
Minutes
Board of Natural Resources Meeting

November 7, 2023

Webinar/Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

The Honorable Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, ~~Chelan~~^{Skagit} County

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jim Cahill, Designee for the Honorable Jay Inslee, Washington State Governor

Dan Brown, Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington

Wendy Powers, Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences,
Washington State University

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hilary Franz called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Board members provided self-introduction. A meeting quorum was confirmed.

WEBINAR/SAFETY BRIEFING

Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator, outlined how to view and participate in the combined webinar and in-person meeting.

Dr. Brown joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 5, 2023 and October 3, 2023 - Action

Chair Franz requested consideration of a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2023 and October 3, 2023.

MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve the minutes as published.

SECOND: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

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1 **AMENDMENT OF THE MINUTES**

2 **February 7, 2023, Section on Board on Geographic Names – Action**

3 Caleb Maki, Staff to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names, requested an
4 amendment to the February 7, 2023 minutes. During the meeting, two comments by the past
5 Chair of the Committee on Geographic Names were incorrect. While presenting the
6 geographic names to the Board, the Chair indicated the U.S. Board on Geographic Names had
7 undertaken a process to remove names that reference Black people thereby representing an
8 erasure of the Black Community’s history in the area. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names
9 had not officially named the feature in question, the *Rodney White Slough*, and it was not
10 involved in the privately produced map depicting a racial slur. The Chair also stated that one
11 of the individuals being commemorated, Nathaniel Sargent, lived in Mason County, which is
12 incorrect as Mr. Sargent lived near Seabeck in Kitsap County. The committee respectfully
13 requests the Board amend the minutes of February 7, 2023 by removing the references to the
14 U.S. Board on Geographic Names and correcting the residence of Mr. Sargent to reflect
15 Kitsap County.

16
17 **MOTION:** Commissioner Janicki moved to approve an amendment to the minutes of
18 February 7, 2023 removing references to U.S. Board on Geographic Names
19 and correcting the residence of Nathaniel Sargent to reflect Mason County.

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21 **SECOND:** Dean Powers seconded the motion.

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23 **ACTION:** The motion carried unanimously.

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25 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

26 **Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County Commissioner,** spoke in support of the Deep River
27 Woods purchase. Wahkiakum County Commissioners are pleased to support the
28 Department’s purchase of timberland in Wahkiakum County, which supports all beneficiaries
29 and trusts. The land transaction is good for the county, supports the local economy and jobs,
30 and allows for greater recreation access for the public. The location of the purchase is
31 beneficial as it abuts other DNR land creating easy access for all. Its location is on some of
32 the best soil in the world for growing trees. The purchase enables the land to remain in timber
33 production forever and county residents, schools, and fire districts will benefit financially for
34 generations.

35
36 **Heidi Eisenhour, Jefferson County Commissioner,** echoed similar sentiments and indicated
37 a number of counties worked over the last several years to address encumbered DNR land
38 issues and improve DNR’s Trust Land Transfer Program. As part of that work, counties were
39 active partners in making legislative changes during the last session through House Bill 1460
40 including changes for the Trust Land Transfer Program expanding the Land Bank, the concept
41 of land pooling, and the \$83 million proviso passed by the Legislature. The purchase of Deep
42 River Woods of highly productive working forestland to be transferred with DNR parcels
43 identified for other uses by other counties is the result of that collaborative effort. Jefferson
44 County supports the quick action by the Department in utilizing funding to replace
45 structurally complex carbon-dense existing forestlands with other working timberlands.
46 Jefferson County is actively working to expand the existing DNR Dabob Bay Natural Area

1 containing hundreds of acres of older forests of a unique forest plant community. The
2 proposed purchase of Deep River Woods will preserve some of the most valuable landscapes
3 while acquiring highly productive replacement lands providing significant environmental and
4 economic benefits for state residents. It reflects how win-win solutions are possible.
5

6 **Tom Lannen, Skamania County Commissioner,** reported the proposed purchase of Deep
7 River Woods is a good step forward for increasing revenue for rural counties to provide sorely
8 needed financial resources while ensuring access to valuable timber products for the timber
9 industry everyone relies on. The opportunity addresses the impact of the Endangered Species
10 Act (ESA) on small timber-dependent counties. Funding has been provided by the Legislature
11 ending years of bipartisan negotiations. Skamania County Commissioners have been working
12 on the issue for over 12 years. Recent legislation is a culmination of many years of
13 cooperative work between the Department, Washington State Association of Counties, timber
14 counties, industry, conservationists, and the Legislature to provide this unique opportunity to
15 the Board. He urged the Board to approve the Deep River Woods purchase.
16

17 **Randy Johnson, Clallam County Commissioner,** recommended approval of the purchase of
18 excellent timberland in Wahkiakum County. He served previously as the CEO of a timberland
19 company which purchased small and large timberland tracts. He congratulated DNR for its
20 success on the competitive and difficult transaction. The proposed purchase is excellent, with
21 excellent growing ground, close to good markets, not exposed to difficult environmental
22 issues, and at a relatively low logging cost with good age classes including mature and nearly
23 mature trees. The purchase will benefit Clallam County, the state, and rural communities.
24

25 **Lisa Olsen, Pacific County Commissioner,** said she supports the Deep River Woods
26 purchase. State forestlands held in trust for the counties and managed by DNR are an essential
27 component of the financial structure that provides county services as well as supporting fire
28 districts, libraries, and schools. Some smaller districts rely almost exclusively on the revenue
29 source for its operating survival. In rural counties, those entities are the heart of the smaller
30 communities. The management, harvest, and replanting of the land are what sustains healthy
31 and vibrant timberlands that make up a large portion of western Washington. Protecting lands
32 from conversion to other uses is a core responsibility. Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties were
33 built on the natural resources of the area. Unlike other counties, timber, fishing, farming, and
34 aquaculture have remained the core industries in the counties and have preserved local and
35 rural jobs and way of life for residents. Working timberlands have declined in the county and
36 in the state for decades. She applauded the Legislature for approving the budget proviso to
37 enable DNR to work with counties to purchase more timberland to make up for the loss of so
38 many acres because of northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet ESA listings over the years.
39 The purchase fits perfectly with the intent of the proviso and will prevent the potential
40 conversion of some of the best and most productive forestland in the world from being
41 converted to another use. Western Washington provides wood to the world and the transaction
42 will help to continue providing wood as well as supporting basic services to county residents.
43

44 **Robert Mitchell** said he appreciates DNR and individual employees who believe they are
45 doing a good job. However, there may be some misdirected efforts in terms of capital
46 efficiency of timber investments versus financial market investments. He suggested the

1 possibility of pursuing a study with some of the funding and letting the public invest in a
2 democratic peer reviewed process by using the profits to fund an expansion of the Forest
3 Riparian Easement Program to save more trees. Funds expended on some intrusive and
4 inclusive scientific study conducted by industry representatives could lead to potential
5 conflicts of interest. He encouraged the Board to educate themselves on the profit potential of
6 options such as WOOD ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds), as one example of a trade idea that
7 shows remarkable cyclicity that should be exploitable for profit. All DNR beneficiaries
8 should be interested in the potential revenue-enhancing vehicle because it is in everyone's
9 fiduciary interest to seek out the highest return possible.

