

Show Your Support - Please Do Not Miss This Meeting !!!
Public Meeting Regarding Logging Planned Within Bridle Trails State Park
Wednesday June 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Ben Franklin Elementary

Have you seen all the blue dots and numbers on the trees near the power line? Well, those trees were marked for cutting by Seattle City Light. Over 770 trees were initially marked which would in effect have provided a major clear cut on each side of the power line up to as much as 100-200 feet on each side.

Luckily not that many trees will be cut because the State and Seattle City Light have reached a vegetation maintenance agreement that prohibits clear cutting. However, the agreement will still allow any trees within the easement that look diseased to be cut down.

Once the potentially diseased tree is cut down, if it shows signs of disease, then all trees within a 15 foot radius of that tree will be cut down as well to "stem the disease". If any trees cut down within the 15 feet show disease then a 15 foot radius around that tree will be cut and so it goes on until the boundary of the very wide easement is reached.

When you realize that the natural process of a forest is that trees carry some degree of decay – that is the cycle of life after all, it could easily mean that many hundreds of trees will still be cut down. Of course, that also means that a lot of trees that are not diseased will be cut down to find out if they are diseased. In addition, the cutting of those trees will bring other trees down since they are going to be felling them INTO the woods.

All this is deemed necessary because of a Federal ruling that power companies will be fined for outages that are considered preventable. However that does not include damage caused by large storms. Based on our information, there have been 6 outages in 8 years on that stretch of the line and **all but one was during large storms**. Also, none of the private properties on either side of the park are being held to such a devastating standard. In addition, informal discussions with personnel from other power companies have resulted in comments that other companies are not performing this type of drastic maintenance on their lines of this caliber and the person talked to felt the Seattle City Light plan was excessive.

Since 1945 Lake Washington Saddle Club has been a faithful steward and friend of the Park. It is time for us to be that steward again.

On Wednesday June 4th, from 6:30 – 8:30pm at Ben Franklin elementary, a public information meeting will be held with representatives from Seattle City Light and Washington State Parks. They will be explaining what is going to happen. We would encourage you to attend. This is our chance to convey how we feel about this.