



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

July 30, 2002

Motion 11487

Proposed No. 2002-0332.2

Sponsors Phillips, McKenna and Hague

1 A MOTION acknowledging that the Evergreen Forest
2 Trust's acquisition, management and use of certain
3 forestland located within King County will help lessen the
4 burdens of King County government.

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7 WHEREAS, the Evergreen Forest Trust, a Washington nonprofit corporation
8 organized under chapter 24.03 RCW ("Evergreen"), has entered into an agreement to
9 purchase approximately ninety-nine thousand four hundred fifteen acres of a large tract of
10 forestland, known as the Snoqualmie forest, and the timber on another approximately five
11 thousand acres of adjacent forestland (collectively, the "Snoqualmie forest"), and

12 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie forest is located within King County ("county"), and

13 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie forest has been managed as a working forest for
14 nearly one hundred years, and

15 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie forest is a substantial portion of a larger, contiguous
16 piece of undeveloped forestland, which principally includes the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie

17 forest and its Alpine Lakes wilderness area on the east, the state-owned Mt. Si natural
18 resource conservation area on the south and the Markworth state forest on the west, and

19 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie forest surrounds the city of Seattle Tolt watershed,
20 which provides drinking water for the residents of the city of Seattle; and

21 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie forest is located within the ranges of the northern
22 spotted owl and marbled murrelet, and contains habitat for numerous salmon species and
23 other wildlife species afforded protection under state law and the Endangered Species
24 Act, and

25 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie forest contains extensive shoreline environments,
26 including over eight thousand acres of riparian habitat and over one thousand one
27 hundred acres of wetlands and lakes, and including major rivers such as the north fork of
28 the Snoqualmie and Tolt rivers, and

29 WHEREAS, portions of the Snoqualmie forest are visible from Interstate 90,
30 Highways 202 and 203 and downtown Seattle and Bellevue, and

31 WHEREAS, the Evergreen Forest Trust will subject the Snoqualmie forest to one
32 or more permanent conservation easements that will maintain the forestland forever in its
33 present primarily undeveloped condition, to facilitate the continued use of the property as
34 a working forest managed at a sustainable level of harvest, to either conserve or enhance,
35 or both, fish and wildlife habitats, shoreline protection, open space, water quality and
36 public recreational and education opportunities of the forestland for present and future
37 generations and to prevent any use of the forestland that will significantly impair or
38 interfere with its conservation values, and

39 WHEREAS, Evergreen's purchase and management of the Snoqualmie forest are
40 designed to ensure that there will always be large tracts of forestland or green-belt in the
41 Puget Sound basin and to prevent environmentally unsound uses of the land, and

42 WHEREAS, the county has a vital interest in the future of the Snoqualmie forest
43 given this working forestland's critical location as an urban buffer, and

44 WHEREAS, Evergreen's proposed use and management of the Snoqualmie forest
45 are consistent with and in furtherance of the county's Comprehensive Plan, and

46 WHEREAS, Evergreen's proposed timber harvest plan will foster local
47 community stability, alleviate the need for costly forest worker and business retraining
48 programs and provide tax revenues and jobs to local forest-dependent communities that
49 have been negatively impacted by reductions in the federal timber supply, and

50 WHEREAS, Evergreen's proposed forest management practices will maintain
51 and restore habitat for threatened and endangered species, and

52 WHEREAS, the county council's burden of being responsive to disparate groups
53 interested in the management and use of the Snoqualmie forest will be lessened by the
54 fact that Evergreen's board of directors includes environmental, industry and community
55 leaders, thus creating a forum for collaborative decision-making representing diverse
56 interests, and

57 WHEREAS, two county council members currently serve on Evergreen's board
58 of directors, thereby helping to ensure that Evergreen continues to be operated in a
59 manner consistent with the county's priorities, and

60 WHEREAS, if Evergreen does not purchase and manage the Snoqualmie forest,
61 the county would need to incur approximately one hundred eighty-five million dollars of

62 its own indebtedness and acquire and manage the forest itself to achieve the purposes of
63 this acquisition and accrue to the county the land use, environmental, economic
64 recreational and educational benefits that it desires, which would be extremely difficult in
65 these economic times, and would overextend the financial capacity of the county, and

66 WHEREAS, the council adopted Motion 11381, introduced February 11, 2002,
67 which urged the United States Congress to enact the Community Forestry and
68 Agriculture Conservation Act of 2001 to make it easier for communities to issue tax-
69 exempt revenue bonds on behalf of private nonprofit corporations to purchase tracts of
70 forest land, such as the Snoqualmie forest, for continuation of sustainable timber
71 harvesting and protection from development;

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

73 The King County council hereby acknowledges that:

- 74 1. The Evergreen Forest Trust is acting in full cooperation with the county and in
75 furtherance of the county's land use and financial objectives by taking on the Snoqualmie
76 forest project;
- 77 2. The limited, sustainable harvesting of timber on the Snoqualmie forest is
78 necessary to achieve the public benefit objectives of the county; and

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79 3. The Evergreen Forest Trust's acquisition, management and use of the
80 Snoqualmie forest will help lessen the burdens and support the overall mission of King
81 County government.

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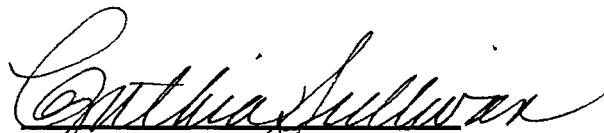
Motion 11487 was introduced on 7/22/2002 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/29/2002, by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague and Ms. Patterson

No: 0

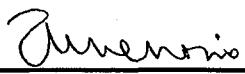
Excused: 2 - Mr. McKenna and Mr. Irons

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Cynthia Sullivan

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None