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**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources Meeting**  
**June 6, 2023**  
**Webinar/In-Person, Olympia, Washington**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Honorable Hilary Franz, Chair & Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

Dr. Dan Brown, Vice Chair & Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences,  
University of Washington

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Honorable Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

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

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hillary Franz called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

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

**WEBINAR/SAFETY BRIEFING**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 2, 2023**

Chair Franz requested consideration of a motion to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023.

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

**SECOND:** Mr. Cahill seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion carried unanimously.

**LIGHTNING TALK - Information**

**2023 Legislative Session Briefing**

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

Mr. Emmons recapped the outcome of activities during the 2023 legislative session affecting  
State Uplands and the Agency. House Bill 1460 on Trust Land Transfer & Encumbered Lands

1 legislation codified the Trust Land Transfer Program, improved the public process, ensured  
2 100% of the value goes to replacement land, created a broader Land Pool for counties,  
3 removed barriers to land transactions, and improved Land Bank processes.  
4

5 The Agency received \$3.89 million for Recreation & Conservation for protecting lands &  
6 tribal rights, increasing law enforcement officers on state lands, funding a Tribal food pilot  
7 program, developing a statewide recreation plan, and jointly creating a statewide data  
8 management system with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Parks  
9 (WDFW) to make informed management decisions that meet conservation goals for public  
10 lands. The Agency received \$3.34 million for Natural Areas scientists and staff support, \$5.1  
11 million for Natural Areas maintenance and rehabilitation, \$2 million for Community Forest  
12 management, and \$10 million for recreation maintenance.  
13

14 Ongoing concerns include severely reduced funding for Conservation Corps of less than one-  
15 half of existing funding of one-time funding. Recreation capital improvements were partially  
16 funded with demand outstripping the Agency's ability to create new, safe, and appropriately  
17 placed recreational facilities.  
18

19 Other funding highlights include:

- 20 • \$6.7 million for Webster Seed Plant Replacement (full funding request)
- 21 • \$663,000 for Webster Nursery production expansion scoping
- 22 • \$2 million for reforestation efforts including seed collection & production
- 23 • \$10 million for commercial thinning on Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) lands in  
24 spotted owl habitat below thresholds and in riparian areas to improve habitat
- 25 • \$13.1 million for silvicultural treatments in Western Washington
- 26 • \$350,000 for continued development of alder marketing & cedar salvage marketing
- 27 • \$3.7 million for bridge replacement and fish passage
- 28 • \$625,000 to continue research in Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) with  
29 Olympic Natural Resource Center and other research partners
- 30 • \$17.3 million for six of the ten Trust Land Transfer projects, plus an additional \$2.2  
31 million to complete Dabob Bay transfer
- 32 • \$7.5 million for State Forestland Replacement in Southwest Washington
- 33 • \$1.82 million of one-time funding each to Pacific, Wahkiakum, and Skamania  
34 Counties
- 35 • \$240,000 for land purchases within the three counties (Pacific, Wahkiakum, and  
36 Skamania)
- 37 • \$1.5 million for acquisition of vacant commercial property in Skamania County
- 38 • \$300,000 for administrative costs
- 39 • \$70 million for acquisition of working forests to:
  - 40 – Set aside up to 2,000 acres of land for carbon sequestration
  - 41 – Replace lands encumbered by the HCP in Skamania, Pacific, Wahkiakum,  
42 Clallam, and Jefferson County (funding is focused in Western Washington  
43 with the exception of some areas in Klickitat County). Encumbered lands are  
44 rural counties impacted during the implementation of the HCP for marbled  
45 murrelets and owls. The funding received by the Legislature will implement

1 recommendations from the workgroup to acquire working forestlands for  
2 affected rural counties.

- 3 ■ \$2.5 million to:
  - 4 – Convene a workgroup to collaborate on approaches to conservation and
  - 5 management of structurally complex forests on DNR managed lands
  - 6 – Increase carbon sequestration & storage in forests and wood products
  - 7 – Generate predictable revenue to beneficiaries
  - 8 – Maintain timber supplies that support local industry
  - 9 – Address economic needs of rural counties and develop an understanding of the
  - 10 current timber supply by region and impacts to regional wood supply from
  - 11 management changes
  - 12 – Contract with universities or other researchers to develop a common
  - 13 understanding of carbon accounting and quantification methodologies to assess
  - 14 sequestration and storage in both forests and wood products
  - 15 – Report the group’s findings to the Legislature by December 1, 2023 (DNR to
  - 16 work with Legislature to extend the deadline)
  - 17 – Received \$500,000 to investigate hiring brokers to assist in acquiring lands
- 18 ● Received \$1.5 million to convene a different workgroup to conduct a state ecosystem
- 19 services inventory and develop a state lands ecosystem service asset plan:
  - 20 – Identify how ecosystem services could be monetized
  - 21 – Develop a marginal cost abatement model to inform highest and best use of
  - 22 state assets in ecosystem service markets
  - 23 – Conduct a needs assessment for implementation
  - 24 – Identify regulatory or policy limitations
  - 25 – Create an implementation plan for a virtual dashboard to market the ecosystem
  - 26 service inventory
  - 27 – Make recommendations on the creation of an ecosystems services equity and
  - 28 innovation account
  - 29 – Report to the Legislature by December 31, 2024

30 Other Agency funding highlights include \$5 million to expand DNR's Wildfire Ready  
31 Neighbors Program to Western Washington and integrate additional smoke readiness and  
32 wildfire readiness resources into this program. Additionally, it creates a model for state-level  
33 burned area emergency response and stabilization teams supporting implementation of hazard  
34 mitigation and post-fire treatments for public safety and resource protection; launches a post-  
35 wildfire debris flow program; and develops public safety evacuation strategies. Funding of  
36 \$10.8 million was received for removal of derelict aquatic structures and restoration of  
37 aquatic lands and establishment of a program where DNR can remove and restore derelict  
38 aquatic structures, including removal of the Triton-America Pier (Anacortes), Dickman Mill  
39 (Tacoma), Former High Tides Seafood Pier (Neah Bay), Ray’s Boathouse Pier (Ballard), and  
40 an additional \$1 million for removal of tires from Puget Sound.

41  
42 Other funding includes:

- 43 ● Geoduck Taskforce \$790K General Fund State (GF-S) & MOTCA
- 44 ● Community Forest Management: Teanaway and Klickitat \$2 million – General Fund-  
45 State (GF-S)

- 1 • Urban Forestry \$5.99 million – Natural Climate Solutions Account
- 2 • Workforce Development \$2.3 million – General Fund-State (GF-S
- 3 • Watershed Resilience Action Plan (WRAP) \$2.86 million – Natural Climate Solutions
- 4 Account

5 Mr. Cahill commented on the accomplishments during the recent legislative session, as well  
6 as the importance of the capital investment for the Natural Climate Solutions Account. He  
7 asked about the role of counties as part of the \$70 million in funds. Mr. Emmons explained  
8 that as DNR acquires replacement land, land that is set-aside for carbon sequestration required  
9 agreement by the counties on the allocation of those lands regardless of if the land is located  
10 on a specific trust land to recognize that for some counties, the forest products industry is the  
11 main industry within the county. House Bill 1460 stipulates that as DNR develops land pools  
12 in the five specific counties, all five counties will share in the revenue generated on lands  
13 acquired in a specific county through a county agreement for sharing revenue.

14  
15 Mr. Cahill advocated for the Board to begin considering the development of criteria during  
16 public meetings for the purchase of replacement lands rather than deferring any activity until  
17 later in the year. Chair Franz commented on the significant opportunity in response to the  
18 Climate Commitment Act. The Agency pursued many efforts to secure funding from the  
19 Legislature especially when there is so much competition for funding for important issues of  
20 housing and education. The Agency's approach is moving quickly but cautiously to ensure  
21 the approach is appropriate in terms of the county's perspective, e.g., impacts caused by land  
22 removed from the tax base or land added to the working forestland base. Staff will reach out  
23 to affected counties through an initial letter to invite participation to work jointly on a forest  
24 strategy. During that process, the Agency will begin developing criteria for review by the  
25 Board. The framework for the process will be presented to the Board for review and input.

## 26 PUBLIC COMMENTS

27  
28 **Ed Bowen, Clallam County**, commented on the lack of public engagement for the Trust  
29 Land Transfer Program. The new website includes only notification to the public. He  
30 contacted staff since the last meeting and most staff has not been in the office. He is unsure  
31 as to how the Agency plans to engage the public in the process. Although the Legislature  
32 allocated \$5 million to Clallam and Jefferson Counties, no communication has occurred by  
33 the Agency, which speaks to whether a public process will be followed to form the  
34 workgroup. He is nervous about the broker process and whether the public is able to engage  
35 with brokers. He asked to have his name added to the distribution list for Clallam and  
36 Jefferson Counties for the letter the Agency plans to send to counties. He also supports the  
37 proposed timber sale in Clallam County.

38  
39 **Miguel Perez-Gibson, Washington Conservation Action**, reported that previously, DNR  
40 sponsored a forester program. Today, a former member representing the Nez Perce Indian  
41 Tribe was appointed by the Biden Administration to serve as the Principal Secretary to the  
42 Department of the Army to oversee dams and conservation areas. During the presentation on  
43 forest resiliency, it is important to consider the intent because eventually the Board will  
44 develop and approve Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC) alternatives. Based on the  
45 collective experience of the last SHC, it is important to ensure the alternatives are real and not  
46 just political bookends because the SHC can create false expectations among stakeholders.

1 The Board should explore new policies, model those within the alternatives, and possibly  
2 develop them as individual alternatives.  
3

4 **Paul Butler, Thurston County**, alleged that over the last several months, some staff and  
5 industry representatives have been playing a game claiming uncertainty as to the definition of  
6 “legacy forests.” Jerry Franklin indicated during a May presentation at the University of  
7 Washington, moderated by Dr. Brown, that the terms of mature and old forests, structural  
8 complexity, biological richness, natural regeneration, retention, and resilience describe  
9 “legacy forests.” Dr. Franklin said those forests are the only complete ecosystems remaining  
10 in the Douglas fir region that have not been altered by clearcutting. As a son of a  
11 cabinetmaker and a small forest landowner, he supports a viable forest products industry but  
12 also agrees with Dr. Franklin that managing even-aged monoculture forests focused solely on  
13 wood production or return on capital is wasting other potential benefits of what forest  
14 ecosystems provide. Dr. Franklin indicated all forest ecosystems are doing the work and not  
15 just those that are harvested. He also reminded everyone why a healthy forest products  
16 industry is necessary as it provides workers who will make the changes needed to re-imagine  
17 industrial forests by converting them into structurally complex, biologically rich managed  
18 forest systems that more closely approximate mature old forests. He asked staff to explain  
19 why a disproportionate number of acres of mature old forests are still ending up as monthly  
20 timber sales especially given the recent budget passed by the Legislature.  
21

22 **Brel Froebe, Center for Responsible Forestry**, thanked the Department for listening to the  
23 Whatcom County Council and hundreds of people urging for a pause of the Brokedown  
24 Palace timber sale containing 40 acres of structurally complex carbon dense forest located  
25 within a 500-acre parcel of connected older forests bordering the Nooksack River. The timber  
26 sale is a good candidate for the new program created by the Legislature to conserve 2,000  
27 acres of structurally complex carbon dense forest. The new program is significant as it is the  
28 first time the state acknowledges the value of structurally complex carbon dense forests as one  
29 of the best natural climate solutions to store and capture carbon and make the state more  
30 resilient to the climate crisis. During the last meeting, a presentation by Dr. Daniel Donato  
31 included information on older forests describing the characteristics of mature forests and that  
32 age should not be the sole criteria. He agrees that not all forests of a certain age show the  
33 same characteristics; unfortunately, the only policy DNR currently has for old growth  
34 conservation is based solely on age. Stands that are from 1850 and older that are larger than  
35 five acres are DNR’s definition of old growth to be conserved. DNR does not consider  
36 ecological characteristics such as structural complexity, natural regeneration, and biodiversity.  
37 The Board should direct DNR to create a mature and old growth policy that follows the  
38 science presented by Dr. Donato and includes the work of Dr. Van Pelt and Dr. Jerry  
39 Franklin. Dr. Franklin has indicated older natural forests of 100+ years old in the Pacific  
40 Northwest should not be logged. He also praised DNR for its forest management. The Board  
41 should follow the guidance of conserving older forests and creating a new, mature old growth  
42 policy as part of the westside SHC.  
43

44 **Sherri Dysart, resident of Mason County**, cited the warning by Commissioner Franz at the  
45 May meeting about public attendance behavior and that it was her duty keep employees of  
46 DNR safe. It is possible the Board does not recognize a mild act of civil disobedience. When

1 people know the truth is being distorted, power is abused, and what is at stake, they will stand  
2 up, speak up, and challenge those who are abusing their power. Her reaction to the  
3 Commissioner's warning strengthened her resolve to show up and speak up at Board  
4 meetings. She will speak up for conservation of all mature structurally complex carbon dense  
5 forests on public lands in the state. Conservation of those forests is the key to stabilizing the  
6 climate and ensuring the long-term viability of the forest products industry and ongoing trust  
7 beneficiary revenue. She asked how members benefit by gaming the world while losing their  
8 soul. She asked whether anything is worth more than their soul.  
9

10 **Lynn Fitz-Hugh** said she put aside her prepared comments about why some people spoke out  
11 of turn at the April Board meeting. It has been difficult hearing things that are completely  
12 different from her experiences and reality. The Lightning Talk was a mini example of the  
13 same issue. The \$80 million requested by DNR for replacing legacy forests was generated  
14 originally from the tree community. One Senator elected to impose a limitation of 2,000 acres  
15 of replacement forests that could be purchased from the funds thereby changing the intention  
16 of the original funding request. The accompanying funds for stakeholder groups to determine  
17 the spending of the \$80 million included "legacy forests." However, people are unable to  
18 agree about legacy forests or the science of how much older trees could be removed. There  
19 was recognition for an agreement among disagreeing parties. The stakeholder group includes  
20 representation from many different backgrounds to examine the science rather than a study  
21 from colleges. She was distressed as to how it was represented by Mr. Emmons.  
22

23 **Ed Chadd, Port Angeles**, followed up on Mr. Emmons' presentation and other comments by  
24 recommending that the timing is an excellent opportunity to seek a pause in the development  
25 of sales on older forests until things are sorted out with the various statutes passed by the  
26 Legislature, future studies, and the impossibility of completing a report on all topics to be  
27 addressed by December 1, 2023. Additionally, following Ms. Fitz-Hugh's comments, if  
28 members of the Board had advocated for legislation promoted by the forest protector  
29 community through various tools, the outcome could improve the current situation. It is an  
30 opportunity to be proactive and meet with legislators individually to expand the programs and  
31 a good opportunity for members to make commitments DNR has promoted under the HCP to  
32 protect 10% to 15% of older forests in each planning unit.  
33

34 **Dr. Julie Ratner** reported last month, the public was asked to be respectful and was warned  
35 of the meeting moving to another room if there were further disruptions. After testifying for  
36 10 consecutive months, let us call a spade a spade because it is clear DNR is just going  
37 through the motions during public comment. She asked for mutual respect while the public is  
38 testifying by not looking at phones or not reserving front row seats during meetings. The  
39 environment should be welcoming to the public. She asked for the insanity to stop. Just  
40 because DNR suspended the sale of Juno because of the Commissioner's letter, DNR still  
41 plans to sell the land. It is important the Board understands the urgency of protecting parcels  
42 with mature stands like Juno and the Evergreen Gold parcels and respect the County  
43 Commissioners. Other states and many other countries would want similar natural resources  
44 to protect. The Board should listen to climate activists in attendance. She asked whether it  
45 matters to members that wild animals are moving into neighborhoods to find food and escape  
46 fires, and whether it matters that the minute a mature tree is cut, up to 75% of the carbon

1 pollution stored by the tree is immediately released into the air. She questioned why it takes  
2 years to include carbon sequestration metrics in DNR's assessments and why the community  
3 needs to hire lawyers to implement climate change goals. DNR has plenty of timber to sell  
4 without those parcels. Respect Thurston County officials and separate Juno and Evergreen  
5 parcels.  
6

