
Minutes

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

June 3, 2014

Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

JT Austin, Designee for the Honorable Jay Inslee, Washington State Governor

The Honorable F. Lee Grose, Commissioner, Lewis County

Thomas H. DeLuca, Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington

The Honorable Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ron C. Mittelhammer, Interim Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences,
Washington State University

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 Chair Goldmark called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. All Board members introduced
3 themselves. Chair Goldmark noted there was a quorum for the meeting, with Director DeLuca
4 participating via conference call.

5
6 Chair Goldmark, along with the Board members, request that the public provide materials for
7 consideration to the Board three business days prior to the meeting.

9 SAFETY REVIEW

10 Ms. Vansot gave a safety overview and instruction on evacuating the building in case of an
11 emergency.

13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

14 Chair Goldmark called for approval of the minutes for the May 6, 2014 Regular Board of Natural
15 Resources Meeting.

16
17 MOTION: Dean Mittelhammer moved to approve the minutes.

18
19 SECOND: Ms. Austin seconded the motion.

20
21 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

23 PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR TIMBER SALE ACTION ITEMS

24 No comments.

1
2 **TIMBER SALES (Action Item)**

3 **Proposed Timber Sales for July 2014| 3 handouts, including the presentation**
4 Paul Bialkowsky, Assistant Division Manager, Product Sales & Leasing Division
5

6 The results of the May auctions were presented to the Board by Mr. Bialkowsky. The
7 Department offered 19 sales totaling 70.3 MMBF in May. Of those, 18 sales sold and one sort
8 sale is pending, with 4 sorts being reoffered on June 4th. The sold sales totaled \$22.8 million for
9 an average of \$335 per MBF.
10

11 Mr. Bialkowsky remarked that bidder interest remains strong, but markets are beginning a gentle
12 slide to their seasonal lows.
13

14 The proposed July sales were then presented to the Board.
15

16 The Department proposed to offer 2 sales in July, one in King County and one in the
17 Department's southeast region, totaling 2.9 MMBF. The appraised value of these sales is
18 \$750,000 for an average of \$255/MBF.
19

20 Chair Goldmark asked whether the species mix in the southeast region sale was influencing the
21 price per MBF, and Mr. Bialkowsky replied that the southeast sale was influencing the average
22 price per MBF, as well as the fact that the sale in King County was a combination of variable
23 retention harvest and variable density thinning.
24

25 Mr. Bialkowsky asked for approval of the proposed July sales.
26

27 **MOTION:** Commissioner Grose moved to approve the proposed July 2014 sales.
28

29 **SECOND:** Dean Mittelhammer seconded the motion.
30

31 **ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously.
32

33 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR LAND TRANSACTION ACTION ITEMS**

34 Laura Merrill, representing the Washington State Association of Counties, spoke in favor of the
35 Skamania State Forest Trust Transfer.
36

37 **LAND TRANSACTIONS (Action Item) | 1 Handout**

38 **Williams Creek Acquisition, File No. 08-091566, Resolution 1426**

39 Deb Van Buren, Project Manager, Conservation, Recreation and Transactions Division
40

41 Ms. Van Buren described the 40 acre acquisition located in the southeasterly portion of Grays
42 Harbor County, west of Hwy 12 and about 2 miles west of Oakville. It was identified as an
43 edge-holding to the Lower Chehalis State Forest, adding high quality working-forest land to an
44 existing block of trust land that will provide future revenue opportunities for the Charitable,
45 Educational, Penal, and Reformatory Institutions (CEP & RI).
46

1 Ms. Van Buren described the property attributes, noting that the property is zoned General 5 with
2 one home per five acres, it contains about 29 acres of 24 year old Douglas Fir and red alder, and
3 approximately 11 acres is wetland and buffers. The Site Class is a mix of II and III. The
4 purchase price is \$99,000, plus up to \$6,500 for Compensating Tax, with \$28,000 attributed to
5 the land and \$71,000 attributed to the reproduction value.

6
7 Ms. Van Buren asked for approval of Resolution 1426.

8
9 MOTION: Commissioner Grose moved to approve Resolution 1426.

10
11 SECOND: Dean Mittelhammer seconded the motion.

12
13 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

14
15 **Skamania State Forest Trust Land Transfer, File No. 02-090669, Resolution 1427**

16 Julie Armbruster, Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions Division

17
18 Ms. Armbruster described that the property is located 8 miles northwest of Stevenson and is
19 classified as Northern Spotted Owl habitat. The timber on the property is valued at \$436,250, and
20 of that amount \$327,188 (75%) will be distributed to Skamania County to fund services.

21
22 The Department will receive \$109,062 (25%) for the Forest Development Account, which pays
23 for the cost of managing State Forest Transfer trust lands. The land value of \$63,750 will be
24 placed in the Park Land Trust Revolving Account and will be used to purchase replacement
25 forest land.

26
27 The Board will need to approve a higher land value than was appraised (\$1500 per acre rather
28 than \$600 per acre) in order to provide funds to the land replacement account that will include a
29 portion for purchasing reproduction timber. Skamania County was consulted and agreed with the
30 approach. The transfer is authorized by a legislative appropriation to assist timber-dependent
31 counties by providing revenue from lands affected by the Endangered Species Act.

32
33 Chair Goldmark asked if there are any thoughts for the future on how to encompass the owl
34 habitat with something other than regular geometric squares.

35
36 Ms. Armbruster replied that it is done that way because the habitat line follows vegetation and
37 not a describable feature like a stream or a road. A survey would need to be completed to
38 describe the habitat line, which would be costly.

39
40 Ms. Armbruster asked for approval of Resolution 1427.

41
42 MOTION: Dean Mittelhammer moved to approve Resolution 1427.

43
44 SECOND: Ms. Austin seconded the motion.

45
46 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

1 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE HARVEST CALCULATION CHAIR**
2 **REPORT**

3 No comments.
4

5 **CHAIR REPORT | 1 Handout**

6 **Western Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation**

7 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

8 Angus Brodie, Forest Resources Division Manager
9

10 Mr. Blum introduced the chair report, stating that the purpose of the report was to discuss
11 riparian and marbled murrelet modeling assumptions for the Sustainable Harvest Calculation.
12

13 Mr. Blum began the presentation by recapping the discussion from the previous meetings and
14 introduced the topic of the June meeting which was to discuss riparian and marbled murrelet
15 modeling assumptions. Mr. Blum reminded the audience that in previous meetings the riparian
16 and marbled murrelet topics were discussed in terms of past performance, but this meeting is to
17 discuss options looking forward for the new sustainable harvest level in areas where we know
18 the performance during the previous decade didn't match the Department's expectations.
19

20 Mr. Blum explained that at today's meeting he was not looking for the Board to give feedback on
21 a preference of the options that would be presented, but that the range of options are inclusive of
22 the information they would need to make a decision in the future.
23

24 Mr. Brodie explained that the options that will be presented are ultimately directing how much
25 land is going to be available for harvest and how much land is going to be dedicated to
26 conservation objectives.
27

28 Mr. Brodie explained the land classes that contribute to the availability of lands for the
29 calculation. He explained that in the riparian land class the main conservation objective for the
30 Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy from *Policy for Sustainable Forests* is to maintain and
31 restore habitat for salmonoid species as well as other riparian dependent species, and to restore
32 forest conditions and their functions.
33

34 Commissioner Grose asked about the trend of availability of uplands with general objectives, and
35 what the prediction is for the availability of these lands moving into the future. Mr. Brodie
36 responded by saying that the trend is seeing the deferral areas increasing, riparian areas being
37 larger and wider from the direction in the 1997 State Uplands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP),
38 and the category for uplands with specific objectives has increased with direction from the HCP.
39

40 Mr. Brodie presented information on the past decade's performance in riparian areas.
41

42 Chair Goldmark summarized the past decade's performance in riparian areas by stating that in
43 the last calculation we projected to harvest approximately 7% riparian contribution and achieved
44 less than 1%.
45

46 Mr. Brodie presented information around potential modeling options for riparian availability for
47 the sustainable harvest calculation. The Model assumption options that were presented were:

- 1 1. No more than 1 percent of the riparian area per year (2007 SHC Assumption),
- 2 2. No more than 5 percent of upland harvest area per the decade,
- 3 3. No more than 10 percent of upland harvest area per the decade, and
- 4 4. No more than 15 percent of upland harvest area per the decade.