10
11 **Ed Bowen, Clallam County**, said he is pleased to see the Commissioner of Public Lands and
12 the Superintendent of Public Instruction in attendance as image is important to him. He is glad
13 the University of Washington (UW) Board member is present as one of his programs placed a
14 bid on the T3 timber sale, which is an interesting aspect of the University's work at Olympic
15 Natural Resources Center. He advocated for the participation of some Board members at
16 upcoming Collaborative Asset Management Outreach Project meetings with the Department
17 and the county. Additionally, Lizard Breath is a timber sale that should have been included on
18 the sale list. However, it has disappeared. He asked the Board to question the status of the
19 timber sale. The sale is a vital funding source for the county. The timeline for the Sustainable
20 Harvest Calculation (SHC) as presented in the Chair Report should be moved up by using the
21 funds that were appropriated for litigation, which were not used. The agency's website does
22 not include information on how the public will view or participate in the process, noting the
23 chart does not indicate how the public will be involved in the process.

24
25 **Lee First, Twin Harbors**, said she recently drove along logging roads near Oakville to visit a
26 100-acre legacy forest slated for DNR auction next month. There was plenty of parking since
27 the entrance to the forest is next to a vast clearcut, formally another 100-year-old legacy forest
28 named About Time. Only uneven ground and hundreds of giant stumps with many huge burn
29 piles remained. DNR sold About Time recently and while the suggested bid was in the
30 millions, Grays Harbor County received less than \$24,000 losing huge assets in return. Recent
31 science reveals legacy forests and other conifer forests in the Pacific Northwest sequester
32 more carbon than any other forest ecosystem in North America. They are among the most
33 carbon dense forests in the world. MM MM Good is much more valuable left standing than
34 logged. It provides huge benefits for mitigating floods, droughts, and wildfires, as well as
35 providing learning opportunities for young people who have never been exposed to an older,
36 structurally complex forest. At the rate the forests are being cut, she wonders where young
37 people will go to see a real forest. DNR should cut down tree plantations because they are
38 everywhere. Southwest Washington has very little fully functional forests remaining that
39 should be preserved.

40
41 **Donna Albert, Montesano**, asked the Board to recognize the urgency of the climate and
42 biodiversity crisis and how DNR is actively diminishing the carbon and biodiversity potential
43 of forests by treating valuable and irreplaceable legacy forests the same as tree plantation
44 forests. She forwarded a recent study about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
45 (IPCC) current practice guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories in the land sector
46 as problematic because they report net changes and treat all forests equally. She suspects it is

1 the standard the Department uses and asked the Board to recognize that if that standard cannot
2 effectively protect primary forests from conversion, then it may not be the best choice to
3 maximize carbon sequestration or biodiversity on DNR lands. In her reply to the
4 Determination of Non-Significance (DNS), she cited RCW 43.21 C about DNR's duty as a
5 state trust land manager to fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as a trustee of the
6 environment for succeeding generations. She was informed that it was a National
7 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirement. It appears the reviewer for SEPA was not
8 aware of state law. She is concerned state law is not properly considered and asked for a
9 pause of the MM MM Good timber sale.

10 **Miguel Perez-Gibson, Washington Conservation Action**, acknowledged staff for the
11 historic purchase of state lands. The purchase is for some of the most productive forestlands
12 in Washington. Changing the ownership from a timber investment management's short-term
13 objective to the state's perpetual trust management and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) has
14 many ecological, social, and economic benefits. Because of recent legislation, the purchase of
15 the land could be held by DNR in the Land Bank previously limited to 1,500 acres. The state
16 will likely use a portion of the purchase for counting encumbered lands as specified in the
17 legislation and the state will use a sizable amount of the purchase to replace the 2,000 acres of
18 conservation lands whose value might require a 2:1 replacement rate. There is an opportunity
19 for the Board and counties to consider land pooling and locating various county replacement
20 acres within the Deep River block. As shareholders, counties would be entitled to a
21 percentage of the revenue from any timber sale based on initial vested land contribution.
22 Other benefits include annual certainty and reliability because income would not be tied to a
23 specific parcel and annualized. The Lake Whatcom replacement land issue resulted in
24 legislation allowing counties to address the tax district issue. It is an opportunity on a small
25 scale to test a new concept of county trust land management. WCA encourages timber
26 counties to consider the strategy in collaboration with DNR.

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28
29 **Brel Froebe, Center for Responsible Forestry**, commented on the movement from the
30 budget proviso program. Six counties have conveyed interest in participating in the 2,000-acre
31 conservation program with three more counties exploring the possibility of participating. The
32 counties of King, Thurston, and Jefferson have nominated 2,400 acres for the program
33 revealing a demand that is significantly higher than the 2,000-acre allocation. He looks
34 forward to learning about DNR's screening process for the acres to recommend to counties
35 and the Board and appreciates the work completed by staff in identifying the Deep River
36 Woods parcel. He is also looking to see the work results from the Carbon and Forest
37 Management Work Group which represents a good opportunity to utilize best available forest
38 carbon science to quantify the storage and sequestration impacts of mature forests on DNR
39 managed lands. The Legislature invested a significant amount of funding of \$2.5 million. He
40 asked the Board to place a temporary moratorium on the regulatory process for all sales
41 containing mature forests until the work group has concluded its work in early 2025. The
42 action would not be unprecedented as the Commissioner of Public Lands enacted a temporary
43 moratorium on pre-1900 forests on a similar issue, which did not yield any results on the re-
44 evaluation of a mature forest policy. However, with recent attention and direction from the
45 Legislature, the Board should place a temporary moratorium until the work is completed.

1 **Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council**, supported efforts by DNR to restart the
2 process for the Western Washington SHC and is hopeful the Department addresses many of
3 the issues raised by the beneficiary coalition on the adequacy, quality, and defensibility of the
4 inventory work and GIS associated efforts including reporting and discount rates. He also
5 looks forward to DNR engaging with the Technical Advisory Committee as well as with
6 stakeholders to assist in explaining its work throughout the Eastern Washington SHC process.
7 He encouraged the Board to review its responsibilities under RCW 79.22.140 and RCW
8 22.150 because of obligations the Department and the Board must undertake with the Deep
9 River Woods land transaction. Although the proposal is a step forward in acquiring the
10 parcels, it requires more analysis to complete transitioning the parcels from the Land Bank
11 into trust ownership and management.
12