7 **Donna Albert, Grays Harbor**, cited *Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Co-Benefits of*  
8 *Preserving Forests in the Western USA 2020*. The paper simulates potential forest carbon  
9 sequestration in Western United States and prioritizes forestlands for preservation based on  
10 potential carbon sequestration and vulnerability to drought or fire. The high carbon priority  
11 forests are primarily on the Pacific Coast in the Cascade Mountains and provide multiple  
12 ecological benefits. Preserving high carbon priority forests in Western United States would  
13 account for approximately 18% to 20% of local mitigation potential of natural forest  
14 management solutions. That is a huge responsibility and happens to be located within the  
15 state; however, it is important to think globally. High carbon priority forests in Western  
16 United States exhibit features of older intact forests with structural diversity including carbon  
17 density and tree species richness. The preservation of high carbon density Pacific Northwest  
18 forests that also are economically valuable for timber production has costs and benefits.  
19 Leaving existing forests intact for ecological potential is an effective, immediate, and low-  
20 cost approach to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and serves the greatest public  
21 good. Washington and Oregon forests have more carbon sequestration potential than forests  
22 in California. No other place has this potential.  
23

24 **Robert Mitchell** said in response to the anti-forestry comments, a recent AFRC newsletter  
25 uses "they" as a pronoun in a staff biography showing how in the mortal words of Bart  
26 Simpson, "the little stupid differences are nothing compared to your big stupid similarities."  
27 The small forestland owner caucus representative on the Timber Fish and Wildlife Policy  
28 Committee provided an emotional monologue that conservationists should watch. Ken Miller  
29 said that landowners feel an emotional connection to their land. He asked whether it was  
30 possible for environmentalists and industry representatives to share their feelings over  
31 clearcuts, such as the Sauerkraut parcel. Mr. Miller also called for a paradigm shift. Mr.  
32 Mitchell asked about negotiating a price for compensated conservation and whether TLT  
33 funds could be used to buy small forestlands, such as the Rivers and Habitat and Open Space  
34 Program or funding an expansion of the Forest Riparian Easement Program or more Climate  
35 Commitment Account funds for compensated conservation and federal funds under the  
36 Inflation Reduction Act designed for converting working forests. He inquired about  
37 compensating industry for conservation and questioned the industry's price for not logging on  
38 a parcel that is slated for auction. Although true that recreation impacts to the ecosystem is a  
39 matter of scale it is possible to leave so little trace that DNR might never know anyone was  
40 there. He questioned why the public is shutout from disbursed camping in NRCAs or Capitol  
41 Forest when the public reduces the damage caused by bad actors because of sharing big stupid  
42 similarities with them. The Board should not approve the timber sales.  
43

44 **Michael Scoblete, Mason County**, said all institutions are failing everyone. Look at the  
45 news to see it as life expectancy is down (even before COVID), sending children to school  
46 leaves parents wondering if they will come home as the leading cause of death for teens and

1 children is a bullet. He asked whether the next election would be settled by votes or by  
2 violence. Everyone is one paycheck, one accident, one illness, one mistake, one layoff away  
3 from the streets. Everyone is already living in a failed state and that is before the crops fail  
4 from fires, floods, heat waves, droughts, and climate change. No climate, no food, and no  
5 food are no future. Industry shills will say everyone is responsible because we all buy what  
6 they are selling, but even more responsible are the institutions that have the authority to  
7 regulate their behavior. Forget the fiduciary responsibility because the Board should be held  
8 responsible for much more. If a person shoots widely into a crowd, they are responsible for  
9 the deaths that occurred even though they did not know in advance who would be hit and who  
10 would be killed. It is the same for polluters and habitat destroyers. As the Exxon memo  
11 showed as well as others like it, they know the consequences of their actions, their pollution,  
12 of their habitat destruction, and the logging and deforestation of all industrial practices. They  
13 knew, they chose to do it anyway, and they know now and choose and keep choosing to make  
14 money and condemn everyone else to suffer and die. Meetings like this are great they are  
15 similar to a hamster wheel where the public gets to vent their frustrations and provide input.  
16 However, for those listening at home or in the audience who are tired of baby steps, done with  
17 petitions and letters to the editor, attending public meetings, or just tired of being in a sacrifice  
18 zone, it may be too late, as the fires have already begun.

19  
20 **Michael Siptroth** said that at the last meeting, he was not allowed to speak and wanted to  
21 share a first-grade class putting together an Earth Day booklet. The students all care about the  
22 earth. One student said the earth is burning and droughts are killing crops, animals, and  
23 people. Recently, a fourth-grade class learned how people living on an island in Denmark  
24 converted to wind energy. In the story, the children were enthusiastic while adults resisted.  
25 Fourth grade students brainstormed ways to create renewable energy beyond what the book  
26 presented. Help young people save the earth by saving the forests. The *Seattle Times*  
27 recently reported that the new capital gains tax has been more successful than expected with  
28 more money for schools. The Board should save more forests now. He hiked among the  
29 majestic trees in Staircase in the Olympic National Park and benefitted from them and from  
30 the rushing waters of the Skokomish River. Children everywhere deserve healthy forests to  
31 renew their spirits. Save the forests and stop cutting legacy structurally complex forests.

32  
33 **Jessica Randal, Jefferson County**, shared that her friend has been taking pictures of piles of  
34 raw logs sitting at the Port of Port Angeles that are loaded onto boats for export overseas.  
35 Rumor has it that there is a range of subsidies the commercial timber industry receives  
36 including millions of dollars of port infrastructure to help export raw logs at about a 30%  
37 premium over the domestic market. Mills and commercial logging companies have  
38 experienced wild fluctuations since they arrived in the 1850s and not just from forest  
39 conservation but mostly from the amount of timber available, the market, the equipment, and  
40 from competition. Four years ago, she and a colleague met with a representative from  
41 Olympic Resource Management to talk about the possibility of changing forest practices to  
42 something more sustainable for the environment and healthier for the local community. The  
43 individual did not budge and after two hours she asked whether the company cared about the  
44 environment or the local community. The individual informed her that the company cares  
45 only about the wealth of the company. In Washington, many mills and logging companies are  
46 from out of the state or are international corporations and not interested in local communities



1 or the current environmental concerns. If trees from native regenerated structurally dense  
2 forests, known as legacy forests, are not given to them they will be okay because change in  
3 industry is inevitable, and the market will adjust like it has done since the 1850s. The Board  
4 should not give into the industry demands at the expense of losing the forest that everyone  
5 needs to survive. Legacy forests should be conserved.  
6

7 **Jim Oliver** cited another throwback Tuesday, another month, and another month of a list of  
8 egregious irresponsible 20<sup>th</sup> century-style timber sales. Those timber sales will be illegal in  
9 20 years or hopefully in 10 years. The Board is trying to cut as quickly as possible and cut as  
10 many 100-year-old trees as possible. Today's menu features eight more timber sales located  
11 all over the state with six containing legacy forests with one area over 120 years old. Seven  
12 of the eight timber sales will be clearcut; however, it is not referred to as a clearcut under the  
13 stewardship of variable retention Hilary. A total of 1,413 acres will be clearcut. The  
14 minimum total price corporations such as Weyerhaeuser and Green Diamond will pay to buy  
15 the timber is \$17.7 million or peanuts as the money could purchase two-thirds of Russell  
16 Wilson's house in Denver or about one-third of his yearly salary. All variable retention hacks  
17 that helped design and approve the savage clearcuts should be ashamed of themselves. The  
18 closer to the day when clearcutting forests become illegal, the more desperate and greedier the  
19 Department will appear to be. If anything, the Board should feel lucky that some residents of  
20 the state still see it as legitimate because those days are numbered.  
21

22 **Natasha Hays, Thurston County**, said many of the speakers have spoken to many of her  
23 concerns. She understands that wood products also include carbon sequestration. Although  
24 she is not supportive of cutting legacy forests, trees that are cut are storing carbon. She asked  
25 whether the timber in the state is used within the state because she would want the timber to  
26 remain in the state to the extent possible. The study regarding 2,000 acres is to be completed  
27 by December 2023, which is not what she understands and that concerns her.  
28

29 **Tammy Dziadek, Port Angeles**, said logging close to the Elwha River poses a serious health  
30 concern to the region's drinking water. Last summer, Port Angeles experienced a Stage 3  
31 water shortage because of low flows in the Elwha River. The river is the city's sole source of  
32 drinking water. Research has demonstrated that clearcut logging severely impedes water  
33 flows. With climate change, summer water shortages are projected to worsen. It is important  
34 to protect forests surrounding the sole drinking water source. Failure to do so would be fool  
35 hardy. Forests in the Pacific Northwest store more carbon per acre than any other forest in the  
36 world. Old forests have an exceptional ability to mitigate climate change. It is important to  
37 protect old forests allowing them to serve as carbon workhorses to meet state climate  
38 commitment goals. Timber harvests release over 80% of forest-sequestered carbon and  
39 logging has been found to be a major emitter of carbon in the atmosphere. The proposed  
40 Power Plant timber sale seriously threatens climate change mitigation potential. Although  
41 Power Plant was logged 20 years ago, it was logged using the shelter wood method and  
42 contained an unusual high number of old trees nearly 100 years old. The forest has naturally  
43 regenerated around those trees without monocrop planting, using herbicides, or fertilizers with  
44 the potential to become old growth. Power Plant should be protected and even more as it  
45 located above the Elwha River. The Board should suspend the Power Plant timber sale and  
46 all logging on state lands in the Elwha watershed. The time is necessary to seek alternatives

1 for newly available state funds.  
2

3 **Zephyr Elise** addressed the Board in French as addressing the Board for many years in any  
4 language other than money or MBF seems to be inaudible to the Board. The public have  
5 addressed the Board with independent science, with indigenous cultural knowledge, and with  
6 forward-thinking solutions to the current climate crisis and still the Board continues its  
7 genocidal mission to destroy a livable natural world for quick industrial profits. She will no  
8 longer ask as an indigenous person that the Board stop killing our right of life. If the Board  
9 really wants to support indigenous food systems, it can start by stopping all applications of  
10 biocides that target vital native plants. She echoed the words of a philosopher that you can  
11 either “respect our existence or expect our resistance.” Instead, she addressed the important  
12 members of the meeting that are never present to speak themselves - all legacy forests, both  
13 the ones that have been stolen from future generations as well as the ones the Board is going  
14 to vote unanimously to a death sentence today. She also addresses the ancient forest that she  
15 prays will be thriving here and fully-grown and cherished a thousand years from now when  
16 the current capitalist idiocracy and its harms are long healed and forgotten.  
17

18 **Randy Hayden, Port of Pasco**, referred to the pending action on the proposed Pasco Triangle  
19 Transfer. He thanked staff for their accommodation and assistance throughout the transfer  
20 process over the last three years. The 18-acre Pasco Triangle is of critical importance for  
21 Pasco’s industrial development. The property lies next to the Port’s industrial center, a last  
22 piece of the largest developable ground. Because of an unfortunate road placement, the Pasco  
23 Triangle blocks the industrial park from the adjacent county arterial road causing the northern  
24 half of the property to be landlocked and undevelopable without the DNR property. On the  
25 southern half of the industrial parcel, the Port has experienced success by attracting Darigold  
26 to build the nation’s largest dairy processing facility. As a majority Hispanic county  
27 struggling with poverty and wage growth, the type of investment Darigold is making is a  
28 game changer for the community because of family wage jobs and property tax revenue. The  
29 Board is asked to assist the Port by ensuring continued economic growth on the north half of  
30 the industrial parcel through acquisition of the Pasco Triangle.  
31

32 **Theresa Sesma Meyers, Clallam County**, said she is a concerned citizen about some issues  
33 that were discussed at length. The interest of the logging industry seems to overshadow the  
34 need to preserve critical watershed vital to maintaining the delicate balance of the  
35 environment. The Elwha watershed is comprised of legacy forests serving as a major source  
36 for sequestering carbon. She respectfully requested pausing the sale of TC 3 and Power Plant  
37 to complete good analysis of the change to the environment. She is also concerned about  
38 hastening the climate crisis. The interests of the forestry and logging industry needs to be  
39 balanced with the interests of climate, community, as well as some essential parts of what the  
40 watershed provides in terms of drinking water. It is also very concerning that the people of  
41 Clallam County have spoken at length with the Board of Commissioners to no avail. It has  
42 been quiet and respectful listening on the part of the Commissioners with no real clear  
43 acknowledgment of the community’s needs and requests to pause. She asked the Board to  
44 focus on the needs of climate, the community, and essential water supply.  
45

46 **Greg Bellamy, Fire Commissioner, Clallam County**, said personnel are becoming a little

1 nervous as the forests are drying. The Fire District is attempting to prepare for fires although  
2 during his residency he has never experienced a forest fire in the area. On behalf of the Board  
3 of Commissioners of the Fire District, he thanked DNR for the positive actions that are  
4 occurring. FEMA finally provided some funds for the slide experienced in the area in 2021.  
5 Today, the Fire District has a grant writer and is able to access grants from DNR.  
6 Approximately 25% of the region's economics are from timber sales. He complimented  
7 regional DNR staff. The county's finance office developed a data system to calculate the  
8 estimated cost of timber sales revenue to the Fire District for budgeting purposes. The fire  
9 District saves lives and protects property. Last December, the Fire District saved a building  
10 serving as a bed and breakfast business.

11  
12 **David Perk, resident of Seattle**, reported one year ago at the May 2022 Board meeting,  
13 Chair Franz recommended the Board not revise the existing old growth and older forests  
14 policy. She suggested focusing instead on the carbon project, which would encompass 10,000  
15 acres. Since then, the carbon project has been the subject of legal action that appears to be on  
16 hold. He asked about the status of the parcels nominated for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the  
17 project and whether they would be available for nomination for conservation as part of the  
18 2,000 acres of carbon sequestration mentioned in the Lightning Talk. County  
19 Councilmembers around Puget Sound are interested to know the answer. At the June 2022  
20 Board meeting, Chair Franz supported lifting the moratorium on harvesting pre-1900 forests  
21 in order to release a significant amount of board feet to help close the gap in volume. He  
22 asked whether the 2,000 acres funded by the Legislature is the only preservation of older  
23 forests the Department intends to complete. The authors of the proviso intended for those  
24 acres to be additional to the carbon project. He asked about the status of the Department's  
25 older forests policy given that the carbon project is on hold and the moratorium on pre-1900  
26 forests has been lifted, as well as why the Board has not tackled a long-overdue forest policy  
27 update as part of the 2,000 acres sequestration project.

28  
29 **Heath Heikkila** commented that he is somewhat scared attending the meetings for his  
30 personal safety given some of the comments that have been voiced. He is hopeful that the  
31 Department considers having some sort of law enforcement present during the meetings on a  
32 regular basis. As a father of three young children, he finds attending the meetings can often  
33 be alarming. He thanked the Board for their service and referred to the \$70 million from the  
34 budget proviso for the 2,000 acres. It is important to ensure appraisals are based on the most  
35 recent sales data. For example, the Sure Wood timber sale recently sold for \$3.6 million  
36 compared to the \$2.1 million appraisal. Sure Wood is the timber sale the Board was bullied  
37 over for approving several months ago. For State Forest Transfer Lands, he suggested  
38 providing revenue estimates of the value for counties and junior taxing districts, which stand  
39 to lose significant revenue for decades if the acres are set-aside and replaced with other lands.  
40 Land replacement will likely not generate revenue for decades because the land will be young  
41 commercial timberlands. As mentioned earlier, the Board received a letter from Whatcom  
42 County on the Brokedown Palace timber sale. The county has indicated they would ensure  
43 the Mount Baker School District is whole by making up the lost revenue the district would  
44 have received from the Brokedown Palace timber sale. It is unfair to suggest that the  
45 information on the timber sale has not been thoroughly reviewed. He participated in a 2.5-  
46 hour work session with the Clallam County Board of Commissioners and numerous DNR

1 staff members reviewing archaeological issues, water quality, and other environmental issues.  
2 The timber sale has been examined closely.  
3

4 **Jerry Bonagofsky, Washington Contract Loggers Association**, said the organization  
5 represents logging, log hauling, and log road construction companies. He thanked staff for  
6 the incredible amount of work completed to bring timber sales forward meeting all regulatory  
7 requirements and for their work in maintaining healthy and sustainable forests that produce  
8 climate friendly building materials from a renewable resource to meet the growing demand  
9 for wood products. Members of member companies within the organization, like trust  
10 beneficiaries, rely on the DNR timber sales program to support their organizations and their  
11 employees. The DNR timber sales program is certainly critical to maintain the infrastructure  
12 of the industry, provide support for family wage jobs, and generate revenue for rural  
13 communities and trust beneficiaries.  
14

15 **Nina Sarmiento, Port Angeles**, reported she serves as a tour guide on the Elwha River and  
16 works for the Center for Responsible Forestry and advocates for legacy forests. She supports  
17 previous comments submitted by the Center for Well Research, Earth Law Center, and  
18 Keystone Species Alliance focusing on why the Power Plant parcel requires further  
19 consideration for protection. It should be clear that if Clallam County had a say in the timber  
20 sale, which it should since the land is managed for the county's benefit, they would protect  
21 the land because it is part of the Elwha watershed. A map provided to the Board depicts how  
22 close the proposed sale is to the Elwha River, former dam site, and restoration area. The  
23 federal government has spent \$320 million on restoration efforts and logging directly  
24 undermines those restoration efforts. The City of Port Angeles asked for the sale to be paused  
25 only to be ignored. The parcel was an experiment harvested using the shelterwood harvesting  
26 method and it has naturally regenerated. Forests in early successional stages are not devoid of  
27 value as they reestablish a close forest canopy with complex food webs and biodiversity. This  
28 was revealed in a study by ME Swanson et al on *The Forgotten Stage of Forest Succession:  
29 Early Successional Ecosystems on Forest Sites*. DNR has no records of how the experiment  
30 on Power Plant failed. A public disclosure request revealed no evidence and there is no  
31 assessment as to how the experiment was abandoned and turned into a plantation. It was a  
32 mistake as naturally regenerated forests are the least understood forest condition, and still  
33 standing, the forest is an opportunity for ecological forest study. Chair Franz should serve as  
34 the leader for the rural community rather than smile and laugh as if the system is not  
35 destroying a livable future on the planet. Stop protecting the timber industry and pause the  
36 timber sale.  
37

#### 38 **TIMBER SALES - Action**

#### 39 **Auction Results for May 2023, Fiscal Year Update, and Proposed Timber Sales for July 40 2023**

41 **Michael Kearney, Product Sales and Leasing Division Manager**  
42

43 Mr. Kearney presented the results of the May timber sales. The Department offered 11 sales  
44 and sold 10 with the exception of one small region sale in the Northeast Region that is  
45 currently available at the previous minimum bid at the next scheduled auction, as well as  
46 several log sort sales reoffered in June. The timber sales totaled over 42 mmbf of timber and

1 approximately \$15.4 million in sales for distribution to trust beneficiaries. The average  
2 stumpage price was \$363 per mbf with the auctions generating an average of 2.8 bids per sale.  
3

4 Mr. Kearney invited questions. There were no comments or questions from the Board.  
5

6 Mr. Kearney reviewed the status of Fiscal Year 23 planned volume. The graph reflects  
7 current plan for auction volume, forecasted volume for the remainder of the year, sold  
8 volume, and timber sales reoffered. The projected fiscal year for Western Washington has  
9 been adjusted to reflect 403 mmbf. For Eastern Washington, the amount is 63 mmbf for the  
10 fiscal year.  
11

12 Mr. Kearney presented eight proposed sales totaling approximately 46 mmbf with an  
13 estimated value of \$17.8 million. The projected stumpage price is \$494 mbf. He reviewed  
14 the type of sales offered for auction within the regions and a pie chart depicting estimated  
15 revenue to be generated for each trust.  
16

17 Mr. Kearney addressed comments by the public regarding the Power Plant timber sale.  
18 DNR's HCP provides for protections for riparian functions, wetlands, and protection of  
19 hydrology maturity for rain on snow events. Each protection was approved by NOAA  
20 Fisheries as a condition of the HCP. Prescriptions for the significant rain on snow zones and  
21 wetlands should minimize the potential adverse impacts of forest management on winter peak  
22 flows and summer low flows. Watershed Administrative Units (WAUs) are evaluated for the  
23 amount of forest cover and reported in the SEPA Checklist. In Salt Creek, the total WAU is  
24 over 70,000 acres. DNR's total ownership in the WAU is 17.7%. The proposed acres for  
25 harvest both even aged and uneven aged harvest in the next seven years constitutes  
26 approximately 3% or approximately 2,000 acres. Active Forest Practice Applications (FPA)  
27 within the watershed covers 631 acres or .8% of the total acres in the watershed. The vast  
28 majority of acres are federal lands. In the Sutherland-Aldwell WAU, DNR's total ownership  
29 is 13.5% of the acreage or 2.7% of the total acreage proposed for harvest in the seven-year  
30 period. Active FPA permits cover .3% of the total. Forest Practice Rules are based on Clean  
31 Water Act requirements for drinking water. Forest practices buffers are established under the  
32 Clean Water Act through the Department of Ecology and reflected in the forest practices  
33 buffers. The analysis completed by hydrologists and foresters under the HCP deemed no  
34 likely impact to water quality. Additionally, the Power Plant timber sale treatment is more  
35 common for timber sales in Eastern Washington. A portion of the stand is harvested, and  
36 seed trees are left to help regrow an understory. The parcel was previously harvested between  
37 1996 and 1998 with regeneration based since the harvest. The parcel is located outside of the  
38 channel migration zone of the Elwha River. DNR's parcel is adjacent to a privately owned  
39 parcel.  
40

41 Mr. Kearney invited questions  
42

43 Superintendent Reykdal asked whether the 804 acres is private or federal lands. Mr. Kearney  
44 noted the lands are non-DNR lands within the watershed.  
45

46 Mr. Cahill asked for additional information on the shelterwood harvesting concept. Mr.

1 Emmons explained that the shelterwood harvesting process removes a certain portion of the  
2 stand to enable regeneration. A seed tree harvest removes most of the existing forest with  
3 leave trees per acre remaining to enable seed to fall and regenerate naturally. A shelterwood  
4 process leaves more trees in the initial harvest to enable natural regeneration to occur. The  
5 process is typically not used in Western Washington because Douglas fir and other shade  
6 intolerant species do not grow well under the shelterwood process. The stand was harvested  
7 in the late 90s when the HCP was nearing implementation. The harvesting process was not a  
8 bona fide experiment but rather field staff in the Olympic region testing the shelterwood  
9 process. The result was regeneration and growth. The proposed sale is the second true entry  
10 to remove the overstory remaining from the first harvest. Some salvage operations were  
11 completed in the past as well as fertilization on the stand in the past. The stand is one of the  
12 most managed stands on the Olympic Peninsula. The harvest will remove remaining  
13 overstory with eight trees per acre retained with riparian and slope protections.  
14

15 Mr. Cahill spoke to the concern about water quality in terms of water temperature and an  
16 existing TMDL below the area for temperature. Millions of dollars have been expended on  
17 removing dams and there are concerns about water temperature and endangering salmon and  
18 orcas. He asked about the type of analysis completed to determine whether the harvest would  
19 affect existing TMDLs currently exceeding temperature standards in the watershed following  
20 removal of the dams. Mr. Emmons explained that within the area, the harvest units are  
21 located some distance from the river and are separated by required buffers and at greater  
22 separations than required by numerous regulations. The analysis of the watershed reflects  
23 DNR's total ownership is less than 20% and the harvest is .08% of the watershed. Studies  
24 were not completed of the river for temperatures; however, because of the requirements of the  
25 HCP and required riparian protections, the final riparian restoration strategy in 2012-2013  
26 approved by NOAA Fisheries and WDFW approves the management within those types of  
27 watersheds by promoting the restoration of the riparian function and not degrading functions.  
28

29 Mr. Cahill remarked that the Department of Ecology has not determined whether there would  
30 be groundwater continuity issues with low summer stream flows on the parcel. Mr. Emmons  
31 affirmed no analysis was completed for the harvest because it is not typically completed for  
32 harvest units. Mr. Cahill noted his concern is not targeted for all parcels but more directed to  
33 Units 3 and 4 near the river. Previously, the Aldwell sale in the area prompted similar  
34 questions but he was more comfortable as the area was not subject to TMDL requirements.  
35 The concern is that part of the sale moving forward should have an understanding of the  
36 impacts or possibly delaying the sale pending other efforts. Mr. Emmons replied that the sale  
37 would be harvested using the shelterwood removal process leaving an established 25-year-old  
38 stand. The process is not a variable retention harvest but removes material that had been  
39 reestablished. The harvest is guided by the HCP, riparian protections, and leave tree  
40 strategies.  
41

42 Superintendent Reykdal asked about the age of the trees planned for harvest and whether the  
43 larger trees serve as existing cover for 25-year-old trees. Mr. Emmons said the harvest  
44 includes a mix of ages with the age range averaging 100 years.  
45

46 Superintendent Reykdal inquired as to whether the layout includes a presumption of

1 disturbances resulting from the fall of larger trees and whether it is calculated in the total take  
2 of board feet, so the auction reflects all cover trees with some share of 25-year-old trees  
3 harvested as well. Mr. Emmons explained that sale includes a volume of harvestable timber  
4 in the areas of the roads that is incorporated within the figure of the 25–30-year-old stand.  
5 Any merchantable volume is incorporated within the timber acreage determination cruise.  
6 The compliance forester oversees the harvesting process to ensure contract compliance and to  
7 ensure against any damage in order to harvest understory. Forest Practices as the regulatory  
8 arm has a role to ensure the regulatory framework is followed.  
9

10 Mr. Kearney described the geography of the unit with respect to the location of the river. The  
11 eastern section of Unit 4 near the center of the leave tree clump as denoted on the map is the  
12 area where the gorge veers the closest to DNR's property line. The entirety of the gorge is  
13 located on the adjacent property.  
14

15 Mr. Cahill questioned the possibility of using another harvesting process to assist in removing  
16 volume while protecting older trees. Mr. Emmons explained that based on the lack of  
17 personal ground experience of the units and the shelterwood harvesting process, final removal  
18 essentially means the unit, which was previously heavily thinned and will employ the  
19 shelterwood process to promote more regeneration. The proposed sale is for the removal of  
20 the previous thinning to enable restoration and room for the understory to grow.  
21

22 Commissioner Janicki conveyed appreciation for the information as she appreciated the  
23 proximity of the timber sale to the Elwha and the interest the timber sale has generated. She  
24 asked whether the units were naturally regenerated rather than planted. Mr. Emmons advised  
25 that shelterwood process enables the natural regeneration process. He does not believe the  
26 units were replanted. Natural regeneration can often require more time and the density of  
27 trees per acre can vary. Mr. Emmons described the likely landscape of the units containing  
28 different species of trees with gaps and stands of trees in other areas. The University of  
29 Washington's experimental forest includes a demonstration of shelterwood and seed tree  
30 plantings.  
31

32 Bill Wells, Acting Forest Resources Division Manager, offered to answer questions although  
33 he has not visited the site. Concerns surrounded the damage caused by removal of trees.  
34 During commercial thinning applications, trees are removed from an existing stand with little  
35 damage occurring to the standby using equipment designed to remove and place trees between  
36 standing trees. He does not anticipate any complications during the shelterwood process. All  
37 merchantable volume is included in the cruise and no additional material would be allowed  
38 for removal from the site without a contract clause allowing additional volume. In terms of  
39 whether the stand could be thinned, the purpose of the shelterwood is to enable similar  
40 activity 20 to 30 years later. Without the activity, the shelterwood process would not have  
41 previously occurred because of the number of leave trees not growing to their full potential.  
42 Shelterwoods, especially in Western Washington, would not be utilized if there was no  
43 expectation of removing overstory at a future date. Additionally, the entire sale represents  
44 slightly more than a million board feet of timber to be removed.  
45

46 Mr. Cahill asked whether all subject timber units were subject to previous shelterwood

1 processes. Mr. Kearney said 96% of the sale area is shelterwood removal while only 4% of  
2 the area is variable removal.

3  
4 Mr. Kearney said the proposed seven timber sales located in Western Washington total 1,882  
5 gross acres that were reviewed for harvest. Following field inspections by Agency specialists,  
6 approximately 34% of the original acres were conserved to protect potential unstable slopes,  
7 cultural resources, riparian areas, wetlands, and wetland management zones in addition to the  
8 marked and bounded out minimum of eight leave trees per acre. Conserved areas total 644  
9 acres leaving a net harvest area of 1,238 acres or 66% of the gross acres of the area.

10  
11 Mr. Kearney reviewed the estimated percentage of revenue by trust generated from the sales.

12  
13 Mr. Kearney invited questions and comments.

14  
15 Dr. Brown conveyed appreciation for the questions concerning the Power Plant sale.

16  
17 Mr. Kearney reported staff recommends approval of the sales.

18  
19 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve the proposed sales as presented by  
20 staff.

21  
22 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

23  
24 Mr. Cahill thanked staff for answering questions about the Power Plant sale. It appears the  
25 proposed sale is attempting to rectify an experiment that did not perform as anticipated, which  
26 is encouraged by the Agency as staff explores other types of practices. Given the smaller  
27 volume, he supports the sale but would hope the Agency examines other areas under TMDLs  
28 to understand how a timber sale could impact water temperatures in rivers and streams as it  
29 likely will become an increasing issue despite adhering to and exceeding Forest Board  
30 Practices rules.

31  
32 Superintendent Reykdal acknowledged the unusualness of the proposal. The proposal is a  
33 relatively a small volume of what is occurring on the ground. Whether planted or naturally  
34 regenerated, the forest is not achieving the heights, volume, and the shade necessary because  
35 of the experiment 25 years ago.

36  
37 Dr. Brown supported the notion that the Agency does experiment with alternative approaches  
38 to silviculture while acknowledging that this particular experiment was not designed as an  
39 experiment, but it is important to learn from the process. The question of alternative  
40 silvicultural treatments in the OESF continues to be important for the Agency's learning. In  
41 this case, the overstory needs to be removed to enable the second generation of forests to  
42 thrive. The proposed action is the right course because of the relatively small volume.

43  
44 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

45  
46 Chair Franz recommended future Lightning Talks on the context surrounding experimental



1 forests and other different practices tried and tested to review lessons learned.

2  
3 *Chair Franz recessed the meeting from 11:21 a.m. to 11:34 a.m. for a break.*

4  
5 **BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES – Action**

6 **Caleb Maki, Staff to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names**

7  
8 Mr. Maki presented five proposed names approved by the Board on Geographic Names at its  
9 May meeting.

10  
11 **Hopkins Ditch** - The proposal is a location clarification. Hopkins Ditch has served as part of  
12 the Hopkins Drainage Ditch District since 1902 and flows into Salmon Creek. The proposal  
13 clarifies that the ditch is a man-made feature flowing into Salmon Creek (at Jones Road) and  
14 corrects the coordinates for both features.

15  
16 **Passage Through** - The name is proposed by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Passage  
17 Through (scləqʷ) describes how the feature was used as a passage for canoes from Oak Bay to  
18 Scow Bay. The feature had been blocked because of development but has been opened  
19 enabling canoes to pass through in over 80 years.

20  
21 The next three names are in response to the U.S. Department Interior Secretarial Order 3404  
22 to remove derogatory names. The proposal includes the last three remaining names:

23  
24 **Nosh Nash Wahtum** - The proposed name was submitted by the Confederated Tribes and  
25 Bands of the Yakama Nation and means "Salamander Lake" located within the  
26 Pshwanwapum traditional territory in the Ceded Lands of the Yakama Nation.

27  
28 **Swaram Creek Ridge** - The feature is located in the traditional area of the Methow Tribe,  
29 and the name was chosen by Elaine Timentwa Emerson, a respected tribal elder, native  
30 speaker, and instructor of Methow descent.

31  
32 **Masawii Lake** - The name was offered by Randy Lewis, a respected tribal elder and native  
33 speaker of Wenatchi descent.

34  
35 The Board recommends approval of the proposed name changes.

36  
37 **MOTION:** Mr. Cahill moved to approve the proposed names of Hopkins Ditch, Passage  
38 Through, Nosh Nash Wahtum, Swaram Creek Ridge, and Masawii Lake as  
39 proposed by the Board on Geographic Names.

40  
41 **MOTION:** Dean Powers seconded the motion.

42  
43 **ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously.

