



Puget Sound Partnership
Attn: Action Agenda
326 E. D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

February 2, 2012

Dear Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Team and Management,

Forterra applauds the work of the Puget Sound Partnership for its commitment to restore Puget Sound. Restoring the health of Puget Sound is critical to the long term viability of our region. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to working with the Partnership to implement the Action Agenda. I am writing today with regards to a specific project opportunity, and its relevance to achieving the goals of the Action Agenda.

Thank you for recognizing the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project as a regional near-term priority. We have an extraordinary opportunity to preserve 7,000 acres of forested uplands, nearshore, and tidelands surrounding Port Gamble Bay in North Kitsap County. The conservation of this area will greatly contribute to achieving multiple Puget Sound clean up targets and spans two Action Areas. Please maintain the following priorities in the Action Agenda as currently written:

*A2.1 NTA 5: Forterra, working on behalf of Kitsap County, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Suquamish Tribe, will coordinate funding and agency participation to secure the conservation of ~7,000 acres of land near Port Gamble, including ~2 miles of shoreline, within the next 30 months.
Performance measure: acres and miles of shoreline protected.*

*A2.1 NTA 6: PSP, working with Forterra, Kitsap County, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Suquamish Tribe will convene the State agencies, federal agencies and federal delegation to seek their engagement in leveraging available resources – from funding to programmatic involvement, as possible – to conserve and restore the ~7,000 property near Port Gamble.
Performance measure: acres and miles of shoreline protected.*

The Local Implementing Organizations and local leads for both the Hood Canal Action Area and North Central Puget Sound Action Area have listed the features represented by the Port Gamble project as a high priority in their draft submissions for the Action Agenda Update. The North Central/West Sound Action Area, specifically lists the project as a top priority:

Support Kitsap Forest and Bay Project - a shoreline and forest conservation project spanning from near the Carpenter Creek Estuary and including 7,000 acres of forest and 1.5 miles of shoreline on Port Gamble Bay. This spans two action areas.

Port Gamble Bay is part of an interconnected ecological system that supports species in Hood Canal, Admiralty Inlet, and Central Puget Sound. The preservation of these lands are applicable to Sound-wide strategies A-Protect and Restore Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems and B-Protect and Restore Marine and Marine Nearshore Ecosystems. Specifically, this project directly addresses 19 of the 21 Ecosystem Recovery Targets, including:

- Shellfish beds: The bay is currently open to harvestable shellfish beds which are critical to the livelihood of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

- Wild Chinook salmon: Estuarine habitat in the bay provides a place for juvenile Chinook salmon and other threatened species to forage and seek refuge before migrating to deeper waters.
- Pacific herring: Home to the second-largest stock of herring spawning grounds in Washington State.
- Shoreline armoring: As one of the five identified sound-wide pressures, this project presents an opportunity to prevent shoreline armoring on nearly two miles of natural shoreline. The bay is one of the largest and least developed sub-estuary areas in the northwest part of Hood Canal
- Land cover/land development: Another sound-wide pressure, land conversion is rapidly changing the landscape in Puget Sound. Preservation of 7,000 acres of undeveloped forest lands and nearshore is a rare opportunity.

Thank you for your attention to the conservation of Port Gamble. Please let us know how we can assist you in achieving the goals of the updated Action Agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michelle Connor
Executive Vice President / Chief Program Officer
Forterra