



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands



February 26, 2008

Dear Whatcom County Council,

For more than two decades, the Lake Whatcom greater community has debated the long-term vision for forestlands in the watershed, including those owned by the state trusts.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (Department) and Whatcom County have been seeking a solution that will benefit the local community as well as the trust beneficiaries, and we think we have found one. The proposal includes a reconfiguration of state-owned trust lands within the watershed to group together lands to be re-conveyed out of state ownership and to the county for park land. Remaining state trust lands also would be grouped together for long-term management by the Department.

We appreciate the collaborative approach taken in this process, and applaud our staffs that have put together the details of this proposal, captured in the attached Draft Memorandum of Agreement that charts the steps and criteria necessary to carry out the complex transactions.

We also appreciate your attention regarding this proposal. We recognize that over the next two months this concept will be presented and reviewed in a public process in Whatcom County, to gather ideas and concerns. We look forward to the conclusion of that process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doug Sutherland,
Commissioner of Public Lands

Pete Kremen,
Whatcom County Executive