1           **LAND TRANSACTIONS – Action**

2  
3           **Jones Creek Purchase, 08-097745, Resolution 1602**

4           **Bob Winslow, Project Manager, Strategic Planning Office, Acquisitions & Divestures**

5  
6           Mr. Winslow reported the Jones Creek property is located in Clark County approximately 14  
7 miles northeast of Vancouver. This property is 640 acres in size and is primarily site class 3  
8 with some site class 4 soils on the ridgeline. This property is an in-holding within the Larch  
9 Mountain unit of the Yacolt State Forest. DNR is purchasing this property using Land Bank  
10 funds. The age class of trees on the property varies from 0-20 years because of the Nakia Fire  
11 burn of over half the property during the summer of 2022. DNR will obtain \$117,000 in  
12 funds at closing to cover the anticipated costs of the labor and seedlings for reforesting the  
13 areas impacted by the fire. Acquiring the property will provide benefits through increasing  
14 the acreage of state timberlands anticipated to provide future revenue, removes a private in-  
15 holding within the center of a large state forest, reduces road costs through the elimination of  
16 the payment of RUP fees, enhances dispersed public recreation, and provides good ballast  
17 rock for nearby state trust roads. The acquisition price of this forest asset was \$855,000 or  
18 \$1,336 per acre. The property will be switched from Land Bank to designated trust within the  
19 next year.

20  
21           Mr. Winslow invited questions on the proposed resolution.

22  
23           Mr. Cahill inquired as to the beneficiary of the purchase. Mr. Winslow said the beneficiary is  
24 the Land Bank to be held for a future transaction of an auction to designate the purchase as  
25 trust land.

26  
27           Chair Franz invited consideration of a motion to approve the resolution.

28  
29           MOTION:     Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution 1602

30  
31           MOTION:     Dean Powers seconded the motion.

32  
33           ACTION:     The motion was approved unanimously.

34  
35           **Pasco Triangle Transfer, 01-103868, Resolution 1603**

36           **Tanner Williams, Program Manager, Strategic Planning Office Acquisitions and**  
37 **Divestures**

38  
39           Mr. Williams presented the proposal for the Pasco Triangle transfer property located in  
40 Franklin County 9 miles northwest of the City of Pasco. The property is an 18.3-acre parcel  
41 of Common School Trust land that is proposed for transfer to the Port of Pasco for the  
42 continued development of the Reimann Industrial Center. The subject property is currently  
43 used for agriculture and is adjacent to the Port of Pasco's 300-acre parcel purchased in  
44 anticipation for development of the Reimann Industrial Center. The appraised value of the  
45 property is \$495,000 or \$27,049 an acre designated to the Real Property, Replacement  
46 Account to acquire replacement Common School Trust land. Mr. Tanner requested approval

1 of Resolution 1603. He invited questions from the Board.

2  
3 MOTION: Mr. Cahill moved to approve Resolution 1603; Pasco Triangle Transfer

4  
5 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

6  
7 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

8  
9 **CHAIR REPORTS**

10  
11 **Forest Resiliency Metric**

12 **Kate McBurney, Assistant Division Manager, Forest Resources Division**

13  
14 Ms. McBurney briefed members on a metric used in the Eastern Washington SHC. During an  
15 earlier presentation, staff reviewed several recommendations to consider for the development  
16 of the SHC for Eastern Washington:

- 17
- 18 • Future harvest and silviculture informed by ecotypes shifts, a new strategy for  
explicitly incorporating climate change impacts in the model
  - 19 • Using a forest resilience metric to track forest health and resiliency over time that  
20 could be used to drive harvest activities
  - 21 • Forest health prioritization framework that could drive where forest health treatments  
22 should be conducted.

23 Ecological forest resilience is the ability of a system to persist through and recover from  
24 disturbance through an ability to adapt to a warming, drying climate and increases in wildfire  
25 by shifting to more drought and fire-tolerant tree species, fuel structures, and landscape  
26 patterns resistant to large-scale, high severity fires and drought-induced tree mortality that can  
27 lead to rapid destabilization.

28  
29 Forest health in RCW 76.06 states, “The condition of a forest being sound in ecological  
30 function, sustainable, resilient, and resistant to insects, diseases, fire and other disturbances,  
31 and having the capacity to meet landowner objectives.”

32  
33 The framework for the metric consists of a sigmoid curve, like an “S” curve, with defined  
34 targets ranging from high resilience to low resilience of all conditions across the landscape.  
35 The intent is seeking measurable stand characteristics or from the forest inventory that can be  
36 measured and quantified for forest health. The goal is creating a measurable metric ranging  
37 between zero and one with one as the highly resistant state and zero as the low resistant state.

38  
39 The goal of the metric is to identify relevant components of forest resilience, especially those  
40 affected by management decisions, develop a single, quantitative stand-level forest resilience  
41 metric, and track changes in forest resilience over time and under different management  
42 regimes. The metric is a density metric to ensure accountability of the risks that can be  
43 inputted from insects, disease, and fire impacts.

44  
45 Density management for resilience uses a stand density index (SDI) based on the relationship  
46 between tree size and the number of trees per acre. Healthy forests generally fall within the

1 management zone. As trees occupy more growing space, mortality occurs in the self-thinning  
2 zone. The full or maximum stocking is the SDI Max. The density metric quantifies the  
3 relationship between SDI and SDI Max. The SDI Max varies by vegetation ecotype. The  
4 slope and shape of the curve varies by ecotype. The Insect and Disease metric determines a  
5 severity score of pathogen and insect infestation based on tree species and diameter size of  
6 individuals and determines likelihood score of impact by each pathogen and insect infestation  
7 by vegetation ecotype. Scores are generated through a collaborative effort between experts in  
8 DNR's Forest Resources and Forest Resiliency Divisions. Individual tree severity scores for  
9 insect and disease list potential threats generated for each tree species. The severity of  
10 mortality is scored for each threat by diameter size class and tree species.

11  
12 Ms. McBurney identified the insect/pathogens for Douglas fir, Lodgepole Pine, and Western  
13 redcedar by tree size and the mortality severity score ranging from 1 = minor, 2 = associated  
14 w/ other stressors, 3 = moderate, 4 = significant, and 5 = imminent.

15  
16 Scores by vegetation ecotype for Insect and Disease factors the likelihood of occurrence over  
17 a large scale, such as a watershed or threats from root disease and mistletoe that are likely to  
18 be exacerbated by a changing climate. The Insect and Disease metric combines the severity  
19 and likelihood scores. Scores are calculated from the yields. Changes are reflected due to  
20 growth and changes in species composition post-harvest.

21  
22 Fire metric components are based on bark thickness, species, diameter, and total length of the  
23 crown in feet. Using the US Forest Service Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) Fire and Fuel  
24 Extension in a moderate severity fire, it calculates the percent of the crown volume scorched  
25 and the mortality of basal area. The Fire metric has a high score if a modeled fire results in  
26 low mortality.

27  
28 Ms. McBurney shared photographic examples of low resilience stands and high resilience  
29 stands.

30  
31 The SHC forest resilience metric is calculated from the yields. The metric calculates for each  
32 decade modeled using FVS Treelists and FVS Fuel and Fire Extension outputs. It can be  
33 tracked within stand-level and for stratified yield groupings or could be a potential action in  
34 the model, such as a target or threshold to identify. In response to climate change in the  
35 future, staff will explore possibilities and consider climate change in the future by  
36 recalculating the forest resilience metric to determine future actions in response to drier  
37 conditions.

