



**Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
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Hillary Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands
MS 47001
Olympia, WA 98504-7001
360-902-1000

Nov. 20, 2020

Subject: DNR Management of Forest Resources in Sauk-Suiattle's Ceded Area

Dear Hillary Franz:

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe is formally requesting that the Department of Natural Resources postpone the Middle May timber sale for three months to allow the Sauk-Suiattle time for meaningful consultation in two areas:

- With Snohomish County about the potential reconveyance of the Wild Wallace area as a county park;
- With the DNR regarding the finding of non-significance in the Middle May area. When Sauk-Suiattle visited with DNR in early October, we identified significant cultural resources including a vast number and variety of culturally modified tribes.

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe has reached the conclusion that it is necessary to conduct consultation with DNR on some other topics also. These include:

- The failure to conduct an Environmental Impact Study before issuing a permit for the Cascade Big Bear Mine, which is in the ceded area of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe. This was also because of a determination of non-significance.
- The proposed transaction selling at the Bow Hill acreage at a low price to the Upper Skagit Tribe, and failure to give Sauk-Suiattle adequate notice concerning this culturally important site that we have specific oral history to.
- The lack of consistency of communication to the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe resulting in DNR giving late notice or no notice to the Tribe on important actions; specifically, the failure of the DNR to update all the outreach lists across the agency even though the list was updated in the DNR's office of tribal affairs.
- Communications by DNR regional staff to the Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Council questioning the actions of the Tribe's governing body, which seem to violate the spirit of the state law concerning the government to government relationship of the Tribe and the State of Washington.

- Access issues as a result of DNR placing roots and other immovable barriers at the entry point to berry fields and other culturally important resources to the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe in its treaty-ceded lands.

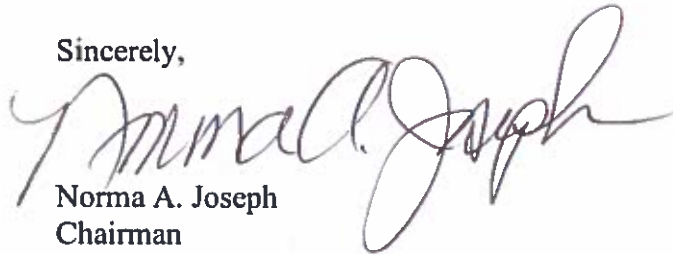
We realize the timing of this consultation request is not ideal for DNR because your manager of tribal relations has left the agency. But the timing is critical to Sauk-Suiattle because the actions associated with DNR's decisions, listed above, cannot be easily changed once they are undertaken.

We have sent a copy of this letter to Craig Bill in the Governor's Office with the hope that he can help to facilitate this consultation in the current absence of a tribal relations manager in DNR.

This is a formal request for consultation, meaning that we anticipate a timely government to government meeting to occur. In this pandemic, we realize this meeting may need to occur via an online service. We anticipate that this meeting will occur before further decisions or other actions occur.

Please feel free to reach out to the Tribe's Government Relations Director Kara Briggs by mobile phone at 360-722-4773 or by email kbriggs@sauk-suiattle.com to schedule this consultation.

Sincerely,



Norma A. Joseph
Chairman
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe

cc. Craig Bill, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs; Dave Sommer, Snohomish County Executive; Brock Milliern, Department of Natural Resources; Kevin Joseph, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe