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The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.

Jamie Kingsbury, Forest Supervisor  
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest  
2930 Wetmore Ave, Suite 3A  
Everett, WA 98201

November 15, 2019

Dear Ms. Kingsbury,

The Tulalip Tribes of Washington is a federally recognized sovereign Indian government, successor in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. As such, we have reserved treaty rights throughout the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS).

In May 2017, Tulalip participated in a week-long workshop on the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) in Shelton, WA at the invitation of the Forest Service and the Inter-Tribal Timber Council. Following the workshop, Tulalip requested discussions to work to develop a pilot project under the TFPA on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Over the past two years, Tulalip and MBS staff have met multiple times on this effort, with both parties committed to moving forward with a pilot project on the MBS. It is within this history and context that Tulalip is writing to you now to request moving forward with the pilot, as outlined below.

In order to protect and maintain access to the natural resources and habitat on which our community and treaty rights depend, we wish to propose the following restoration activities on the MBS under the authorities of the TFPA:

- **Instream and riparian habitat restoration through expanded beaver relocation** into the South Fork Stillaguamish Watershed (*Darrington Ranger District*).
  - Stream health is vital to salmon habitat and salmon populations, which are a dietary staple for our people and a critical treaty resource for the continuation of our culture. This effort uses the ecosystem engineering capability of beavers to protect processes and function in instream and riparian habitat. Attached is a project description and area map (Exhibit A). Beaver would be relocated to an approximately 30 square mile area in the watershed, over a three year period. This project would directly support habitat for ESA-listed anadromous species, including Chinook salmon, winter and summer-run steelhead, and bull trout.

- **Improvement of treaty rights access through road maintenance and improvement** activities across the MBS, but primarily focused on a portion of the [REDACTED] watershed
  - One area where we wish to improve access is in the [REDACTED] watershed, including the [REDACTED] co-stewardship area that constitutes a portion of the area on the MBS where our members exercise treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather (Exhibit B). Due to declining conditions of certain Forest Service roads, it can be difficult to access hunting areas, or to reach places of cultural importance for gathering, especially for our elders. As our teachers, it is crucial that they be able to participate with our people.

Estimated Budget

Project	Estimated Completed Cost
Beaver Relocation	\$37,800
Treaty Access Improvements	\$78,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$115,800</b>

As described above, the proposed restoration activities will occur on Forest Service lands and roads. Proposed projects address treaty resources and access to them, both threatened by current conditions on the MBS. Tribal communities "downstream", such as Tulalip, are being impacted by these conditions, which we hope to see improved through the projects proposed.

Please coordinate this work with Libby Nelson, our Tulalip - Forest Service MOA Administrator (360) 716-4639. We look forward to your response over the 120 day TFPA review period.

Sincerely,



Teri Gobin  
Chairwoman, Tulalip Tribes

CC:

Joe Neal, Skykomish District Ranger  
Gretchen Smith, Darrington District Ranger  
Dave Kendrick, MBS Forest Vegetation Program Manager  
Glenn Casamassa, Region 6 Forester  
Waldo Walker, Regional Tribal Relations Advisor  
Ray Fryberg, Tulalip Natural and Cultural Resource Director  
Jason Gobin, Tulalip Fisheries and Wildlife Director  
Nick Johnson, Tulalip Forestry Manager  
Mike Sevigny, Tulalip Wildlife Manager  
Ryan Miller, Tulalip Treaty Rights Office Manager  
Libby Nelson, Treaty Rights Senior Policy Analyst  
Andrew Gobin, Environmental Scientist  
Tim Brewer, Legal



#### Exhibit A – Beaver Relocation, South Fork Stillaguamish Watershed

- The Tulalip Beaver Project is a restoration project that uses the ecosystem engineering capability of beavers to protect processes and function in instream and riparian habitat, vital to ESA listed salmon species. This project has operated since 2014 in the Snohomish Watershed, primarily in part to an MOA with the United States Forest Service, who own the land where the beavers are being placed. As this project has garnered support among project partners, interest has been expressed to expand the project into the Darrington Ranger District. Using our Beaver Intrinsic Potential (BIP) model, we have identified key areas in the South Fork Stillaguamish basin that could benefit from the assisted recolonization of beavers. Nuisance beavers will be sourced from the lowlands where damming activity has come into conflict with human values. These beavers will then be relocated for maintaining and enhancing headwater stream functions that support salmon spawning and rearing.
- **Budget:** Through this TFPA proposal, Tulalip is requesting funding to support a three-year beaver relocation project in the South Fork Stillaguamish River watershed. Approximately five to ten relocations/year are anticipated.