38  
39 Superintendent Reykdal questioned whether the Department adds the impact of fire on the  
40 front end of the baseline that is counted against the harvest volume or whether the Department  
41 calculates a loss of 10% of forests over the next 10 years, asking how the Department  
42 determines the baseline and whether it is reflective of conditions today or subtracts some  
43 presumptions of loss over time. Ms. McBurney said the SHC will need to explore the  
44 question as staff determines ways to account for those factors. The SHC was last completed  
45 in 1996. Since then, many new policies and procedures were adopted. The model will begin  
46 as a complete bubble without consideration of climate shifts, fires, other impacts, policies, and

1 procedures. As the modeling occurs, additional considerations will be added to account for  
2 climate projections, fire projections, and other impacts. The steps of modeling will result in a  
3 model that establishes a baseline to consider how policy changes might change the base.  
4

5 Chair Franz added that the Agency currently forecasts changes. Approximately 35% of fires  
6 on the westside have grown with foresters witnessing die-offs. Larger disturbances result in  
7 the Agency recalculating the yield. In forests on the westside, other factors outside of fires  
8 include blow down and wind events affecting the inventory.  
9

10 Ms. McBurney commented on the hard work completed by eastside foresters, as well as the  
11 challenges they must consider and plan for by creating complex prescriptions to manage  
12 forests properly. Following a thinning of one stand, the area experienced a fire and if the  
13 thinning had not occurred, the entire forest would have been lost. The work is difficult and  
14 the SHC will be difficult to process; however, the new SHC will give foresters the support  
15 they need to manage forests.  
16

17 Chair Franz said the stand consisted of 800 acres of heavily thick trees that included a high  
18 level of community engagement with a town hall meeting attended by over 250 people. The  
19 team presented information on the landscape 100 years ago to help people understand what  
20 nature produced before DNR managed the landscape. The information reflected the forest  
21 health treatment. Many structures were saved through forest management that would have  
22 been lost during the fire. The context of the nursery and seedlings in terms of how climate is  
23 impacting the landscape in Central and Eastern Washington provides an opportunity to learn  
24 about the seedlings and the type of tree species that could flourish in those areas despite  
25 climate change.  
26

## 27 **Recreation**

### 28 **Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Recreation and Conservation Division Manager**

29  
30 Ms. Ohlson-Kiehn briefed the Board on developing a vision for outdoor access and  
31 responsible recreation (OARR) on DNR-managed lands. DNR has experienced an explosion  
32 on the popularity of recreation on DNR-managed lands. The next three months will include a  
33 series of presentations on the topic beginning with the purpose of the OARR Plan for lands  
34 managed. Future presentations will explore the benefits and challenges facing the recreation  
35 program, as well as the launch of the statewide recreation planning process. In August, the  
36 Board is scheduled to conduct a retreat at the Northwest Region in Whatcom and Skagit  
37 Counties to consider recreation on working forestlands in those counties.  
38

39 DNR's goal for recreation and outdoor access is implementing a recreation and outdoor  
40 access program on DNR-managed lands that provides diverse and high-quality recreational  
41 opportunities that foster community engagement, promote a strong sense of environmental  
42 stewardship, and enrich the quality of life in Washington. The vision incorporates two  
43 concepts of recreation and outdoor access.  
44

45 Ms. Ohlson-Kiehn displayed a map of three different types of lands managed depicting 2.6  
46 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands, 3 million acres of trust lands, and 160,000 acres of

1 natural areas to include National Resource Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves.

2  
3 DNR has a recreation program because as the manager of state trust lands, DNR has legal  
4 fiduciary responsibilities to generate revenue and other benefits for each trust, in perpetuity,  
5 preserve the corpus of the trust, exercise reasonable care and skill, act prudently to reduce the  
6 risk of loss for the trusts, maintain undivided loyalty to beneficiaries, act impartially with  
7 respect to current and future beneficiaries. RCW 79.10.100-120 codifies the multiple use  
8 concept of all DNR-managed lands by facilitating recreational and other public access to the  
9 lands. The Legislature directed DNR to utilize the multiple use concept in the administration  
10 of the lands when such use is in the best interest of the state, the general welfare of citizens,  
11 and is consistent with the provisions of the lands involved. Utilizing a multiple use concept  
12 allows other public uses when the uses are compatible with the obligations of trust  
13 management.

14  
15 Ms. Ohlson-Kiehn displayed a slide of the different types of uses listed in the statute. If such  
16 uses are not compatible with the fiduciary obligations in the management of trust lands, the  
17 use may only be permitted with compensation to satisfy the trust financial gains. The statute  
18 was incorporated within Board policy, Policy on Public Access and Recreation and the Policy  
19 for Sustainable Forests. The Department will protect trust interests and seek to balance  
20 economic, ecological, and social concerns by evaluating cost and benefit to the trusts. The  
21 Department will only expend management funds for closing, limiting, or redirecting public  
22 access in order to meet trust objectives or protect trust assets by controlling the impacts of  
23 incompatible dispersed public access and illegal activities.

24  
25 State-owned aquatic lands include tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of  
26 navigable waters (e.g., rivers, lakes, and streams). DNR shall “Strive to provide a balance of  
27 public benefits for all citizens of the state.” Public benefits include “encouraging direct public  
28 use and access....”

29  
30 Under the Natural Areas Preserve Act RCW 79.70, the Department is authorized to.... [limit]  
31 public access to natural area preserves....where appropriate, and on a case-by-case basis, a  
32 buffer zone with an increased low-level of public access may be created around the  
33 environmentally sensitive areas. Under the Natural Resource Conservation Areas Act RCW  
34 79.71, lands are identified as having high priority for conservation, natural systems, wildlife,  
35 and opportunities of low-impact public use value. NRCA areas were created in the late '80s  
36 to integrate both public use and conservation. A number of WACs govern how the  
37 Department manages recreation and public access. A key component of the regulatory  
38 framework that guides the management of the three types of the lands is the component of  
39 understanding the role Tribes have in relation to the lands. Tribes are sovereign nations,  
40 having specific rights. Tribal leaders have expressed concerns over the impact of outdoor  
41 recreation on the condition of state-managed land, specifically how it may be undermining the  
42 integrity of ecosystems that are important to tribal communities, projected increases in  
43 outdoor recreation participation, and the importance of continued collaboration. Washington  
44 has 29 federally recognized Tribes. The work with Tribes is through the government-to-  
45 government process.

1 Commissioner Franz recently met with the Directors of Parks and WDFW, the Governor's  
2 Office, and Tribal leaders on April 27, 2023, facilitated by the Governor's Office of Indian  
3 Affairs to initiate a discussion on how to address impacts from public access and recreation on  
4 state trust lands. The meeting was a component of a funding decision-package for DNR. The  
5 conversations will continue with the Commissioner's Tribal Summit, an event where  
6 Commissioner Franz and representatives from Tribal Nations with traditional territory in  
7 Washington convening to discuss shared interests in natural resource management. The  
8 summit is convening on June 12-13, 2023, with time on the agenda to discuss recreation  
9 impacts on DNR-managed lands.

10  
11 DNR has a recreation program on state lands because of the enthusiastic public. In 2022,  
12 Earth Economics published a report on outdoor recreation on state lands in Washington using  
13 mobile device data to estimate visitation on Fish and Wildlife, Parks and DNR-managed lands  
14 in 2019 and 2022. During that period, increases were observed on all state lands averaging  
15 approximately a 12% increase in visitations with a 21% increase on DNR lands.

16  
17 DNR offers over 200 recreation facilities of 80 campgrounds, more than 1,300 miles of  
18 multiuse trails including 500 miles for motorized use. Public access is through the Discover  
19 Pass. DNR offers specialized programs for disabled hunters and other power-driven mobility  
20 devices through specific policies.

21  
22 DNR funds recreation and outdoor access without relying on trust revenue as stated in the  
23 Policy of Sustainable Forests. DNR has seven different funding sources with different  
24 methods for acquiring funds from each funding source through grant and legislative  
25 proposals. Revenue from the Discover Pass is integral to the budget with DNR receiving only  
26 8% of Discover Pass revenue similar to WDFW as the majority is allocated to State Parks.  
27 Several of the funding sources are volatile and subject to increases and decreases due to  
28 factors not influenced or predicted by DNR. DNR also receives a portion of the state motor  
29 vehicle fuel tax, and funds from ORV non-highway vehicle account and the NOVA Account.  
30 Multiple sources of funding include different sets of rules with some funding sources more  
31 restrictive than others. Funding sources are all inter-dependent, as some grants require match  
32 requirements. The funding allocated is insufficient to meet demand. The estimated cost of  
33 the program is \$32 million based on expert opinions internally and existing infrastructure.

34  
35 Next month's presentation will cover how the recreation program works, benefits and  
36 challenges, and the OARR planning process.

37  
38 Mr. Cahill noted that the budget for the next biennium has been enhanced significantly and  
39 should be reflected in the figures during the next presentation.

#### 40 41 **ADJOURNMENT**

42 With there being no further business, Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.  
43  
44

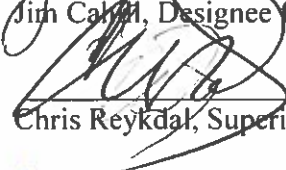
Approved this 5 day of JULY, 2023

Absent

Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands



Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee



Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Approved VIA Webinar

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

Approved VIA Webinar

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



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

Attest:



Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services, [psmsoly@earthlink.net](mailto:psmsoly@earthlink.net)