



June 20, 2006

Larry Hanson

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Thank you for your letter regarding Tiger Mountain and the need for more law enforcement. I also thank you for all the work you have done over the last 30 years with Tiger Mountain and for your continued support of the Department of Natural Resources' efforts in this area.

As your letter stated, Tiger Mountain State Forest, as well as many other popular recreational areas around the state, is severely under funded in regards to recreation and law enforcement. Through your efforts and many other dedicated individuals, Tiger Mountain has become a model as a "Working Forest in an Urban Environment." When I was elected Public Lands Commissioner, I recognized the need for a stable funding source for recreation and natural areas. I proposed the Legacy Trust to the Legislature in an attempt to establish a funding source. This trust would have increased funding for both recreation and natural areas. Unfortunately, it did not pass.

In the absence of other funding, our recreation program is currently very dependent on grants, which almost everyone recognizes is not a long-term solution to the public's recreation needs on state trust lands. As a result, we have decided to go back to the Legislature this year with a proposal that will enhance funding for law enforcement, trail and trailhead maintenance and improved signage, not only for Tiger Mountain, but across the state.

This year, I am optimistic that we will have a chance for this type of funding. However, we will need public support for funding during the up-coming Legislative session if we are to improve areas like Tiger Mountain State Forest.

Thank you for your letter and your concern. If you have further questions, please call my office at (360) 902-1000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sutherland".

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

C: Bruce Mackey, Lands Steward
Bonnie Bunning, Executive Director of Policy and Administration