



KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Accessible, efficient, effective, and responsive county services

May 5, 2025

Christine Rolfes
DISTRICT 1

Oran Root
DISTRICT 2

Katherine T. Walters
DISTRICT 3

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Attn: Duane Emmons

Assistant Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

Dear Mr. Emmons,

The Kitsap Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is interested in DNR's opportunity to protect structurally complex and carbon dense forest land with funding allocated through the Natural Climate Solutions Program (NCS) in the 2025 legislative session.

With this letter, the BOCC respectfully nominates the following parcels—listed in order of priority—for protection using NCS funds:

Gold Creek Parcel: This 53-acre site lies directly above the Tin Mine Trail in the southern portion of Green Mountain State Forest and encompasses most of Unit 1 of the proposed Firvana timber sale. The parcel contains nearly century-old trees, significant old-growth legacy snags, and a local population of at-risk bird species. Preserving this forest would enhance recreational opportunities in the area and safeguard water quality in the Gold Creek Beaver Ponds.

Beaver Ponds Trail Parcel: Building on our 2024 nomination of Breaking Bud Unit 1, this proposal seeks protection for an additional 102 acres of structurally complex forest currently encumbered due to the presence of critically imperiled plant communities. The parcel includes a popular segment of the Beaver Ponds Trail and would contribute to a larger, contiguous block of protected land on the north side of Green Mountain.

While we are nominating both parcels for protection, we request that—should funding be limited—the Gold Creek parcel be given top priority for 2025 NCS funding to prevent its potential harvest.

Kitsap County values the ecological, recreational, and climate benefits of structurally complex forests and welcomes continued collaboration with DNR to pursue creative conservation solutions for these, and other priority conservation areas in Green Mountain State Forest. In

that spirit, we also reiterate our request that DNR pause the Trees Louise and Blinky timber sales while these important discussions are underway.

The Board appreciates your consideration of this nomination and welcomes additional conversations with you and your team regarding trust lands management within Kitsap County.

With gratitude,



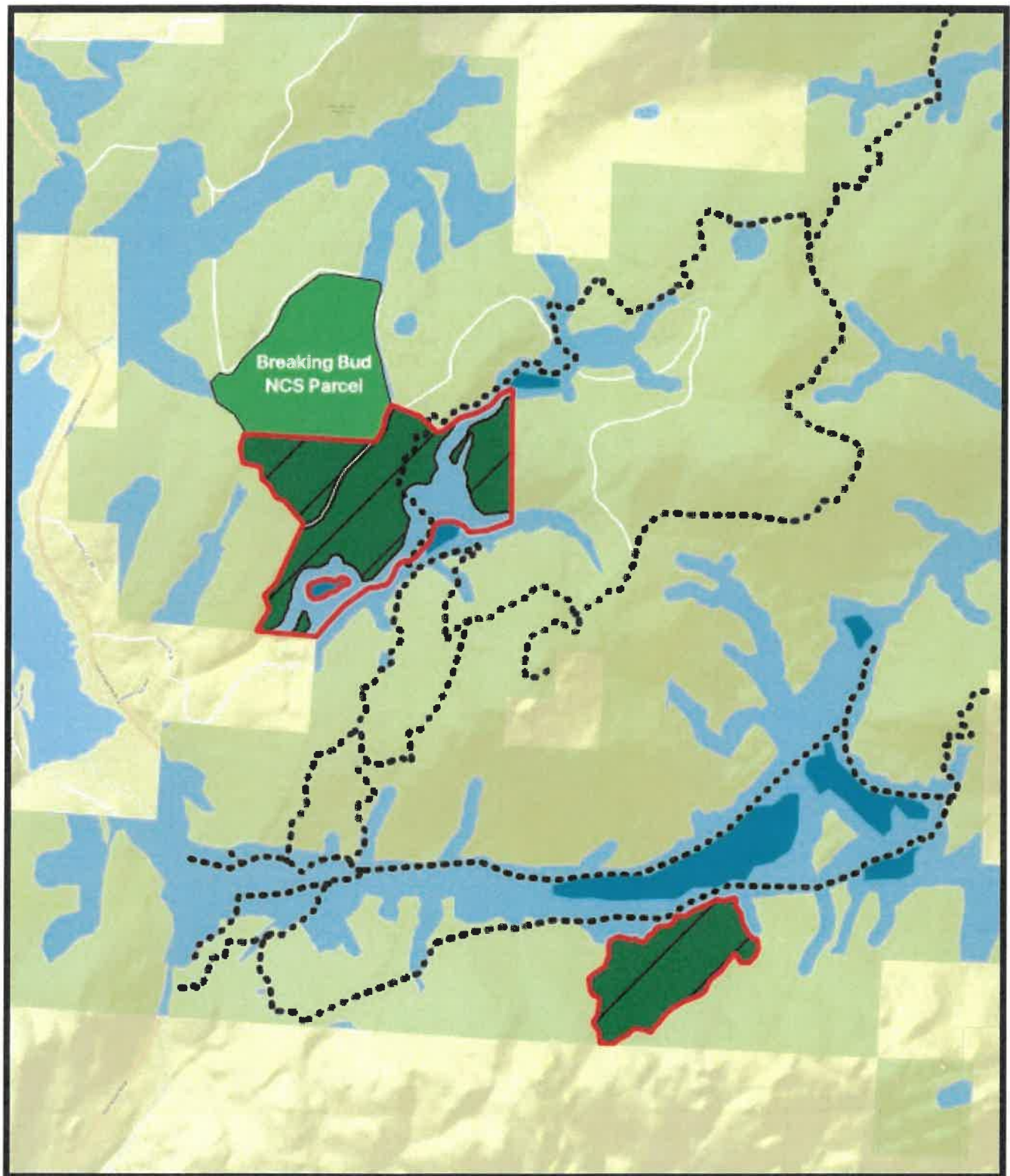
Christine Rolfes, Chair



Oran Root



Katherine T. Walters



2025 Kitsap NCS Nomination Overview Map

- 2025 NCS Nominations (200.8 Acres)
- Mature Forests (155.2 Acres)
- Riparian Management Zones
- Hiking Trails
- 2024 NCS Nomination (85.6 Acres)