

**From:** [Jeffrey Delapena](#)  
**To:** [engert23@gmail.com](mailto:engert23@gmail.com); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [Jenna Kay](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Oliver Orijako](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 1:42:18 PM

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Good day, Tonya,

Thank you for your comments regarding Climate Change. I have forwarded to staff, and will add these to the Index of Record.

Regards,  
Jeff Delapena

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**From:** Clark County <[webteam@clark.wa.gov](mailto:webteam@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 12:35 PM  
**To:** Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <[comp.plan@clark.wa.gov](mailto:comp.plan@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comprehensive Plan Update Comments

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Submitted on Wed, 08/07/2024 - 12:35 PM

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Tonya

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**Message Subject**

Legacy forests are climate defense

**Comments**

Clark county is not going to be exempt from the threat of climate change. There is already a history of wildfires here in the county, the most famous one being the Yacont Burn of 1902. Wildfires are getting more and more dangerous and burning all over the state and the West Coast. Climate change is only going to exacerbate the threat of wildfires in Clark County, which become even more likely with a prevalence of second-growth forests.

It is scientifically accepted that old growth and mature forests are the most resilient to wildfire. They protect our groundwater, our biodiversity, and are a huge part of our cultural heritage as a part of Washington's gateway to the Cascades and our First Nation people's sacred lands.

Mature forests in Clark County are already few and far between - having been increasingly sold and clearcut right under our noses. Our children and grandchildren are losing their chance at seeing healthy old growth forests in their home county in their lifetime. Tribal members are losing places of cultural significance. We are selling our cultural legacy to pay for Olympic building renovations or Seattle politicians agendas.

The 156 acres of the Dabbler sale is one such forest that has never been clearcut, and holds trees from 80- just over 100 years old. It is home to endangered species such as the spotted owl, it is a significant store of carbon, nitrogen, and biodiversity, and it is an ecosystem that is irreplaceable once gone. Northwest old growth forests store the most carbon and biomass out of any biome on the planet. Forest plot "Dabbler" and all the other legacy forests in Clark County are our first line of defense of climate change..

My question is: Why is the county council allowing our number one asset and defense against climate change to be destroyed before they ever consider or finalize a climate change action plan?

If the county is serious about climate change - they should immediately put a moratorium on all Legacy and mature forests in the county immediately.

If they do not, this comprehensive plan will be a farce, and our future generations will look back on this day with regret.