

1 EXPEDITE
2 No Hearing Set
3 Hearing is set
4 Date:
5 Time:
6 Judge:
7
8 Calendar:

6 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**
7 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON**

8
9 SAVE THE DAVIS-MEEKER GARRY OAK,

10 Plaintiff,

11 vs.

12 DEBBIE SULLIVAN, in her capacity of Mayor of
13 Tumwater

14 Respondent.

Case No. 24-2-01895-34

RE-FILED

DECLARATION OF
BILL IYALL

15 I, BILL IYALL, make the following declaration:

16 1. I have knowledge of the facts stated herein and am competent to testify.

17 2. I served as chairman of the Cowlitz Tribe from 2008 to 2020. I grew up in Olympia
18 and worked for the Highway Department. I am a professional engineer.

19 3. The Meeker oak is a fixture in our community. The basis of those trees derives
20 from an ancient practice of regular burning of the prairies that limited the growth of the fir and
21 allowed the survival of the oak. The original Cowlitz Prairie extended from Vancouver to Puget
22 Sound. When the settlers first came, they were blown away by the verdant prairies. The green
23 expanse and the oaks were remarkable.


24 4. The Meeker oak is a remnant of that. If it were cut down, it would personally be
25 for me a tragic loss of the acknowledgement of the importance of those trees and the history of

1 the prairies. It would be one major loss in the entire story of the prairies. Recognition of our
2 heritage is incredibly important. It is part of what we have fought for and lost so much of already.
3 It would be an incredible disappointment for me knowing that people do not care about that aspect
4 of our heritage and our way of life.

5
6 5. When you go to Fort Lewis, there is a remnant of the oak savannahs. The artillery
7 causes fires, and those fires preserve the savannah. Elsewhere, the burning stopped 100 years ago.
8 The Tribe has some oak savannah in Toledo--a small portion that we are protecting. The oak
9 savannas are in a protected status.

10 I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington that the
11 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

12 EXECUTED this 28th day of May, 2024, at Tumwater, Washington.

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17 _____
18 BILL IYALL
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