Component:	Annual Cost	Total 3-year Project Cost:
Salary for two seasonal biological technicians	\$5,300 per tech, per season x 2 = \$10,600	\$31,800
Supplies	\$2,000	\$6,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$12,600</b>	<b>\$37,800</b>

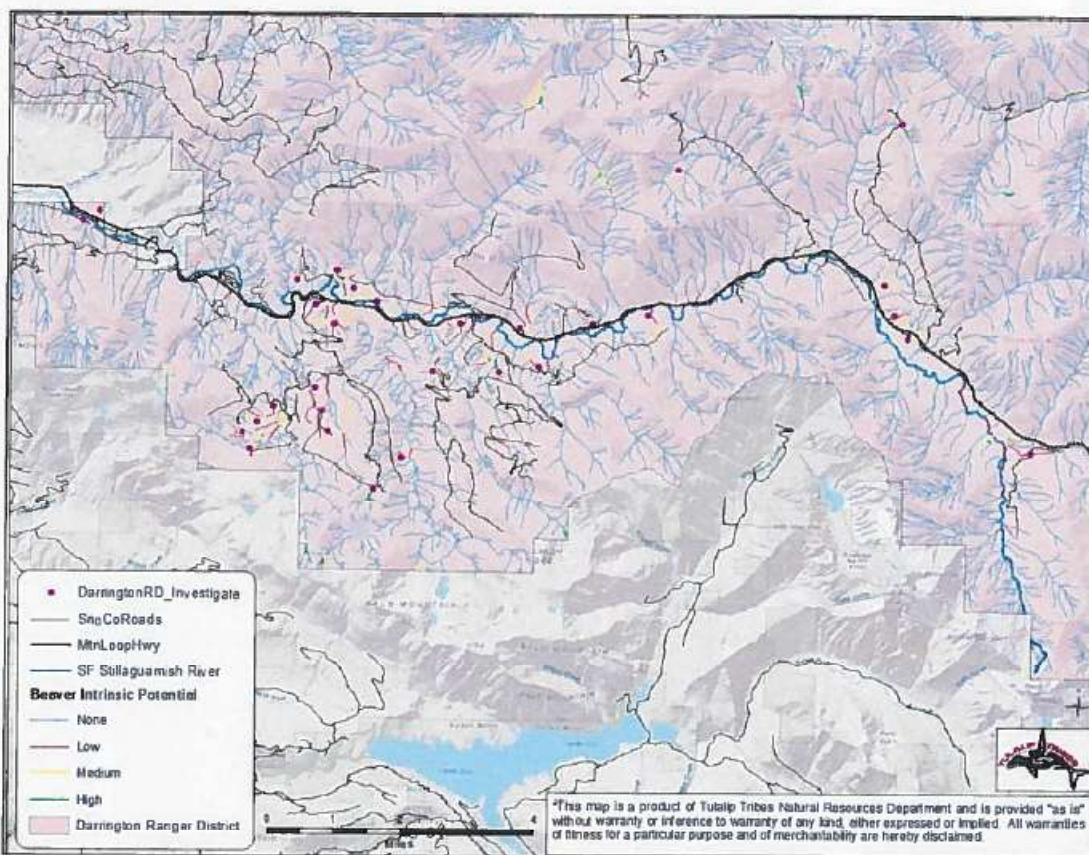


Figure 1: Sites identified by the BIP model will be further ranked for beaver presence and suitability in the first phase of project expansion. The projected work area encompasses ~29.5 square miles of the South Fork Stillaguamish basin.

#### Exhibit B – Forest Treaty Access and Roads Management

- We wish to improve access to treaty areas such as the [REDACTED] watershed, including the [REDACTED] area, which represents one area in the MBS where our members exercise rights to hunt, fish, and gather. Due to declining conditions of certain Forest Service roads, it can be difficult to access hunting areas, or to reach places of cultural importance, including for treaty gathering.
- The [REDACTED] Watershed area provides a range of opportunities for our people to exercise treaty rights and engage with our traditions. There has been a resurgence of interest and use of traditional medicines and plant foods in our community, while areas where our people can access these resources continue to be diminished. Similarly, wildlife continues to provide food and material for our people, though places where we may hunt or gather these resources can be very limited. Significant elevation changes throughout this watershed support biodiversity in a concentrated area, and improved access would allow us to take advantage of this diversity for our membership.
- **Budget:** We propose a total of 30 road miles of collective access maintenance and/or other needed road improvements over the next three (3) years.

Component	Estimated Cost	Total
Road grading, brushing, repair and other needed improvements	\$78,000 (based on 30 x \$2600/road mile average)	\$78,000
<b>Project Total</b>		<b>\$78,000</b>