already aware that this is happening - let me suggest why this is so egregious, and to demand a moratorium on all legacy forest auctions before this plan is finalized.

It is true that timber is a valuable resource for Clark County - but what is actually happening with our resources is mismanagement at best and an environmental catastrophe at its worst. The worst part? The average county constituent is not even aware of what is happening to their legacy forests, which is a part of our heritage lands in this county. Let me point out to you that DNR is not even compliant with their obligation to leave 10% minimum of structurally complex mature forests per planning unit - Currently, the planning unit which contains clark county is at an abysmal 1% of such forests are protected.

The Washington Legacy Forest Defense Council reports that timber sales planned over the next 18 months would clearcut 7,000 acres of legacy forests. In Clark County alone, what little is left of our older forests is being allowed to be sold and clearcut - even when DNR has enough timber plantation acreage in their current inventory to make up for the protection of these legacy forests. It is a fact that we have enough timber to supply our mills for the short term 10-year plan. County council would be complicit in the theft of our natural heritage, and egregious mismanagement of our future old growth forests, and responsible for the undermining of any plan to protect clark county from climate vulnerabilities.

Wildfires are raging across the West Coast. It is well known that second growth forests full of dry woody debris make wildfires burn hotter and spread faster. It is also established that mature, old growth forests are the most fire resilient. The Guardian recently reported that wildfires also threaten ground water supply. If our legacy forests are among the most fire resilient in our county - why are we razing them to the ground? We need to be establishing MORE mature forest land, in order to be secure against future climate catastrophes and bolster our county's security..

The "Dabbler" sale unit in the Siouxon area, is going to be auctioned in October - this is a mature, legacy forest stand of 156 acres, which has never been clearcut, and of which is habitat for the threatened spotted owl. The USFS just finalized a plan to kill 1/2 a million barred owls because they are threatening the vulnerable spotted owl who is being outcompeted. The biggest reason the spotted owl, and other wildlife is so vulnerable is because of habitat loss - My question to the council is - why do we continue clearcutting important habitat and then turn around and need to come up with expensive solutions? Why is clark county complicit in the loss of our national and regional biodiversity?

It is my opinion that the whole point of this environmental action plan is already undermined, unless the council wakes up to the fact that the DNR is selling our assets and stealing from our

future.

If the math and fiscal responsibility doesn't add up for you, then consider the legacy that is being left for the heirs of Clark County. What are the future residents of this county going to say when they learn the facts about how we did not act in their best interest by refusing the wanton sale of our most valuable legacy forests. Consider where the money is going from the sales of our oldest forests - is the money being sent to Olympia and Seattle? Is it worth the loss of our most valuable heritage lands?

Once they are clearcut, we can never get them back. Please tell DNR to stop the auction of our legacy forests, to hold their obligation for habitat protection in our planning unit, and to use the timber plantations that are already inventory.

Thank you.

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