Dear Mr. Wisch,

I am writing to urge you to cancel the Beehive timber sale.  This sale would needlessly clearcut some of the best spotted owl habitat in the Cascade Mountain Range.  Parts of this sale contain legacy trees that are over four feet in diameter and close to 200 feet tall.  There very little forested habitat left like this outside of the National Parks.

We are in the midst of a global warming crisis.  Now is not the time to be logging century-old trees, or replacing fire resistant older forests with young, fire-prone tree plantations that are susceptible to future climate disturbance. President Biden’s Earth Day Executive Order rightly recognized the critical role mature and old growth forests play as a climate solution, and the urgent need to confront the threats forests face. If continued, logging of these trees is allowed, the very values that let them play a vital role will be eliminated. Losing more of our mature & old-growth trees and forests to logging will only make the climate crisis worse:  Scientific research indicates that logging of federal forests is a major source of carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere that is at least comparable to, and probably greater than, levels associated with wildfires.

The logging of mature legacy forests on DNR managed lands also violates Board of Natural Resources policies intended to preserve older forests, which dictate that structurally complex forests may be considered for harvest only after older forest have been met.  These forests play a critical role in preserving genetic diversity and biological legacies of the old growth forests that once dominated the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for listening.

Laurie Kerr

Battle Ground, Washington