5
6 Mr. Blum asked if the four options presented was a reasonable range of options to bring back at a
7 future meeting date. The Board agreed that it was a reasonable range of options.

8
9 Chair Goldmark adjourned the Board of Natural Resources Meeting and he convened an
10 Executive Session.

11
12 Chair Goldmark reconvened the Board of Natural Resources Meeting at 10:15 AM.

13 14 **Western Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation**

15 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

16
17 Mr. Blum presented information on the HCP interim strategy for the marbled murrelet.

18
19 Mr. Blum explained that the purpose of buffers for marbled murrelet occupied sites is to protect
20 the site from windthrow and predation. He proceeded to present the potential options for
21 management options for 100 meter buffers on occupied sites. There are approximately 33,000
22 acres deferred as 100 meter buffers protecting occupied sites. The potential options for these
23 buffers are:

- 24 1. Thinning only,
- 25 2. 165 feet no harvest, and
- 26 3. 328 feet no harvest.

27
28 Dean Mittelhammer suggested another option of running the model with no buffers to use for
29 baseline information.

30
31 Mr. Blum presented information on options for Marbled Murrelet Management Areas
32 (MMMAs). The Board was asked to give direction for modeling assumptions on the volume that
33 they would like to see coming out of non-habitat in MMMAs between now and the completion
34 of the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy (MMLTCS). This decision will affect
35 approximately 77,000 acres of non-habitat in proposed MMMAs.

36
37 Mr. Blum presented the options below for consideration for the management of non-habitat in
38 proposed MMMAs:

- 39 1. No management restrictions,
- 40 2. No harvest activities,
- 41 3. Thinning only, and
- 42 4. Some regeneration harvest allowed, metered over time.

43
44 The Board agreed that the options are a good range to evaluate, but would like to see more
45 information around the details of the options. The Board would also like to see a couple different
46 scenarios around option 4.

1 Mr. Blum explained that we would be presenting modeling information for these options and the
2 arrearage options at future meetings.

3
4 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST**

5 Wyatt Golding, with the Washington Forest Law Center, representing the OFCO, the Sierra
6 Club, and Seattle Audubon, requested that the Board use an open and public transparent process
7 in adopting the Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC), which will require an environmental
8 impact statement (EIS) or a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). It is
9 important for the public to consider alternatives and weigh in on large discussions. The SHC
10 interacts with later decisions around the MMLTCS, and because the processes are closely
11 connected, public input is needed. Mr. Golding stated that the Department should address in an
12 open public discussion the consideration on how the SHC has arrived, and the fiduciary duties on
13 the different lands within DNR trust lands.

14
15 Casey Bakker, President of the Washington Harvester Association, an organization of vessel
16 owners that harvest geoducks for the Department, thanked Commissioner Goldmark for going
17 back to the original contract. He noted that the medical requirement is a universal requirement
18 and extended an invitation to the Board members to come out and see how they conduct
19 themselves.

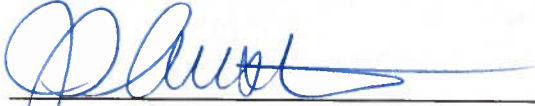
20
21 Ann Forest Burns, Vice President of American Forest Resources Council (AFRC), stated that
22 along with her were representatives of Hampton Timber, Murphy Company, and Interfor U.S.
23 (major purchasers). Ms. Burn expressed that they would encourage the Board to use an open and
24 transparent process as the Board decides on the direction of DNR staff regarding modeling
25 assumptions to be used for the next Sustainable Harvest Calculation.

26
27 Meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM

Approved this 1st day of July, 2014



Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands



JT Austin, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

absent

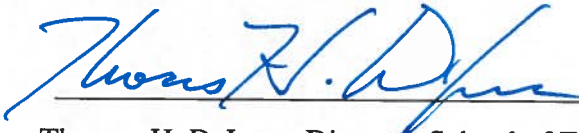
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Washington State University



Thomas H. DeLuca, Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences,
University of Washington

Attest:



Sarah Vansot, Board Coordinator