13 **Heath Heikkila, American Forest Resource Council**, acknowledged all County
14 Commissioners for their comments on the Deep River Woods purchase. He and others
15 expended many efforts to secure funding for encumbered lands to address the previously
16 encumbered forestlands in southwest Washington counties. He is pleased to hear from the
17 counties and to receive more information on how DNR plans to partition the lands to address
18 the encumbered land problems that have been problematic for over a decade. He is also
19 looking forward to the Carbon and Forest Management Workgroup initiating work, as well as
20 carbon accounting as part of that process. The direction within the proviso is clear about
21 accounting for substitution and leakage when considering carbon accounting of state trust
22 lands. The language does not suggest DNR should pause on existing forest management
23 operations. DNR is asked to continue its good work where half of state lands have been set
24 aside and every sale retains 30% to 35% of existing trees.
25

26 **Doug Cooper, Hampton Lumber**, said Hampton Lumber operates three mills in the state
27 and all mills are dependent on DNR timber sales program. The mills are part of the critical
28 manufacturing infrastructure needed in Washington to supply carbon-friendly wood products,
29 sustain healthy forests, and support rural and urban economies. He urged the Board to
30 participate in the meeting with a focus on transparency and accountability. He referred to the
31 Quarterly Economic and Revenue Forecast updated on November 3, 2023. The forecast
32 indicates DNR plans to offer between 550 to 575 mmbf in fiscal year 2024; however, the sales
33 volume is unchanged at 500 mmbf accounting for some contracts remaining unsold at auction
34 and other sales delayed or canceled. The Board should ask what it can and must do to ensure
35 the Department meets planned sales volume. The Final Environmental Impact Statement
36 (FEIS) for the Western Washington SHC is scheduled to be published during the first
37 calendar quarter of 2027 or 2-1/2 years behind schedule. Understanding the issues speaks to
38 what the Board could do to ensure the work is completed timely and in a transparent manner.
39 The Deep River Woods purchase and other land purchases requires the Board to have full
40 information to make an informed decision including at a minimum, the timber harvest
41 schedule by year with detailed costs and revenue assumptions that will produce a metric of
42 financial performance that supports the investment and to which the Department could be held
43 accountable.
44

45 **Lynn Fitz-Hugh** said last month during a report on the planned meetings with the counties to
46 discuss the management of state lands, Mr. Emmons indicated it has often been difficult to

1 schedule a 15-minute meeting on county schedules. The statement was surprising as Thurston
2 County has waited for months to schedule a meeting and had set aside an hour. The
3 Commissioners requested no slide presentations because of the time required for discussion.
4 During his presentation, Mr. Emmons indicated DNR has been analyzing lands worthy of
5 saving and a report would be provided. He indicated no parcel that was small or not adjacent
6 to other parcels of value would be logged, but he did not define "value." After a 55-minute
7 presentation, Commissioners had only five minutes for questions. The exchange did not
8 represent the voter's idea of dialogue, consultation, or collaboration. It is clear as to why
9 Carrot was removed from the auction list for this month's sales but added to the December
10 list. Clearly, it will not be on DNR's list to save. Capitol Forest may only have small legacy
11 parcels with some as large as 120 acres. However, those parcels are the only ones remaining,
12 which is why all legacy forests should be saved. The Board should unite with the speakers
13 from Jefferson County calling for the saving of the Elwha and the Little Slice of Heaven
14 timber sales.
15

16 **Madeline Ellis, student at UW**, commented on the University's impact on Washington State
17 legacy forests. During a recent sunny day, she walked around campus, which contains
18 beautiful trees from the cherry tree blossoms in the quads to the tall evergreens surrounding
19 buildings standing as a monument to the value the University's claims of environmental
20 protection. However, the school she believed embodied nature and the beauty of Washington
21 has another side. Washington State University Forestry has been working with timber industry
22 partners and the Washington Forest Protection Association, a lobbyist for large timber
23 companies. They are collaborating with the University to publish work diminishing the effects
24 of the timber industry on carbon emissions and climate change as a whole. Despite the
25 University's interest in mitigating climate change, the University has continued to work with
26 the timber industry and legitimize their efforts against climate change mitigation. Further,
27 Dan Brown, member of the Board, beneficiary of timber sales, and a representative of the
28 University is directly tied to the sales of invaluable legacy forests and harmful logging
29 practices. As an institution of higher education, the University should want and demand more.
30 All around the University, political scientists and public policy students imagine creative
31 ways to preserve the resources through policy and law. Public health majors learn how to
32 address health impacts inevitable through climate change, biologists learn about the loss of
33 biodiversity, and forestry students learn about the value of forests. The value extends far
34 beyond a dollar amount. Students and citizens of Washington deserve better. The Board
35 should protect legacy forests, uphold the values of climate protection claimed to be cherished,
36 and choose to pursue a future where everyone can still walk among the trees.
37

38 **Riley Painton, student at UW**, voiced concerns about the current practice of clearcutting
39 legacy forests and the Board's actions that are affecting the future for her and other young
40 people. Since DNR eliminated the old growth protection policy, 15,000 acres of legacy trees
41 have been logged releasing 6.6 million tons of emissions into the atmosphere. Everyone must
42 do everything possible to safeguard lands and protect the forests. She questioned how
43 permitting the removal of thousands of acres of irreplaceable trees releasing millions of tons
44 of emissions into the atmosphere aligns with those interests. Capitol Forest holds 16.5 million
45 tons of stored carbon. The largest trees hold 50% of carbon and will store the carbon if
46 untouched. Those trees are some of the most important players in the fight against the current

1 climate crisis facing the world. Trees are not crops and those in legacy forests are actively
2 being selected over other alternatives that would have far less effects on the planet. The
3 choice to cut legacy trees does not align with her interests as a resident of Washington State
4 and as a student. In no world are small fractions from the sales received by educational
5 institutions worth the devastation of the lands, environmental consequences, and risking the
6 guarantee of a great future for all young people in Washington. As DNR's website states, the
7 lands are managed for the benefit of all people of Washington State. Her voice and the voice
8 of others are asking the Board to act in accordance with the interests of the people represented
9 by members of the Board for the future of the planet.

10
11 **Sean Stuart, student at UW**, said he has a vested interest in the long-term habitability within
12 the state and on the planet in general. There are certain personalities in the public
13 conversation about climate change and resource management that tend to suggest that it may
14 be possible to move to Mars if things turn worse or continue business as usual with the
15 assumption that science may solve the problem. He is hopeful that no one is under those
16 delusions. He wants to live in Washington with his children and grandchildren, which is why
17 the Board should consider the impact of continued logging of legacy forests has on the future,
18 specifically stormwater management and stability of the water table everyone relies on.
19 Continued actions are rapidly depleting the natural groundwater reservoirs across the country.
20 Old growth trees and legacy forests are one of the most important mechanisms in maintaining
21 the water table. Older trees have much wider and deeper root systems which pull rainwater
22 downward for retention. Younger stands of trees in a typical harvest rotation do not have deep
23 roots to perform those functions. Heavy rains the state receives do not permeate the soil and
24 perpetuate the lush temperate rain forest the state claims to responsibly manage. If trees
25 continue to be removed that have enabled the process for thousands of years, not only will the
26 supply of drinkable fresh water shrink faster as the state loses trees, but floods from heavy
27 rains will become increasingly dangerous. Water that does not permeate the soil remains on
28 the surface forming flash floods damaging homes and taking lives. The Board should do its
29 duty for all generations because the impacts of deforestation are already present and are well
30 known. The Board should preserve legacy forests.

31
32 **Sherri Dysart, Mason County resident**, spoke as an ambassador for the forests in Clallam
33 County. She asked for the Board's support to pause or cancel the Power Plant timber sale in
34 the Elwha River watershed. DNR received over 2,600 comments asking for a stop to the
35 timber sale. The City of Port Angeles submitted a Trust Land Transfer Program application
36 for 3,089 acres in the Elwha watershed to include the Power Plant timber parcel. The prudent
37 course is to pause pending consideration of the city's application. Representative Chapman
38 sent a letter signed by a number of state representatives and other elected officials in
39 opposition to the Power Plant timber sale. On October 11, 2023 DNR sent a letter attempting
40 to alleviate concerns. On October 25, 2023 the Earth Law Center provided a comprehensive
41 response. It included aerial and ground photos of Power Plant and other planned timber sales
42 in the Elwha watershed. It provides a clear picture as to why there is such tremendous concern
43 over logging. The photos reflect how close the Power Plant sale is close to the river and the
44 old Elwha dam site. The letter also speaks to the TCB23 timber sale located along the banks
45 of the Elwha River. Despite DNR setting expectations that TCB23 would be presented to the
46 Board for review, DNR auctioned TCB23 without Board approval. The letter outlines why

1 that is so troubling.
2

3 **Dr. Julie Ratner** opposed the proposed timber sales and all future timber auctions of mature
4 forest parcels. The parcels are cherry-picked for harvesting of mature trees for greed. If DNR
5 acknowledges and respects Thurston County's climate commitment to mitigation goals, the
6 Board should remove Carrot, Marshmallow, and Evergreen Gold timber sales from Thurston
7 County. Thurston County Commissioners demanded DNR stop selling its previous mature
8 forests. The Board has established a precedent and paused the sale of Juno. There is plenty of
9 timber for DNR revenue. The value of a tree is not in terms of board feet but biological. The
10 number one priority to alleviate extreme weather such as droughts, storms, wildfires, and
11 store maximum carbon is the protection of forests. Science and economics demonstrate how
12 short harvest cycles and the current rate of clearcutting of the oldest mature forests is not
13 sustainable. Trees accumulate more than 40% of their lifetime worth of carbon in the last
14 quarter of their life. The average life expectancy of trees is 300 to 500 years and not 100
15 years. It is important to understand the urgency to protect the carbon workhorses that are
16 mature parcels. Other states would covet and cherish protected forests and respect that the
17 trees are mere infants at the age of 100.
18

19 **Paul Butler, Thurston County**, said he supports a viable timber industry but is disappointed
20 in the response to the climate crisis from both large industrial forest owners and DNR.
21 Commissioner Franz stated in a recent interview that 80-year-old timber on state lands begins
22 to decline in its ability to store carbon and thus should be harvested and sequestered as 2 x 4s.
23 With all due respect, two things are wrong with the argument. The first is Douglas fir is just
24 hitting its stride at 80 years per Jerry Franklin. Secondly, only a tiny fraction of older forest
25 carbon is stored in wood products that at best last a few decades. In a 2019 peer reviewed
26 study and environmental research letter, forest scientists found that meeting greenhouse gas
27 reduction targets requires accounting for all forest sector emissions. They documented that
28 state and federal reporting have erroneously excluded some product-related emissions
29 resulting in a 25% to 55% underestimation of state total carbon emissions. Instead of business
30 as usual, more accurate accounting and consideration of options that reduce emissions, such
31 as protection of older forests, reduction in harvest, and longer rotations are necessary. He is
32 also disappointed in the way DNR managers have interacted with Thurston County
33 Commissioners. Commissioners are exploring alternatives to plantation forestry on its trust
34 lands and DNR is attempting to browbeat them into business as usual. The State Supreme
35 Court provided DNR with the green light to integrate many diverse public benefits of forests
36 beyond maximizing revenue generation from timber sales. It is time to follow the science and
37 the law.
38

39 **Sophia Hernandez, student at UW**, said DNR should halt clearcutting of legacy forests
40 across Washington and reconsider how harming forests undermine the values and legitimacy
41 of educational institutions and government agencies. She learned about the role trees play in
42 the environment during elementary school; however, it appears science should be reiterated to
43 emphasize the importance of protecting trees to sustain life on earth especially with the effects
44 of climate change. Older trees sequester more carbon. Forests protect biodiversity, water ways
45 from pollutants, and improve the quality of air. Preserving forests support life and the long-
46 term benefits outweigh any short-lived accumulations of wealth in the grand scheme of

1 sustaining human life in the face of climate change. As a state that prides itself as a leader in
2 climate sustainability, she questioned why state agencies are actively destroying parts of the
3 environment. In statements by DNR and OPSI, both agencies are committed to “protecting
4 public lands, managing healthy forests, and providing benefits to the people of Washington.”
5 Those commitments have not been fulfilled and may not be until there is permanent
6 preservation of legacy forests. She questioned why representatives from institutions, such as
7 the UW, sign off on the destruction of forests when UW is committed to sustainability and
8 promoting a just, resilient, and healthy planet. The Board, departments, and institutions should
9 begin taking actions that align with the values and goals they supposedly support. Those in
10 power should do what is necessary to invest in the substance of human life and end the
11 clearcutting of legacy forests.
12

13 **Jim Oliver** offered some insight into the rationale behind clearcutting of legacy forests that
14 has been occurring consistently over the years during the administration of Commissioner
15 Franz. He cited a Public Disclosure Commission Report of campaign contributions to
16 Commissioner Franz for the 2020 election cycle when she was running for re-election as
17 Commissioner of Public Lands. The maximum campaign contribution from an individual
18 during the 2020 election cycle was \$2,000. Campaign contributions of \$2,000 were provided
19 by Sierra Pacific Industries of Redding California, Weyerhaeuser, Hampton Lumber,
20 American Forest Resource Council, Olympic Resource Management, and Washington Forest
21 Protection Association.
22

23 **Dave Sweitzer, Washington Hardwoods Commission**, said he serves as the Executive
24 Director. The Commission was established by the Legislature in 1991. For over the last 30
25 years, he has been baffled as to the amount of so much misunderstanding and so many facts
26 misunderstood surrounding the harvesting of timber. There is science but also many facts that
27 are not science. The forest products industry including hardwoods is not the problem, but
28 rather the solution. One example is the economy. The forest products industry provides good
29 paying jobs for thousands of people and income to the trust. Sequestration continues as logs
30 are converted to lumber to support the building of homes and furnishings. Carbon is stored
31 during the life of those products.
32

33 **Kyle Krakow** said although he has not lived in the state very long, it did not take too long to
34 understand how the Board operates. Each month is the same scenario with the testimony from
35 the public objecting to timber sales involving legacy forests. While pretending to listen, the
36 Board, for the most part, approves the sales despite the comments. Each month, DNR and
37 each Board member receive emails detailing how clearcutting mature, structurally complex
38 forests not only flies in the face of climate science but flat out disregards the Department’s
39 policies and targets for protecting older forests. Each month, the Board clings to timber
40 industry pseudo science while turning their backs on climate and betraying their children and
41 grandchildren. These actions endanger communities, watersheds, and jeopardize future lives.
42 Timber sales literally scar the earth, displacing and killing countless animals while dooming
43 entire species. He does not accept living in a world where the only forests in sight are
44 plantations designed for endless extraction leaving memories and toxic echoes of the
45 biodiverse lands that once dominated the region. He asked whether the Board had on occasion
46 rejected a timber sale and postponed the destruction of future old growth. He asked if the

1 Board has acquiesced to the more sensible demands of counties that value mature forest
2 health over short-term profit. However, those actions to protect those lands are not sufficient.
3 He urged the Board to do better and reject all timber sales involving mature, structurally
4 complex legacy forests moving forward.
5

6 **Joshua Wright** testified in opposition to the proposed MM MM Good and Last Crocker
7 timber sales. Both timber sales contain structurally complex, mature forests that should be
8 protected. He clarified that when speakers object to individual timber sales targeting mature
9 forests, inevitably DNR will point out how staff has invested time and energy into the timber
10 sale, as well as completing ground surveys despite the fact that DNR deliberately selects older
11 forests when other options are available. Thurston County Commissioners have conveyed
12 clearly that they do not want any legacy forests logged. However, in a recent public disclosure
13 request, DNR data reflects an increase in targeting legacy forests over the next ten years.
14 DNR is deliberating investing money in areas that it knows county commissioners oppose and
15 then uses the excuse of investing time and resources and that the timber sale must move
16 forward. If the timber industry did not manage the forests, forests would continue to grow into
17 old growth. The timber industry is destroying ecosystems and is not the so-called solution.
18

19 **Ed Chadd, Clallam County**, said it is time for DNR to pause workups of the sales of older
20 forests until the older forest policy is developed. DNR has established a stakeholder group
21 scheduled to meet the next day, reflecting a good start for establishing the policy. The value
22 of older forests is increasingly recognized as the planet descends further into climate chaos.
23 Legislators are beginning to recognize those values as witnessed during the last legislative
24 session. Further work is likely during the next legislative session and the Board should direct
25 DNR to work with legislators to seek further solutions that protect forests and keep timber
26 communities whole. Concerns expressed regarding the supply of large logs only delays the
27 inevitable. As previous speakers noted, the current rate of liquidation of older forests means
28 those forests will no longer exist in the next several years. Everyone wants large logs, but
29 better options would consider ecological thinning with longer rotations, which would improve
30 the timber supply, increase jobs in the forests, make the forests more resilient, and combat the
31 climate crisis. He urged the Board to cancel the Power Plant timber sale as the City of Port of
32 Angeles has submitted a Trust Land Transfer Program Application.
33

34 **LAND TRANSACTIONS - Action**

35 **Deep River Woods Purchase, 08-106005, Resolution #1619**

36 **Duane Emmons, Assistant Deputy Supervisor, State Uplands**

37 **Mona Griswold, Special Projects Coordinator, Strategic Planning Office**

38 Mr. Emmons reported the first item for consideration is larger than a normal land transaction.
39 The proposal is for the acquisition of approximately 9,115 acres. The Deep River Woods
40 purchase proposal is somewhat historic as the Board has not considered such a large land
41 transaction within the last decade. The area of the proposal is important because it is located
42 in southwest Washington. During the development of the HCP, DNR created special habitat
43 areas consisting of large blocks of forest set-asides for conservation and recovery of marbled
44 murrelet. Because southwest Washington has less federal ownership, the Department replaced
45 over 10,000 acres managed to create habitat. The only other management in those areas is
46 thinning to create habitat. A number of those encumbered lands are located in Wahkiakum

1 and Pacific Counties. Some of the proposed land for acquisition abuts one of the large special
2 habitat areas. The counties affected by the encumbered lands include Skamania, Wahkiakum,
3 Jefferson, and Clallam. The budget proviso also provided the Department with the ability to
4 contract with entities to assist the Department in acquiring large tracts of forestland. During
5 the Department's work on the contract, the proposed opportunity was identified. The contract
6 has been awarded and over \$20 million is reserved to continue the work of acquiring large
7 tracts of land.

8
9 Recent changes in the statute during the last session also enabled the Department to expand
10 the Land Bank. Previously, the Land Bank could only contain 1,500 acres. The changes in
11 statute enable land pooling for counties to share in the revenue generated from lands. The
12 proviso also requires the Department to acquire the land before setting aside lands.

13
14 Ms. Griswold reported the proposed purchase is in response to section 3130 of ESSB 5200,
15 passed earlier this year. DNR was directed to purchase \$70 million of forestland in counties
16 west of the Cascade Mountains, which includes Wahkiakum County.

17
18 The four parcels total approximately 9,115 acres and are located near Cathlamet. The
19 purchase would increase DNR managed State Forest Transfer Trust (01 code) land base by
20 22%. Parcel A is approximately 941 acres and DNR has Real Property Replacement Account
21 funding available to place Parcel A into Common School Trust. The three other properties
22 would be placed into the land bank as required in ESSB 5200.

23
24 All four parcels adjoin DNR managed lands. A total of 69% of the lands are on Site Class 1
25 and 2 soils and 31% are on Site Class 3 soils. Site Class 1, 2 & 3 soils are the most
26 productive. In layman's terms, Douglas fir and western hemlock will grow to 137' or more in
27 height in 50 years on site class 1 soil, grow between 119' to 136' in height on site class 2 soil,
28 and grow between 97' and 118' in height on site class 3 soil.

29
30 Of the 941 acres in Parcel A, approximately 291 acres contain merchantable timber (primarily
31 Douglas fir) with a volume of nearly 7 million board feet. The highly productive soils in the
32 parcel will result in the intermediate aged 25-29-year-old stands possibly ready for harvest in
33 three to five years; however, DNR may choose to delay harvesting. The stands currently
34 contain over 3 million board feet of merchantable timber. Parcel A also contains
35 approximately 246 acres in young stands (under 25 years of age) and additional acreage not
36 merchantable because of riparian zones, leave tree areas, and non-forested areas (roads,
37 powerlines, etc.).

38
39 Parcel B contains three units totaling approximately 8,174 acres. Approximately 728 acres
40 include merchantable timber (primarily Douglas fir) totaling approximately 17 million board
41 feet. The intermediate aged 25-34-year-old Douglas fir/hemlock stands may be ready for
42 harvest as soon as one to five years, which contain nearly 17 million board feet of
43 merchantable timber. There are approximately 4,331 acres in 1-24-year-old stands in Parcel B
44 and additional acreage not merchantable because of riparian zones, leave tree areas, and non-
45 forested areas (roads, powerlines, etc.).
46

1 The total request for the purchase is \$55 million. The request includes \$7.2 million from the
2 Real Property Replacement Account and \$47.8 million from climate commitment act funds
3 from section 3130 of ESSB 5200.
4

5 The benefits of the purchase include:
6

- 7 • The acquisition adds productive forestland to the trust land base in Wahkiakum
8 County.
- 9 • All parcels adjoin existing state managed forestland in prime timber country.
- 10 • Quality working forests will be retained as working forests.
- 11 • The acquisition improves near-term trust revenue potential (~1,000 acres
12 merchantable today and nearly 1,051 acres merchantable in the next one to five
13 years)
14

15 Ms. Griswold invited questions and comments.
16

17 Commissioner Janicki conveyed support for the purchase and appreciated the testimony of
18 county commissioners directly impacted by the purchase. There is a perception when DNR
19 acquires land that it also diminishes the land base because of the conservation of a specific
20 number of acres. She asked whether the purchase includes any acreage for conservation.
21

22 Ms. Griswold advised that the estimate for conservation of land is approximately 22% to 25%
23 for riparian zones and habitat protection.
24

25 Commissioner Janicki asked staff to speak about the process of transferring land to the Land
26 Bank.
27

28 Mr. Emmons advised that the proposal would include transferring approximately 8,100 acres
29 to the Land Bank. He described an example of a Land Bank transfer process, which will be
30 explained in more detail during the next series of proposals.
31

32 Superintendent Reykdal inquired about the ratio required for conservation status if the
33 property had been purchased by a private landowner. Mr. Emmons replied that DNR's
34 riparian protections in the HCP are greater than the Forest Practice Rules that are required for
35 private landowners. When DNR appraises land, the land is appraised based on Forest Practice
36 Rules. In addition to riparian protections, DNR leaves a minimum of eight trees per acre
37 which does not include areas within riparian zones. The leave tree minimum does not count
38 trees within riparian buffers. Other environmental protections include unstable slopes and
39 geological features.
40

41 Mr. Cahill thanked staff for presenting the proposal. The increased riparian management
42 zones also benefit salmon because it protects areas that would have been harvested, improving
43 water quality and habitat over time. He referred to the acreage noted as merchantable within
44 the next one to five years and asked about the timeline for any planned harvesting.
45

46 Mr. Emmons responded that the acreage will be held in the Land Bank and any revenue

1 generated from the acreage would be given to Common Schools based on the Land Bank
2 statute. It is likely DNR would not actively harvest acres of mature trees under the assumption
3 that the land could potentially be transferred to a county. DNR would not actively manage the
4 acres until the lands are transferred to trust status. Rotation ages as described during the
5 presentation could attain a tree diameter of 25" to 30" in 35 to 40 years. DNR would not seek
6 to liquidate 29-year-old stands because of the larger size. All acres would be added to the land
7 base during the next SHC while another 2,000 acres would be withdrawn from the SHC.
8 Having a wide mix of age classes is beneficial for modeling the SHC.
9

10 Chair Franz noted that not everyone is familiar with site classifications of 1, 2, and 3. Each
11 site classification can yield larger trees over different periods of time. Since 2006, the average
12 timber sale across the trusts has a rotation age of 80 years.
13

14 Chair Franz conveyed appreciation to Mr. Emmons, Ms. Griswold, and DNR staff for their
15 work and efforts as well as the unprecedented response received by DNR. U.S. Representative
16 Gluesenkamp-Perez spoke in favor of the proposal as well. She thanked the DNR team for the
17 enormous amount of work. She noted the close collaboration with the tribal communities
18 where DNR is providing significant access for cultural resources involving hunting and
19 gathering. She invited a motion to approve the proposed purchase.
20

21 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution #1619: Deep River
22 Woods Purchase, 08-106005.
23

24 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal seconded the motion.
25

26 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.
27

28 **Kreaman Road Trespass, T3-081317, Resolution #1613**
29 **Deborah Whitney, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestitures Section, Strategic**
30 **Planning Office**

31 Ms. Whitney presented the Kreaman Road Trespass, a direct transfer to resolve encroachment
32 trespasses on state trust land in Clallam County.
33

34 The Kreaman Road Trespass property is located approximately 8 miles west of Port Angeles
35 in Clallam County. The Trespass property was originally recorded on a survey in 2007. The
36 1.22 acre property would be purchased to resolve trespass encroachments of a 10'-wide
37 driveway, a well with a 100' buffer, and a portion of the 25'X25' workshop on State Forest
38 Transfer Trust land. The trespass was originally discovered in 2007 and was discussed with
39 the previous owner who did not resolve the trespass. In 2019, the new owner acquired the
40 property, unaware of the trespass. He has agreed to resolve the trespass by purchasing the
41 property and paying all costs to complete the transaction.
42

43 The property appraised with the HBU of residential as an assemblage to the existing
44 residential property of the purchaser. The appraised fair market value of the property
45 (purchase price) is \$23,500, which will be deposited into the Park Land Trust Revolving
46 Account (PLTRA) to purchase replacement property for the State Forest Transfer Trust.

1
2 Ms. Whitney invited comments and questions.
3

4 Commissioner Janicki questioned the oversight for 16 years if the property was surveyed in
5 2007. Ms. Whitney explained that staff discussed the issue with the previous owner; however,
6 DNR lacks sufficient funding to resolve trespass issues as there are hundreds of similar
7 trespass situations across the state. In most cases, the affected parties are generally unhappy to
8 resolve the issue with very few ever reaching the point of willingness to resolve the
9 discrepancy and paying the costs of the transaction. The previous owner was unwilling to
10 participate and when the property was sold, the current owner discovered the trespass and was
11 willing to resolve the issue. Commissioner Janicki acknowledged the difficulty associated
12 with managing the process but would prefer some punitive factor and not just some de
13 minimis amount that resolves the issue. The previous owner knowingly drilled a well on state
14 property. Although the situation is discouraging, she supports resolution of the issue, but
15 prefers avoiding more situations from occurring in the future.
16

17 It was noted that not all trespasses reach this particular level as many are resolved
18 collaboratively with the owner. Land surveyors in the regions address and resolve many
19 situations. The most egregious situations typically include some physical encumbrances that
20 often require an elevated action to resolve.
21

22 With no other questions, Ms. Whitney requested approval of Resolution #1613 as presented.
23

24 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve Resolution #1613; Kreaman Road
25 Trespass, T3-081317.
26

27 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.
28

29 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.
30

31 **2023 Land Bank Exchange, 86-104196, Resolution #1614**

32 **Fredrickson North, 02-102152, Resolution #1618**

33 **East Tacoma, 02-102105, Resolution #1617**

34 **Kapowsin, 02-102130, Resolution #1616**

35 **Matt Matulovich, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestitures Program, Strategic
36 Planning Office**

37 Mr. Matulovich presented the Land Bank Exchange 2023 proposal. The state properties are
38 located in Snohomish and Pierce Counties.
39

40 Established in 1977 to maintain and enhance the trust asset base, the Land Bank provides for
41 the sale of under-performing trust lands at public auction and the purchase of productive lands
42 to replace underperforming trust assets proposed for sale. All parcels in the proposed
43 exchange are managed by DNR. Some are trust lands that are no longer suitable to manage for
44 trust revenue and others were recently purchased productive commercial land held in the Land
45 Bank. The purpose of the transaction is to perform an equal valued land exchange between
46 state owned lands. The action designates trust properties as Land Bank properties for

1 eligibility for public auction and designates Land Bank properties as trust properties for future
2 management and trust revenue. All trust properties in the exchange are proposed for future
3 sale at public auctions. The properties provide no revenue for the trusts and have a highest and
4 best use as residential or commercial development parcels. The parcels are isolated, difficult
5 to manage, and are better suited for development by a private developer. DNR would like to
6 move the asset value to a more productive property.
7

8 The proposed Land Bank exchange property (Arlington) is a 1.53 acre parcel with a
9 commercial structure and a long-term revenue-generating lease.
10

11 The trust properties include the East Tacoma property, a single tax parcel property located in
12 Pierce County within the City of Tacoma. The property is 0.55 acres in size and is held in the
13 Land Bank. The site is surrounded by city residential and community commercial uses. DNR
14 received several inquiries from potential buyers over the last several years. The property is
15 zoned residential.
16

17 Fredrickson North is a single tax parcel property located in Pierce County southeast of
18 Tacoma. The property is 0.78 acres in size and is held in the Land Bank. The property is
19 mostly cleared, paved, and surrounded by suburban residential and commercial industrial
20 properties. The property is a commercially zoned portion of a recent segregation that
21 separated the residential portion from the commercial portion. The property is zoned
22 Employment Center.
23

24 Kapowsin is comprised of three parcels located in Pierce County southeast of Tacoma. The
25 property is 28.92 acres in size, is forested, and surrounded by mid to low density rural
26 residential. The property is zoned R-10.
27

28 DNR conducted a public hearing in Tacoma on September 19, 2023, to present information
29 and receive testimony on the Land Bank 2023 exchange. One individual expressed concern at
30 the hearing regarding potential water flow or water impacts from the Kapowsin property
31 affecting Lake Kapowsin. An email comment was also received expressing the same concern.
32 Local jurisdictions and interested parties were also notified of the exchange. No other
33 comments were received on the other properties.
34

35 A portion of the subject Land Bank would be transferred into trusts with just over 11.5% of
36 the total value being allocated. An equal value of trust lands would be transferred into the
37 Land Bank.
38

39 Mr. Matulovich invited questions.
40

41 Chair Franz noted that the subject properties are zoned under each of the county's zoning
42 laws. Chair Franz requested consideration of a motion to approve the requested action.
43

44 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve Resolution #1614; 2023 Land Bank
45 Exchange, 86-104196.
46

1 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

2
3 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

4
5 Mr. Matulovich displayed an aerial map depicting the location of the Kapowsin property
6 located south of Puyallup. The Kapowsin property is managed for the Land Bank. DNR
7 proposes an oral auction with bids received in Pierce County. Auction proceeds would go to
8 the Land Bank to purchase replacement lands for trust management. Following appraisal of
9 the property, the recommended minimum bid for Kapowsin is \$690,000. He invited questions.
10 The Board offered no questions.

11
12 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution #1616, Kapowsin, 02-
13 102130.

14
15 MOTION: Dr. Brown seconded the motion.

16
17 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

18
19 Mr. Matulovich displayed an aerial map depicting the location of the East Tacoma property
20 surrounded by city residential and community commercial. DNR proposes an oral auction
21 with bids received in Pierce County. Auction proceeds will go to the Land Bank to purchase
22 replacement lands for trust management. Following appraisal, the recommended minimum
23 bid for East Tacoma is \$144,000. He invited questions. The Board offered no questions.

24
25 MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to approve Resolution #1617, East Tacoma, 02102105.

26
27 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal seconded the motion.

28
29 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

30
31 Mr. Matulovich displayed an aerial map depicting the location of the Fredrickson North
32 property south of Tacoma and Puyallup. The property is managed for the Land Bank. DNR
33 proposes an oral auction with bids received in Pierce County. Auction proceeds would go to
34 the Land Bank to purchase replacement lands for trust management. Following appraisal of
35 the property, the recommended minimum bid for Fredrickson North is \$99,000. He invited
36 questions. The Board offered no questions.

37
38 MOTION: Dean Powers moved to approve Resolution #1618, Fredrickson North, 02-
39 102152.

40
41 MOTION: Mr. Cahill seconded the motion.

42
43 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

1 **TIMBER SALES - Action**

2 **Auction Results for October 2023, FY 2024 Update, & Proposed Timber Sales for**
3 **December 2023**

4 **Padraic Callahan, Acting Division Manager, Product Sales and Leasing Division**

5 Mr. Emmons recognized Tom Heller, who is attending his last Board meeting after serving 49
6 years with the Department. Mr. Heller assumed the position of Interim Assistant Division
7 Manager, Product Sales & Leasing Division, throughout the years and was instrumental in
8 drafting many of the RCWs controlling timber sales. Mr. Heller is retiring to spend more time
9 with his family.

10
11 Chair Franz said Mr. Heller began with DNR at age 16 as a Firefighter. She was honored to
12 have worked with him. Mr. Heller will be missed. She thanked him for his service.

13
14 Mr. Callahan presented the results of October timber sales. Nineteen sales were offered
15 totaling 67.9 mmbf for \$16.9 million or \$250 per mbf. Seventeen sales sold totaling 65 mmbf
16 generating \$20.6 million for the beneficiaries at an average bid of \$370 per mbf with an
17 average of 2.5 bidders for each sale.

18
19 Mr. Callahan invited questions. The Board offered no comments.

20
21 Mr. Callahan reviewed the status of Fiscal Year 24 planned timber volume of the current plan
22 for auction volume, forecasted volume for the remainder of the year, and sold volume. He
23 invited questions from the Board. Board members offered no questions.

24
25 Mr. Callahan presented proposed timber sales for December 2023 totaling seven sales for 27.8
26 mmbf at a value estimated at \$11 million or \$397 per mbf. Of the 1,365 acres evaluated for
27 harvest, approximately 406 acres would be set-aside representing approximately 30% of the
28 total acreage.

29
30 Mr. Callahan invited questions on the proposed sales. With no questions from the Board, staff
31 recommend approval of the December sales.

32
33 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve the proposed sales for December
34 2023 as presented by staff.

35
36 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

37
38 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

39
40 **CHAIR REPORTS**

41 **Sustainable Harvest Calculation Timelines**

42 **Todd Welker, Deputy Supervisor, State Uplands**

43 **Justin Schmal, Acting Assistant Division Manager, Projects & Planning, Strategic**
44 **Planning Office**

45 Mr. Welker said that following the recent dismissal of the lawsuit, staff were asked to develop
46 a plan for completion of the Western and Eastern SHCs. The process for the Western SHC

1 was paused during the litigation to prepare for trial. Staff developed a plan for a concurrent
2 process to complete both SHCs. The proposal is a plan staff believes can be sustained as well
3 as meeting the timelines.
4

5 Mr. Schmal reviewed major factors influencing the SHC timelines:

- 6 • Western Washington SHC work was paused during litigation
- 7 • Growth and Yield Validation (4 months for each project)
- 8 • Strategic Model Validation (3 months for each project)
- 9 • Offsetting Eastern WA and Western WA Modeling workloads
- 10 • Limited staff capacity due to Budget Proviso workloads through FY25

11 Given the need to build the strategic model for eastern Washington and revise the western
12 Washington strategic model, staff believes the projects could not be completed concurrently.
13 Collectively, several factors have delayed the Eastern Washington SHC timeline by three
14 months and the Western Washington SHC timeline by approximately two years from the
15 previous estimates for project completion.
16

17 Mr. Schmal reviewed a series of tasks associated with the update of the SHCs, which requires
18 third party validation of some components. Following validation of the strategic model, final
19 models runs would be performed. The environmental analysis is conducted following all final
20 model runs for elements of the environment that could have probable significant adverse
21 impacts from the proposal. Following the release of the Draft EIS (DEIS), agencies, affected
22 tribes, and members of the public are afforded a minimum of 30 days to provide comment. At
23 this time, the Department is planning for a 60-day comment period. Staff also plan to publish
24 a financial analysis of the DEIS to help everyone understand the financial implications of the
25 alternatives analyzed. Following the closure of the comment period, the methodologies may
26 need to be revised based on comments and to incorporate any new information received. A
27 Final EIS (FEIS) will be published and accompanied by a financial analysis. The eastside
28 SHC timeline is shorter of two years and one month from alternative development to FEIS
29 publication. The shorter timeline is because staff worked on the eastside calculation during
30 the litigation. The westside SHC time from alternative development to FEIS is anticipated to
31 take over 2-1/2 years. The 2004 Western Washington SHC required two years and six months
32 to complete; however, the department contracted much of the EIS analysis in 2004. The
33 recent 2019 SHC required four years and nine months from scoping to the FEIS; however, the
34 FEIS was delayed for a preferred alternative for marbled murrelet conservation to be included
35 in the alternatives analyzed.
36

37 Mr. Schmal reviewed some incidental benefits from the delay. The Department is convening a
38 Carbon and Forest Management Work Group as part of the capital budget proviso project
39 adopted during the 2023 legislative session. The work group's first meeting is scheduled on
40 Wednesday, November 8, 2023. The work group is tasked with collaborating on approaches
41 related to the following:

- 42 • Conserving and managing older, carbon-dense, structurally complex forest stands
43 located on DNR-managed lands;
- 44 • Increasing carbon sequestration and storage in forests and harvested wood products
45 from DNR-managed forestlands;

- Generating predictable beneficiary revenue;
- Maintaining timber supplies that support local industry; and
- Addressing economic needs in rural counties.

The work group will develop different approaches for forest management in western Washington this winter with the intent to fulfill the goals. A contractor will estimate the potential increase or decrease in carbon sequestration and storage in the forest and wood products. Following the carbon analysis, another contractor will analyze how each scenario may affect regional wood supplies in rural economies and jobs. A preliminary report from the carbon contractor assessing the carbon impacts is due October 2024. Efforts by the work group will be during the time DNR is developing alternatives to include in the Western Washington DEIS. The work group's four management scenarios and contractor preliminary findings will eventually inform alternatives to include in the EIS for western Washington.

DNR also convened a Sustainable Harvest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in 2020 to advise on technical aspects of forest estate modeling. House Bill 1168 requires the TAC's involvement in the design, review, and analysis of the Department's forest growth and yield modeling. The group discussed many complex topics over the course of nine meetings. The Department paused the meetings during the last year because of the litigation workload. Staff has more topics and wants to continue discussions on existing topics the TAC should review prior to finalizing the Western Washington Forest Estate Model and the growth and yield data. The western Washington timeline enables another year to engage with TAC on important topics and provides an opportunity for TAC members to engage with Board members.

It is important to have a comprehensive understanding of how impactful various elements that feed into the forest estate model result in volume and financial outputs. Layering different goals and performing separate model runs will help to determine the impact of each individual element. The process is often known as sensitivity analysis. DNR has received requests to conduct specific sensitivity analysis from Director Brown. Having the time to complete the analyses will enable more engagement with the Board to afford a thorough understanding of the factors impacting the model solutions.

Mr. Cahill spoke to a public comment regarding additional resources to assist in moving the work forward. He asked whether the Department considered additional contracting or adding staff. Mr. Schmal replied that staff has discussed contracting some of the western Washington modeling and yield development. Funding is a limitation in the current biennium as the Department did not anticipate contracting the work.

Kate McBurney, Assistant Division Manager, Forest Resources Division, affirmed that contracting could assist in expediting the timeline; however, funding is not available to support those efforts. Additionally, effective contract management is a labor intensive process.

Chair Franz offered that staff could explore the costs of contracting and the time saved to determine if any benefit would be gained. Mr. Welker cautioned that contracting might not

1 necessarily expedite the process as there are many processes involved, such as required public
2 comment periods.

3
4 Mr. Cahill expressed interest in receiving some initial analysis of contracting some of the
5 work and an estimate of costs.

6
7 Commissioner Janicki asked about the status of the Department's inventory of eastside forests
8 to ensure the process is using accurate data. Ms. McBurney advised of DNR's program of a
9 remotely sensed inventory system utilizing three sets of data to populate the inventory
10 comprised of ground plots and two sets of different remotely sensed data sources (Lidar and
11 Digital Aerial Photogrammetry) to produce estimates of different forest metrics. The program
12 spans the entire state and is updated every two years. Another inventory system was pursued
13 as part of the proposed settlement agreement resulting in data collection of 20,000 plots. Staff
14 has been working on a comparative analysis between the two systems using the same areas to
15 identify any improvements and ensure data matches.

16
17 Chair Franz offered to provide the Board with the language from House Bill 1168 regarding
18 the specifics of inventorying.

19
20 Commissioner Janicki said her goal is to have some functional knowledge of the inventory
21 process. Ms. McBurney advised that one benefit of the remotely sensed inventory is the view
22 of everything from above. The information is also ground truthed to compare and verify the
23 data. She offered to provide some information on estimates and the statistics to increase
24 familiarity of the inventory process.

25
26 **ADJOURNMENT**

27 With there being no further business, Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Approved this 5th day of December, 2023

approved via webinar

Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

Jim Cahill
Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

Chris Reykdal
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Lisa Janicki
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

Wendy Powers
Dr. Wendy Powers, Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University

Dan Brown
Dan Brown, Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington

Attest:

Tami Kellogg
Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator