



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 407
Everett, WA 98201-4046
www.snoco.org

Dave Somers
County Executive

October 20, 2020

Dear Neighbor:

On September 29, I proposed creating a new Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to consolidate multiple county functions, offices and departments into one organization to achieve more of our environmental sustainability goals. Some of the greatest assets we have in the Pacific Northwest are our unparalleled beauty and abundant natural resources. From the Salish Sea and two major river valleys, to forestland, farms, ranches, and parks, our quality of life, economic prosperity, and future sustainability are dependent on protecting and improving our environmental resources.

Snohomish County's efforts to manage, protect and enhance natural resources currently take place in multiple departments, with varied levels of cross-department collaboration. This includes important county programs related to parks, salmon and Puget Sound recovery, agriculture, food systems, sustainability and climate action, recreation, water quality and flood protection, to name a few. By consolidating our current Parks, Recreation, and Tourism department with Surface Water Management, Energy and Sustainability, and Agriculture offices, we will take a holistic view of the work and enhance alignment.

This new department of Natural Resources and Conservation will work in support of sustainable and livable communities and a clean and healthy environment. Teaming the staff that work in these separate programs into one department will help leverage cross-departmental expertise, improve efficiencies, and ensure that county programs and policies are in optimal alignment with each other. At this time, when our community is focused on public health, equity, and economic growth, the new Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will allow Snohomish County to better focus on these high-priority public goals and ultimately better serve the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Somers", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive