
Minutes
Board of Natural Resources Meeting
December 6, 2022
Webinar/In-Person, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

The Honorable Bill Peach, Commissioner, Clallam County

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

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Franz called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

Chair Franz recognized Commissioner Peach for his many years of service on the Board. Commissioner Peach joined the Board in January 2016 serving as Vice Chair and worked extensively on the long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet, 2015-2025 Sustainable Harvest Calculation, and many other Department initiatives.

WEBINAR/SAFETY BRIEFING

Ms. Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator, provided an overview for viewing and participating in a combined webinar and in-person meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 1, 2022

Chair Franz requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022 regular Board of Natural Resources meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Cahill moved to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Brown seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

1
2 **LIGHTNING TALK**

3 **Clean Energy Map**

4 **Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Clean Energy Program Manager**

5
6 Ms. Haffner-Ratliffe provided an overview of DNR's Clean Energy Program and Map.
7 The program's goal is to leverage the clean energy market to generate revenue for the
8 trust while also supporting other priorities of the agency, Washington State's clean
9 energy goals, and managing trust lands with care. The program launched in December
10 2022 to responsibly site clean energy development on state trust lands, including site
11 characteristics and lease expiration information. The map is designed to evaluate the
12 potential for clean energy leases and includes properties managed by DNR the agency
13 would consider leasing for clean energy. The map helps to identify concerns about solar
14 on specific properties early to assist energy developers in locating the right property for
15 projects. All projects are subject to permitting to include environmental review, tribal
16 consultation, and public comment periods. No other landowner in the state is proactively
17 evaluating its lands for potential clean energy development. The goal is for DNR to
18 attract clean energy developers as they consider a site for a clean energy project. The
19 agency's work on the program could have a significant impact on the clean energy
20 industry in Washington. The Clean Energy Map was developed entirely by DNR internal
21 resources with no external or internal supplemental funding. Staff completed the project
22 without any assistance from consultants. The map is the first state Clean Energy Map
23 available to the public. Ms. Haffner-Ratliffe provided an online demonstration of the
24 map.
25

26 Dr. Brown asked whether the Department has instituted some type of a prioritization
27 process to help mitigate concerns of existing lessees of properties that might potentially
28 conflict with a potential energy project. Ms. Haffner-Ratliffe responded that the map is
29 designed as a proactive process for identifying properties where leases are naturally
30 ending, as well as focusing on properties where stakeholder feedback has been received.
31 The Department is transitioning as many energy project developers contacted the
32 Department prior to the development of the map. Additionally, conversations with tribes
33 and environmental stakeholder groups have generated additional information while DNR
34 acknowledges that no promises can be extended for excluding some sites based on best
35 business decisions by the Department. The map does not reflect a commitment to lease a
36 property for a clean energy project. The map is intended to identify properties that DNR
37 would administratively consider with the ability for the Department to remove properties
38 from the map as more information is obtained.
39

40 Mr. Cahill asked whether DNR conducts cultural resources surveys on state lands and
41 whether developers are responsible for paying for the costs of a more detailed survey.
42 Ms. Haffner-Ratliffe advised that the Department received initial cultural resource data
43 from one tribal nation that shared information on whether there would be support for a
44 renewable energy project on a specific property. DNR has an advantage over other
45 mapping projects because the program evaluates parcel by parcel combined with
46 information DNR currently has on properties. DNR has not completed cultural resources
47 review on all DNR properties. The Department plans to utilize cultural resource
48 information with approval from the tribes to identify any concerns. When developers

1 contact DNR about a specific property or the Department has identified priority
2 properties, a list of those properties will be forwarded to tribes with a request for
3 feedback. Following receipt of information from the tribes, a more formal government-
4 to-government consultation would occur to make decisions moving forward. Not all
5 projects include a site visit prior to issuing a lease. The SEPA process, consultation, and
6 other information gathering all contribute to the process prior to issuing a lease. The
7 permitting process also requires a cultural resources review.
8

9 PUBLIC COMMENTS

10 **Esther Kronenberg** referred to previous comments on DNR policy permitting a clearcut
11 with a fabricated Forest Practice Application (FPA). The clearcut served as an example to
12 Thurston County, City of Olympia, and thousands of residents of the agency's practices
13 that are contrary to community interests and common sense. The clearcut has sparked
14 questions as to why DNR is allowing the destruction of the very abundance it is supposed
15 to protect for the common trust. Former State Senator Karen Fraser intends to bring the
16 harvest to the attention of the State Legislature in addition to hundreds of residents and
17 civic groups as it enabled logging before the appeal period was over making any appeal a
18 sham. She cited the expensive appeal process contributing to the erosion of public trust.
19 After a century of exploitation, the abundant forest is no more as DNR keeps cutting as if
20 there is no end.

21
22 **Jerry Dierker** commented on DNR's failure to act on adjacent property to a recently
23 logged site that currently is a Model Toxics Control site, a former gravel mine, and a
24 Weyerhaeuser log yard site. The site contaminates the groundwater preserve for the State
25 Capitol and is poisoning the water residents drink. Fifty years ago when the first
26 complaint was filed, DNR cited the landowners and ordered the removal of all non-native
27 waste on the site. DNR has failed to follow through for the last half century and failed in
28 its duty other than promoting logging, promoting destructive actions to the environment,
29 and destroying a salmon-bearing stream on the site. The City of Olympia will also be
30 pursuing thefts of timber from its property and an environmental preserve adjacent to the
31 property to the fullest extent of the law.
32

33 **Ed Bowen, Clallam County**, requested an explanation as to why the Chair of the Board
34 appears to continue working remotely. He is hopeful Dean Powers, as a new member of
35 the Board has been educated on the proposed Settlement Agreement (SA). As a citizen,
36 he is concerned because he has had to live with the results of a 2005-era settlement on the
37 Olympic Experimental State Forest, which caused confusion and lack of confidence that
38 has evolved to a deferral role that concerns him. He questioned how the SA addresses
39 arrearage issues, inventory issues, deferral of harvests, and how it affects the Board's
40 decision on the 2025 Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC). He asked for the location of
41 a 500,000-acre sample that will move forward by the end of 2024. He stressed the
42 importance of establishing a priority for the most impacted area within Clallam County
43 based on the SHC and Marbled Murrelet Strategy. Approximately 93,000 acres in
44 Clallam County should be at the top of the list for sampling.
45

46 **Brian Karnes, Cascade Hardwood Group**, said the company employs 221 people at
47 two facilities. Hardwood logs from DNR timber sales represent 20% of the volume the
48 company cuts annually. It is important to have a consistent supply of hardwood logs from

1 the DNR timber sales program. The mills have more capacity to cut hardwood from DNR
2 timber sales. However, volume has decreased. Raw materials require planning,
3 scheduling, and a consistent flow to remain efficient and competitive. The company is
4 concerned about shortfall volume in the last fiscal year and this year and whether DNR
5 plans to make up the lost volume from last year. Timber sales staff work hard to ensure
6 sales are offered for auction. He is hopeful DNR will continue to bring timber sales to the
7 Board for approval and to find a way to increase volume to meet the shortfall.

8
9 **Ed Martin, Western Forest Products**, commented on the importance of legacy forests
10 to the state and beyond. He acknowledged the long-term vision of state founders, past
11 legislatures, and governors to establish the framework to ensure the existence of legacy
12 forests for generations. With most state lands permanently off base for active forest
13 management, the remaining is extremely valuable with a long history of generating forest
14 products everyone uses. The company produces cross arms from DNR timber, which
15 support sustainable renewable products and the green energy market. Ceasing the
16 production of timber will force the use of carbon-polluting non-renewable alternatives
17 often originating from distance lands. Cross arms is just one example of homegrown
18 climate-friendly solutions derived from state forests. Legacy forests are under threat from
19 rabid self-interest groups focusing on the killing of legacy forests, from politicians
20 willing to sacrifice legacy forests for short-term political gain, and decision-makers
21 willing to make decisions based on emotion rather than forest science. It is important to
22 celebrate the incredible legacy forest model in the state and oppose voices claiming
23 cutting trees is bad in the face of good forest science.

24
25 **Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council (AFRC)**, thanked Commissioner
26 Peach for his service to the Board, beneficiaries, communities served by beneficiaries, as
27 well as customers of the beneficiaries. He thanked the Board for acknowledging the facts,
28 science, existing policies, and the system as a whole during its decision-making. The
29 Board continues to support the legacy of the Department, education, public services, and
30 economic prosperity. He thanked field staff past, present, and future for their efforts in
31 supporting and furthering the legacy of revenue, jobs, and wood products from trust lands
32 benefitting all in the state. He thanked those individuals who work in the forest products
33 industry, particularly the manufacturing side for the legacy created through values and
34 commitment to people. They produce the products that help make lives better, wood
35 products to house people, packaging for products, and biomass to help generate
36 electricity to keep everyone warm. Those who work, plan, manage, harvest, and
37 manufacture create the real legacy of working forests in the state benefitting everyone.

38
39 **Rod Fleck** thanked the Department and the Board for continuing to offer the hybrid
40 meeting option. He encouraged affirmative action on the adoption of the resolution
41 approving the SA. The Board needs to assert an oversight role in the proposed carbon
42 project. DNR has made great strides to help explain parts of the project pertaining to the
43 selection of sites; however, much more information should be explained and many details
44 shared as part of the vetting and discussion process. One of the remaining unanswered
45 issues surrounds a policy question in terms of equity surrounding rural communities
46 forfeiting revenue and jobs for larger carbon polluters. The equity issue is a policy and
47 should be addressed by the Board to provide oversight to the Department. It should entail
48 action by the Board to review the carbon project including leases, relationships to the

1 brokerage firms for credits, and various issues of payments. He thanked Commissioner
2 Peach for his service to the state's trust land beneficiaries.
3

4 **Heath Heikkila** echoed previous comments conveying appreciation to Commissioner
5 Peach and to the Board for their service. He thanked the Board and staff for developing
6 and supporting timber sales and forest health programs. Those efforts help to provide
7 carbon-friendly wood products under some of the strongest environmental protections in
8 the world, as well as making forests more resilient to a warming climate including the
9 increasing threats of wildfire and drought. Recommendations from the Intergovernmental
10 Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), reports from the United Nations, and the most recent
11 UN COP 27 Climate Change Conference all speak to the importance of working forests
12 and wood products for meeting increasing global demand for building materials. They
13 clearly recognize that the greatest long-term climate mitigation benefits come from
14 sustainably managed forests that produce wood products needed by society rather than
15 sourcing materials through illegal logging and deforestation or using more energy or
16 carbon intensive materials such as concrete and steel. He supports the proposal for better
17 data, information, and transparency that will lead to better stewardship for state managed
18 working forests that support jobs, provide revenues, and are a key part of the state's
19 climate mitigation strategy.
20

21 **Doug Cooper, Hampton Lumber**, said the timber sales program is critical to the
22 ongoing success of Hampton's operations in the communities of Darrington, Morton, and
23 Randall and are the socioeconomic drivers of those communities. In October, he
24 recommended the Board should review the Department's quarterly economic and revenue
25 forecast. The forecast updated on November 1, 2022, includes an analysis of current
26 economic conditions and objective projections of future revenue for state trust funds and
27 beneficiaries. He is concerned about some of the statements that cite projected harvests
28 and sales of timbers exceeding 500 mmbf per year. Everyone can agree there are some
29 difficult and challenging policy decisions moving forward. He encouraged everyone to
30 listen to remarks offered by Commissioner Franz to the Washington Farm and Forestry
31 Association in May 2018. The remarks speak to the Rural Communities Partnership
32 Initiative, which he supports. He appreciated the lightening talk. Forest biomass and
33 residuals from the wood products manufacturing process are other clean energy sources.
34

35 **Kendra Smith** spoke on behalf of Skagit County Commissioners and thanked
36 Commissioner Peach for his service. The Board is urged to approve the SA. Forest lands
37 at issue in the litigation represent approximately a quarter of the county's working forest
38 lands. In 2019, Skagit County sued the Department alleging mismanagement of
39 timberlands in Skagit County previously transferred to the state to hold in trust for the
40 benefit of the community. It was evident those lands entrusted to the state were not being
41 transparently managed. The county requested the return of the lands consistent with basic
42 principles of trust law. The management of those lands is an important part of the
43 community's basic services and infrastructure, as well as the forest industry that protects
44 against development and growth. Skagit County opted to preserve its rural land base for
45 the long-term sustainable natural resource industry with a far-reaching stake in universal
46 benefits that it provides. In June 2022, Skagit County was requested to approve the SA
47 with DNR. Skagit County Commissioners approved the proposed SA because it offers
48 better accountability. The Commissioner's are appreciative of the good work of DNR and

1 ongoing actions to address concerns. The proposed SA is a reasonable resolution to the
2 matter affording all parties a pathway to rebuild mutual respect indispensable to the trust
3 relationship and long-term success.
4

5 **Sherri Dysart, resident of Mason County**, commented on DNR's use of best available
6 science during the environmental process to establish the new SHC. Best available
7 science is an evolving process. Unfortunately, the state is hampered in the use of best
8 available science because of House Bill 2528 enacted in 2020. The bill obscures true
9 accounting of carbon emissions by the entire forest products sector both public and
10 private. Notably missing are carbon data within the atmosphere incurred by harvesting
11 mature forests. The amount of carbon stored in forest products has been grossly
12 overstated. Independent scientists have refuted the science underpinning the legislation.
13 One solution is capturing the recent ruling by Jefferson County Superior Court Judge
14 Keith Harper who ruled against DNR in October. His ruling confirms DNR violated the
15 state's Environmental Policy Act by failing to consider the impacts of climate change
16 from two timber sales in Jefferson County. It is not an isolated problem. To determine
17 true sustainability, best available science states that separating carbon, water, and
18 biodiversity and considering them independently leads to actions that inadvertently
19 reduce the values of each and can increase carbon emissions. It speaks to why the 2021
20 IPCC Climate Change Report stresses why climate change and biodiversity should be
21 examined together.
22

23 **Lynn Fitz-Hugh** stressed the importance of prioritizing climate change for all decisions.
24 The Board is scheduled to vote on six of eight timber sales containing legacy forests.
25 Legacy forests include larger trees drawing the most carbon. Since the May suspension of
26 old forest protections, the Board has auctioned timber sales as if they were unlimited. She
27 encouraged the Board to vote against the proposed timber sales. In January, February,
28 and March, the Board is scheduled to vote on timber sales for legacy forest parcels in the
29 Capitol State Forest. She objects to those sales as well. The Board should not approve the
30 SA as the Department was prevailing in court and did not have to settle resulting in a
31 terrible agreement that replaces a modern and efficient inventory system with an archaic
32 and more expensive system. It also cedes unnecessarily much more influence to the
33 timber industry for setting future harvest calculations. The Department must consider the
34 most recent climate science part of the calculation for establishing the next SHC, as well
35 as account for the significant role of older forests and sequestration.
36

37 **Robert Mitchell** commented on the need to create policies to address public garbage
38 without immediately shutting down public access. He referred to the proposed land
39 transactions and questioned why an individual should not be concerned that lands are
40 being transferred. He questioned as to why the Department does not consider using the
41 Trust Land Transfer (TLT) Program to preserve public lands rather than selling lands to
42 private buyers. Investing proceeds from TLT sales increases the number of predictable
43 payments to beneficiaries, similar to the process adopted by the state of Idaho. He
44 supports the recent decision to halt fish farms and is hopeful fish habitat in upland
45 streams and wetlands will not be eliminated in compensation.
46

47 **Julie Ratner** said the word *misnomer* is defined as a wrong or inaccurate use of a word.
48 It is a misnomer to use the word "replacement trees." Legacy trees are irreplaceable. One

1 country planted 11 million trees and three months later, 90% of the trees were dead. It is
2 illogical to propose spending \$8 million to plant trees while also selling legacy forests. It
3 is shocking that six of the eight proposed sales during the month are legacy forests. The
4 rate of carbon accumulation in trees accelerates with tree size. When one 30-inch legacy
5 tree is cut, decades of stored carbon is released. Replanting one, 30-inch tree would
6 require 70 3-inch replacement trees to draw down the same amount of carbon, noting the
7 need for maintenance and watering during summer droughts until established. She
8 questioned the point where the Board will realize its decisions are counterproductive. The
9 state could achieve more of its carbon-neutral goals by protecting legacy forests and
10 planting trees concurrently. In early 2023, the Board will be auctioning off another four
11 plots of Capitol Forest legacy trees. It is important to stop the sales and slow the pace of
12 future legacy sales.

13
14 **Miguel Perez-Gibson** reported in 2021, DNR expended \$16 million in trust land
15 management. Through the SA, some beneficiaries and timber purchasers require DNR to
16 spend an additional \$32 million on trust land management. The funding of trust land
17 management is through a fee from trust land timber sold. As a prudent trust land
18 manager, DNR has always aimed to be efficient and effective. The named trust
19 beneficiaries and the timber purchasers want DNR to increase its trust land management
20 costs by utilizing more expensive inventory practices. The theory is that a \$32 million
21 ground-based inventory over a less expensive \$1.7 million combination of remote sensing
22 and ground-based inventory would provide higher confidence in the information and
23 presumably higher revenue. Presupposing it is worth the expenditure to the beneficiaries,
24 a \$32 million increase should necessitate an increase in the management fee. However,
25 DNR requests the public fund the increase from state general fund tax dollars rather than
26 increasing the management fee from trust revenue. Funding the increase from the general
27 fund would be a paradigm shift. The public should have a more significant say in trust
28 land management. Conversely, beneficiaries should pay for increased inventory costs as
29 prudent management expenditures. The issue deserves a Board discussion, as well as a
30 discussion on the changes to inventorying and modeling; the Board should push for the
31 needs and objectives rather than predefining it in a SA presented to the Board absent
32 DNR deliberation.

33
34 **Paul Butler, a small forest landowner in Thurston County**, commented on the need
35 for permanent protection of the remaining 80,000 acres of older and mature forests
36 managed by DNR in Western Washington. During the last two years, several thousand
37 acres of older forests have been auctioned for sale. Staff claim they do not have a goal to
38 convert older forests to plantations. The proposed timber sales suggest otherwise. His
39 family forest of 80 acres has approximately 10% of older and mature stands that have
40 been set-aside for conservation. In 2010, he harvested only mature alder on seven acres of
41 mixed forest and replanted with Douglas fir and Western red cedar. In 2019, he thinned
42 15 acres of overstock stands and began to tackle several root rot pockets. The worst trees
43 were harvested with value leaving larger trees and replanting with a mix of species. He
44 questioned why DNR cannot focus on management activities in remaining older and
45 mature forest to improve long-term forest health where needed and preserve older and
46 mature forests for future generations of Washingtonians.

1 **Peter Goldman, Washington Forest Law Center**, urged the Board to vote against the
2 SA and resolution. Instead, the Board should consider a new resolution that incorporates
3 much of the resolution but builds on it. The Board could also resolve to provide direction
4 on DNR's upcoming SHC analysis and the type of input analysis the Board might desire
5 from the Technical Advisory Committee. The SA is unjustified and ill advised, as the
6 challenges to the 2019 SHC are meritless in light of Washington Supreme Court's
7 decision on *Conservation Northwest vs. Franz*. The Concrete case pending in Whatcom
8 County is also without legal or factual merit. While expensive and detracting, the
9 lawsuits are hollow threats and are paper tigers designed to bully DNR and the Board. Let
10 the state ably defend itself as it regularly does when environmentalists challenge DNR
11 decisions. The proposed resolution contains many good features but it is ambiguous and
12 is predicated on the simultaneous approval of the SA, which may not occur creating
13 misunderstanding and possibly spawning new litigation brought by the same parties that
14 currently have three pending lawsuits against DNR. He urged the Board to work on an
15 improved resolution that does not assume a SA and accurately memorializes the Board's
16 notable accomplishments, understanding, and objectives.

17
18 **Elaine Spencer** commented that for the last 50 years, statute requires DNR to manage
19 lands primarily valuable for growing forest crops on a sustained yield basis. Sustained
20 yield is defined by statute as management of the forest to provide harvesting on a
21 continuing basis without major curtailment or succession of the harvest. Over the last 25
22 years, one curtailment after another has occurred. The SA would provide DNR with the
23 tools and the data that private trusts and commercial land managers have used to achieve
24 a very different outcome. The SA will provide DNR with the tools to manage the land
25 with consistency and improve productivity. She urged the Board to approve the SA.

26
27 **Mary Jean Ryan, resident of Jefferson County**, thanked Commissioner Franz for her
28 recent testimony to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in defense
29 of the agency's carbon pilot project. She appreciated the request for additional tools to
30 meet the needs and priorities of different communities. Commissioner Franz spoke to the
31 policy direction and the opportunities presented by the Climate Commitment Act. While
32 DNR is working to develop the needed tools, she asked the agency to enact a strong older
33 forest policy and reinstate a moratorium lifted last spring. It makes no sense to cut down
34 the very forests that new tools are to save. Six of the eight proposed timber sales are
35 legacy forests. She questioned whether the forests analyzed were using the high
36 conservation value framework. She asked the Board to question the cost of implementing
37 the SA and the entity responsible for paying for those costs. She asked about
38 consideration of other less expensive alternatives because a lawsuit should not prompt
39 improving data collection. The Board should request a presentation on how climate
40 impacts of alternatives, analyzed for the SHC, and how the alternatives will be developed
41 as some alternatives should exclude legacy forests from harvest.

42
43 **Court Stanley, Washington State Association of Counties** urged the Board to approve
44 the terms of the SA. A stand-based inventory is the backbone of all forest land
45 management and the basis for informed decisions both strategic and tactical. All
46 industrial forest landowners require accurate stand-based data to guide management
47 decisions. Delineating planning analysis units to determine the polygons or the basis for
48 the inventory is an accepted methodology for compiling an accurate forest database.

1 Stand-based inventories provide a more predictable methodology for forecasting future
2 cash flows to timber counties and junior taxing districts to help them budget. The
3 organization supports and requests increased reporting to beneficiaries including the
4 sharing of the two-year tactical harvest plans. The agreement will enable DNR to have an
5 accurate representation on what forest types are on state lands, as well as provide the
6 tools to accurately determine the sustained yield, identify areas that may require
7 conservation, and provide foresters the tools they need to implement actions on the
8 ground. Counties welcome a more precise forest inventory to improve the strategic and
9 tactical plans for the benefit of rural communities, jobs, and the infrastructure needed to
10 supply the state with locally grown and sustainable climate friendly products.
11

12 **Sarah Gardam, resident of Whatcom County**, cited the Boards pending action to
13 approve timber clearcutting of 488 acres of irreplaceable legacy forests. Over the last
14 year, she has witnessed the Board act unanimously to clearcut the last few older forests in
15 Puget Sound. She questioned the Board's continuing action as she has listened carefully
16 to learn if the Board has a real answer in terms of addressing the ecological reality facing
17 the world in 2022. She asked that the Board update its interpretation of the trust land
18 mandate and standards for science and ethics by beginning with a moratorium on
19 clearcutting legacy forests.
20

21 **Gregory Bellamy, Clallam County Fire District 5**, thanked Commissioner Peach for
22 his service on the Board. Based on a recent meeting, the agency learned it would receive
23 1 mmbf of timber sale revenue. DNR staff has worked closely with the Fire District. The
24 Office of the Attorney General contacted the Fire District and offered some suggestions.
25 He thanked DNR for working with the Fire District.
26

27 **Marcia Kelbon, Jefferson County Fire District 2**, spoke to the carbon sequestration
28 program. Her concern surrounds the solicitation of input from beneficiaries without
29 providing data on the impacts of the program. The most commonly touted estimate of
30 revenue to beneficiaries would only be 10% of the original revenues from timber
31 harvests. That estimate has been questioned during beneficiary meetings with DNR.
32 Although told that the estimate is uncertain, a better estimate would be approximately
33 20%. At a recent meeting of the Jefferson County Commission, a calculation provided by
34 an external resource estimated at 82%. None of the numbers appear to be valid and input
35 is being sought from beneficiaries without providing data to document the factual impact.
36 The Fire District is anticipated to be significantly impacted by the program as
37 approximately 39% of the 10,000 acres will be part of the carbon program. She stressed
38 the importance of providing information prior to obtaining input from beneficiaries.
39

40 **Charlotte Persons** spoke to comments on the importance of legacy forests and the lack
41 of any consideration within the SHC to protect legacy forests. DNR is scheduling many
42 legacy timber sales in the next several months. She asked for enactment of the
43 moratorium until the Board and DNR can sort out the issues pertaining to the SA and
44 resolution.
45

46 **Ed Chadd, resident of Clallam County**, said six of the eight proposed timber sales are
47 legacy forests. For years, members of the public have pointed to the irreplaceable
48 ecosystem services and ongoing legacy potential of those forests. For some time, the

1 agency placed a moratorium on legacy forests to create a more coherent policy.
2 Suddenly, last May, the moratorium was lifted and replaced with the carbon project. As
3 well intentioned as the carbon project could be, it will not save the vast majority of
4 legacy forests. Instead, it appears to be an intentional accelerated liquidation of legacy
5 forests, which must stop today. The State Legislature is embarking on a long budget
6 setting session. In addition to normal sources of state funding, the state has a new tool in
7 the Climate Commitment Act Natural Solutions Account, enabling the state to capitalize
8 on its land and water holdings in the name of carbon sequestration, public health,
9 environmental justice, biodiversity, and other purposes the account was designed to
10 provide. The state's assets should be first in line for the funds particularly as opposed to
11 subsidizing industrial logging operations, as the state's funds would enhance the value of
12 the state's holdings. Now is the time to work with the Legislature, Governor,
13 Environmental Justice Council, and other state agencies on the long-term strategy to
14 enlist the state's land and water holdings to meet the state's environmental targets. Now
15 is not the time to liquidate those important assets.

16
17 **TIMBER SALES - Action**
18 **Auction Results for November 2022, Proposed Timber Sales for January 2023**
19 **Joe Koontz, Assistant Division Manager of Timber Sales, Product Sales & Leasing**
20 **Division**

21
22 Mr. Koontz reported in November, the Department offered 10 sales totaling 42.7 mmbf
23 valued at \$11.8 million for an average of \$319 per mbf. Nine sales were sold totaling
24 38.4 mmbf for \$15.8 million for an average of \$412 per mbf with an average of 2.8 bids.
25 Mr. Koontz invited questions from the Board.

26
27 Mr. Koontz presented proposed January 2023 timber sales for consideration. The packet
28 includes eight sales totaling 33.0 mmbf valued at \$9 million for an average of \$272 per
29 mbf. Three sales are located in the Pacific Cascade Region, two sales are located in the
30 Olympic Region, one sale is located in the South Puget Region, one sale is located in the
31 Northwest Region, and one sale is located in the Northeast Region.

32
33 Staff recommends approval of the sales as presented.

34
35 MOTION: Commissioner Peach moved to approve the proposed January 2023 sales.

36
37 SECOND: Dr. Brown seconded the motion.

38
39 ACTION: Motion was approved.

40
41 **LAND TRANSACTIONS - Action**
42 **Longview Purchase, 08-102535, Resolution 1592**
43 **Bob Winslow, Transaction Project Manager, Conservation, Recreation and**
44 **Transactions**

45
46 Mr. Winslow presented the proposed purchase of the Longview property located in
47 Cowlitz County approximately three miles north of the City of Longview. The
48 transaction is a proposed purchase of an administrative site containing an existing fire

1 station. Funds for purchasing the property are from a direct capital budget appropriation
2 from the Legislature.

3
4 The property includes three tax lots and is 1.24 acres in size with a 3-bay fire station on
5 the north side of the property with parking areas located at the southern end. The
6 proposed property acquisition would support wildland fire prevention and suppression.
7 The existing building, built in 1956, is 5,797 square feet in size. The benefits of acquiring
8 the property include improved wildfire response and public safety, centrally located pre-
9 positioning of wildland fire resources, elimination of currently leased space at Kalama,
10 and it would assist DNR in addressing over-capacity issues at the PC Region Office in
11 Castle Rock.

12
13 The negotiated acquisition price is \$995,000. DNR Engineering staff determined the cost
14 to acquire the existing site is economically more favorable to the State than the cost of
15 new construction.

16
17 With no questions from the Board, Chair Franz asked for consideration of a motion to
18 approve the recommended purchase.

19
20 MOTION: Commissioner Peach moved to approve Longview Purchase, 08-102535,
21 Resolution 1592.

22
23 SECOND: Mr. Cahill seconded the motion.

24
25 ACTION: Motion was approved.

26
27 **Richland 8 Auction, 02-096745, Resolution 1593**
28 **Deb Whitney, Project Manager, Lands Transaction Program**

29
30 Ms. Whitney reported the subject property is located in Benton County and is adjacent to
31 the Bombing Range Sports Complex in the City of West Richland. The vacant,
32 undeveloped 7.5-acre property is comprised of three 2.5 acre government lots that are
33 zoned Rural Low Density (RL 40), which allows up to one dwelling unit per 40,000
34 square feet in size. The property is former trust land exchanged into the Land Bank
35 because it was unsuitable for trust revenue production. In exchange, the trusts received
36 replacement land better suited for long-term trust revenue. Land Bank ownership permits
37 DNR to auction under-performing trust assets and re-invest in productive replacement
38 lands elsewhere.

39
40 The appraised value and recommended auction minimum bid is \$498,000. There are no
41 improvements on the property. The auction is tentatively planned for February 2023.
42 The proposed auction is an oral auction to be conducted in Benton County. DNR will
43 market the property via a webpage and other means prior to the auction. Ms. Whitney
44 invited questions from the Board.

45
46 Dr. Brown asked whether proceeds from the sale would be used to purchase lands for
47 trust beneficiaries. Ms. Whitney replied that proceeds would be contributed to the Land

1 Bank to purchase productive lands that would be exchanged with unproductive trust lands
2 in future Land Bank exchanges.

3
4 Mr. Cahill questioned whether the city has expressed any interest in the parcel. Ms.
5 Whitney advised that the city has received notices concerning the availability of the land
6 over the last several years. She received a telephone call from a representative from the
7 city questioning the property but with no reference as to whether the city was interested
8 in purchasing the property.

9
10 Chair Franz added that based on her conversations with city representatives, the concerns
11 centered on the property remaining vacant and its impact on the community because the
12 property is undeveloped and could attract trespassing and illegal dumping.

13
14 Mr. Winslow pointed out that DNR also sends a 60-day notice to local governments and
15 tribes providing them with an opportunity to communicate interest or concerns. The
16 Department employs a "Buy First" process to purchase replacement lands prior to
17 exchanging unproductive trust lands into the Land Bank.

18
19 MOTION: Commissioner Peach moved to approve Richland 8 Auction, 02-096745,
20 Resolution 1593

21
22 SECOND: Mr. Cahill seconded the motion.

23
24 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

25
26 *Chair Franz recessed the meeting from 10:43 a.m. to 10:48 a.m. for a break.*

27
28 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

29 Chair Franz recessed the meeting and convened an executive session at 10:49 a.m. for
30 approximately 40 minutes to discuss with legal counsel active litigation involving the
31 Board of Natural Resources and the Department of Natural Resources under RCW
32 42.30.110. No action will be taken during the executive session.

33
34 *Chair Franz reconvened the meeting at 11:32 a.m.*

35
36 **CHAIR REPORT**

37 **Supplemental Resolution 1591 – Action**

38
39 Chair Franz thanked Dr. Brown for his time and expertise in drafting proposed
40 Resolution 1591.

41
42 Dr. Brown addressed the motivation and the content of the proposed resolution for
43 consideration. The resolution was developed in response to the proposed SA. However,
44 the resolution is not directly linked to the adoption of the SA. Although the resolution
45 includes some statements that are contingent upon the adoption of the SA, those elements
46 would be activated if the SA is adopted. Separating those elements speaks to the SA
47 having some issues and potential approaches to development of the SHC for the next

1 decade. In consideration of the SA, the Board is tasked with considering the development
2 process for the SHC.
3

4 A number of concerns have been shared by the public about a specific set of approaches
5 the SA requires if adopted by the Board with respect to moving forward with the next
6 SHC. The proposed resolution clarifies Board direction of the SA and helps to respond to
7 some of the concerns of the SA.
8

9 The SA clarifies the intent of the Legislature's direction to the Department to implement
10 changes to the inventory and includes specifications as to how the inventory is
11 completed. The Legislature has directed the Department to comply with some elements,
12 such as consulting with the Technical Advisory Committee, engaging a third-party to
13 audit the inventory, and working with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
14 (JLARC). Essentially, the intent of the resolution is to reiterate the intent to comply with
15 the directives of the Legislature.
16

17 Another element provides direction to the Department on how the Board prefers to move
18 forward with the development of the SHC.
19

20 Sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 within the resolution began with, "if the Board of Natural
21 Resources approves the Settlement Agreement..." The provisions are crafted to recognize
22 the Board is not ceding any of its authority by adopting the SA. The Board's
23 responsibilities continue with respect to approval of timber sales and adoption of the
24 SHC. The SA specifies how the Board collects data to inform those actions without the
25 Board relinquishing any of its authority. The Board has received some concerns about the
26 transparency of the conversation with respect to the SA. In sections 2 and 4, the
27 provisions speak to inviting transparency beyond what has been specified. The Plaintiff's
28 Coalition has asked for a particular type of engagement around the formation of the
29 inventory. It is incumbent upon the Board to invite the public to participate in the
30 conversations as well.
31

32 Sections 3, 6, 7, and 8 are reiterations of obligations under House Bill 1168 as directed by
33 the Legislature. Section 9 speaks to how the SA refers to the Policy for Sustainable
34 Forests, which directs the Department to utilize a comprehensive approach to review a
35 discount rate. The Plaintiff's Coalition negotiated language within the SA that specifies
36 one particular source of information that would inform that process. Section 9 expands
37 the sources and does not specify the Board select the rate as the Department's discount
38 rate but that the Department should consider specific rate sources. Ultimately, the
39 selection of the discount rate is the Board's decision while employing a comprehensive
40 approach.
41

42 Section 10 includes additional information to the Department on how the Board considers
43 the SHC and the modeling work supporting the SHC based on inventory data. The first
44 section speaks to concerns surrounding costs and whether there could be lower densities
45 of sample points that could achieve similar levels of accuracy. That section of the
46 resolution directs the Department to also consider lower densities and the cost benefit in
47 terms of accuracy of information relative to the information that has been collected. The
48 SA stipulates that the information would be collected at particular densities; however, if

1 the Board learns that similar levels of accuracy could be obtained with less information it
2 would be useful for all parties. The second issue in Section 10 speaks to understanding
3 the trade-offs in the work completed recognizing the fiduciary obligation to the
4 beneficiaries and that the beneficiaries have a reasonable interest in receiving good
5 information about whether those fiduciary obligations are being achieved. The Policy for
6 Sustainable Forests points to additional considerations, such as watershed protection,
7 stored carbon, habitat attributes, ecological functions and values, forest health, carbon
8 sequestration, landscape structural diversity, and local community economies. If models
9 only include revenue, other opportunities are missed to identify possible changes in the
10 management that could result in very little change in revenue but result in big benefits to
11 other attributes. There may be ways to achieve and balance the objectives through
12 inclusion of alternative harvest techniques within the modeling, to include variable levels
13 of tree retention and thinning, which are not currently included in modeling efforts.
14

15 Chair Franz thanked Dr. Brown for summarizing the intent of the proposed resolution.
16 She invited questions from the Board.
17

18 Mr. Cahill conveyed his appreciation to Dr. Brown for his efforts in the development of
19 the resolution. Although the resolution speaks to the direction of the next SHC and
20 transparency issues, he has been asked to vote against the resolution because of its link to
21 the SA and potential complications. There are provisions in the resolution he could
22 support if presented separately and not as a part of the SA.
23

24 MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to approve Resolution 1591 as presented.

25 SECOND: Dr. Powers seconded the motion.

26 ACTION: The motion was approved. Mr. Cahill opposed.
27
28
29

30 Settlement Agreement – Action

31 Duane Emmons, Acting Assistant Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

32

33 Mr. Emmons reported the request is for approval of the proposed SA. On December 3,
34 2019, the Board approved the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy and
35 the 2015-2024 SHC for Western Washington. On December 30, 2019, Skagit County
36 Plaintiffs filed a challenge to the Western Washington SHC. The Plaintiffs include Skagit
37 County and four taxing districts. Several days later on January 2, 2020, the Concrete
38 School District Coalition (14 entities of beneficiaries and other interested parties)
39 challenged the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy and the 2015-2024
40 SHC. While the actions are distinct they are closely related as the murrelet strategy
41 identifies which DNR managed lands in Western Washington are to be managed for
42 murrelet habitat while the SHC established the volume of timber to be offered for sale
43 from the remaining lands not deferred for other reasons in Western Washington.
44

45 A third lawsuit was subsequently filed by a coalition of environmental groups and
46 individuals to include Conservation Northwest, Washington Environmental Council, and
47 the Olympic Forest Coalition on the murrelet long-term strategy and the SHC. The
48 lawsuit challenged the agency's interpretation of the trust mandate and the responsibility

1 to manage public lands in the interest of all people. The Washington State Supreme Court
2 unanimously affirmed the lower court's dismissal of the case deciding in favor of DNR.
3

4 Staff proposes consideration of the terms of the SA at this time. The beneficiaries filed a
5 lawsuit based on the belief that the Board and the Department breached their fiduciary
6 duties to the beneficiaries by the 2019 actions. Staff believes a trial of the issues would be
7 costly and labor-intensive and could take four years or more. There is also the potential of
8 unfavorable judgments by the court that could implicate a SHC and the Habitat
9 Conservation Plan (HCP). The proposed SA provides an alternative path forward for
10 discussions on how to approach the next SHC. By agreeing to the terms of the SA, both
11 lawsuits in both courts would be dismissed and the litigation challenging the Board's two
12 decisions would end.
13

14 The Board received a presentation on the proposed SA in July 2022 and received public
15 testimony during that meeting and at subsequent meetings. Staff and attorneys have met
16 and answered questions from the Board. The proposed SA has been posted on the
17 Board's website since July 2022.
18

19 Mr. Emmons outlined the elements of the proposed SA. A major theme of the proposed
20 SA is the work completed by DNR staff and the Plaintiffs to improve data used in
21 establishing the SHC. The first section of the proposed SA addresses the forest inventory
22 on operable lands in Western Washington. The proposed SA calls for the Department to
23 develop a stand-based inventory resulting in DNR sampling, on average, one plot per five
24 acres across the operable land base in Western Washington. The inventory will only
25 consider forested areas greater than 20 years in age. The Department commits to
26 inventorying an initial 500,000 acres by the end of 2024. Following completion of the
27 first 500,000 acres, the Department will continue to inventory the remaining operable
28 Western Washington lands. During the current biennium, the inventory work will fulfill
29 the requirements of House Bill 1168, which provided the foundation for improving forest
30 health through forest inventory data on DNR trust lands.
31

32 Section B within the SA includes three components with the first linking forest inventory
33 to forest land planning and harvest schedule. The proposed SA commits the Department
34 within the first six months to delineate planning analysis units or PAUs across all trust
35 lands in Western Washington. PAUs approximate past and future harvest units and are
36 used as the population unit or the stand that will be sampled.
37

38 Section C speaks to 2025 SHC development and implementation. The goal of the
39 proposed SA is for a timely SHC using improved data by July 2024. Forest inventory
40 data collected by January 31, 2023 will be used in the preparation of the next SHC. The
41 Department will work with a third party consultant to develop growth and yield as
42 required by House Bill 1168. All work on the SHC will be reviewed by the Technical
43 Advisory Committee and available for review by the Plaintiffs Coalition. The final
44 adopted SHC will include a tactical plan, a tool that guides the implementation of the
45 SHC into timber sales. The tactical plan generates maps of potential harvest schedules to
46 implement the SHC. The plans are updated every two years and account for any changes
47 in inventory or prior timber sales, land exchanges, and changes on the land base. The
48 tactical plans should aid the Department in transparency and accountability.

1
2 DNR will recalculate the SHC when 200,000 and 500,000 acres of stand-based inventory
3 are collected. If new data results in a 10% change in volume, staff will recommend
4 amending the SHC. DNR and Plaintiffs agreed to conduct a “comparative analysis of
5 modeling approaches.” After 200,000 acres of the stand-based inventory are collected,
6 DNR will analyze and compare the modeling approaches. The results of comparative
7 analysis will be presented to the Board for a decision on the approach for the Department
8 to use in the future SHC.
9

10 Section D addresses increased reporting to the beneficiaries, Board, and the public. It
11 enhances DNR’s transparency, credibility, and accountability. On an annual basis, DNR
12 will create a variety of reports, for each of the 20 beneficiaries, identified as sustainable
13 harvest units in the Policy for Sustainable Forests. This includes a two-year timber
14 harvest plans, total sold sales, including the volume and value, a comparison of sold sales
15 to the two-year plan, a variety of maps indicating both the tactical plans for each
16 sustainable harvest unit and the potential PAUs identified for harvest for the decade, and
17 a rollup of sold timber sales. The reports will be in addition to current reports presented at
18 Board meetings.
19

20 The proposed SA terminates with the adoption of the 2035- 2044 SHC. Ultimately, the
21 terms of the SA expire between 2028 and 2035 depending on when and how much of the
22 inventory is completed.
23

24 With no questions from the Board, Chair Franz requested approval of the proposed SA as
25 presented. She emphasized how she would never agree to settle a legal case if she did not
26 believe it was in the best interests of the people of Washington. Litigation is extremely
27 costly as well as costly in staff and Board time. Secondly, litigation would further distrust
28 amongst the public, beneficiaries, and the Legislature. Litigation is not a vehicle for
29 building trust. The proposed SA will increase trust amongst the public, beneficiaries, and
30 the Legislature and enable the agency to move forward in relationship building and in the
31 management and stewardship of trust lands. The proposal in the SA for inventorying is
32 already required by law, increasing the intensity of forest sampling plots will enable the
33 Department to know more about the health of forest lands as it faces increasing dying and
34 disease of trees in Western Washington. The reporting requirements will improve
35 transparency and accountability and build trust with the public, tribes, communities, and
36 the environment. For all those reasons, she supports the proposed SA.
37

38 MOTION: Commissioner Peach moved to approve the terms of the Settlement
39 Agreement.
40

41 SECOND: Dr. Brown seconded the motion.
42

43 Mr. Cahill commented that some components of the SA are commendable in terms of the
44 strategic plans, tactical plans, and reporting to the public that the Department should be
45 pursuing. However, the Governor has requested a no vote on the SA because the cost of
46 spending \$33 million from the general fund is not the best use of taxpayer dollars as it
47 subsidizes trust management activities. Payment of the expenditure from management

1 accounts would likely result in better investments in the long-term for trust management
2 rather than completing additional inventory work.
3

4 Dr. Brown said his main reservation with the proposed SA is the cost and the
5 institutionalization of a particular approach to inventory without the opportunity to revisit
6 the approach. His hope is that as more information is discovered, the Department will
7 understand the value of the information to aid in the discussions with the Plaintiffs and
8 other stakeholders to create trust in the data and a decision that density should be
9 appropriate for the information as required rather than pre-specifying an approach.
10

11 Chair Franz noted that in the context of the SA, the issue was discussed with recognition
12 that throughout the process, there would be opportunities to learn and build trust to afford
13 an environment of working together.
14

15 Dr. Brown said he supports the proposed SA and in the interest of better information, he
16 cannot argue against better information. He supports formalizing conversations about
17 goals and how to achieve those goals.
18

19 ACTION: The motion failed based on a voice vote. Mr. Cahill and Dr. Powers
20 opposed.
21

22 Sustainable Harvest Level

23 Duane Emmons, Acting Assistant Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands 24

25 Mr. Emmons presented an overview of the Sustainable Harvest Level, a first decade of
26 harvest derived from a 100-year model of projected activities aimed at maximizing the
27 value of timber harvest volume on state trust lands while meeting a suite of other non-
28 timber objectives. The model projection ensures a flow of timber volume is maintained
29 throughout the 100-year modeling period ensuring intergenerational equity is maintained.
30 The modeling incorporates statutory and policy constraints along with wildlife, habitat,
31 and other ecological goals. The harvest level is selected from model projections to help
32 ensure other trust land values are realized in present and future generations.
33

34 The Sustainable Harvest Level applies to forested state trust lands. While DNR's entire
35 land base also contributes to habitat and other goals, the Sustainable Harvest Levels only
36 determine trust lands and those lands not deferred from harvest. In Western Washington,
37 approximately 6.3% of DNR managed lands are located in natural areas.
38

39 Other factors contributing to no harvesting activities include conservation components in
40 the HCP restricting the intensity of harvesting.
41

42 Four major factors for determining a Sustainable Harvest Level include ensuring the
43 conduct of holistic sustainable forest management on state trust lands. As a trust land
44 manager, DNR must ensure maintenance of the value of trust lands for the beneficiaries
45 both current and future. That requires assurance of timber harvest, volume, and revenue
46 will be produced today and in the future while concurrently maintaining ecological health
47 of trust lands. DNR ensures the protection of habitat and factors the impacts of climate
48 and other disturbances.

1
2 The Board established 10 policy objectives, which guide the Policy for Sustainable
3 Forests. The objectives embody a range of concepts adopted as sideboards to the policy
4 development process in the early 2000s. Three of those are particularly relevant to
5 establishing the next SHC. The first is creating trust income while providing
6 environmental protection and social benefits consistent with the duties of a fiduciary.
7 DNR must use professional judgment using best available science and sound field
8 forestry to achieve excellence in public stewardship. For the SHC, DNR employs
9 scientists and technical experts and develops data and models with support through an
10 extensive team of field foresters, biologists, and other specialists in addition to the
11 Technical Advisory Committee, which informs the development of the model and
12 ensures inputs and assumptions are sound and outputs are realistic and supportable. DNR
13 promotes active and innovative and sustainable stewardship on as much of the forested
14 land base to the degree possible, which serves as the foundation of the sustained yield
15 program.

16
17 The policy objectives meet all federal and state laws including trust obligations and the
18 contractual commitments of trust lands HCP, which seeks to balance trust income,
19 environmental protection, and other societal benefits from four perspectives of the
20 prudent person doctrine, undivided loyalty and impartiality among the trust beneficiaries,
21 intergenerational equity, and not foreclosing future options.

22
23 In addition to the policies defining sustainability, the Policy for Sustainable Forests
24 includes a policy directing DNR to recalculate the sustainable harvest level every 10
25 years. If circumstances change, the Department would recalculate the SHC when needed.

26
27 The SHC statutes direct the management of state lands and specify that they be set on a
28 sustained yield basis. The Sustainable Harvest Level defined as the volume of timber
29 scheduled for sale from state lands during a planning decade, as calculated by the
30 Department and approved by the Board. A sustained yield plans refer to the management
31 of forests to provide harvesting on a continued basis without major prolonged curtailment
32 or ending of harvesting.

33
34 The business need for establishing a Sustainable Harvest Level is the requirement to
35 establish the 2025-2034 SHC calculation for Western Washington completed in time to
36 implement during the second half of 2024. DNR has not calculated a SHC for Eastern
37 Washington since 1996. The new calculation will incorporate forest health treatment
38 prioritization planning. Staff plans to implement the 20-year forest health plan to achieve
39 outcomes earlier.

40
41 The main factors affecting forest management decisions include state and federal law,
42 Board policies, fiduciary responsibility to the trust, and a suite of management plans.

43
44 The Washington State Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the lower court's dismissal
45 of the Conservation Northwest case. The ruling changed no existing statutes or Board
46 policies with DNR obligated under the SHC statutes to set a Sustainable Harvest Level.
47 Until the Legislature or the Board changes policies, the Department continues to operate
48 under the framework in existence prior to the lawsuit.

1
2 Forest management on state lands is subject to the 1997 HCP and the associated
3 incidental take permit. The HCP considers protections for northern spotted owl, marbled
4 murrelet, as well as a riparian forest restoration strategy for westside planning units only,
5 and a multi-species conservation strategy for unlisted species. Other forest land and
6 landscape plans influence forest management decisions on certain DNR lands. One plan
7 in Eastern Washington is the Loomis State Forest Plan with specific requirements for
8 leave tree retentions, stream buffer widths, and conservation of late successional forest
9 reserves. The 2004 Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan provides a set of management
10 strategies to ensure environmental protection contributing to water quality within the
11 planning area while continuing to benefit the trusts. Two other forest land plans govern
12 activities in Western Washington.

13
14 Mr. Emmons described different scales and stages of DNR's planning process along with
15 associated modeling tools to help support planning efforts. The second stage of the
16 planning process is tactical as it involves determination of how to implement and achieve
17 DNR policies. At this stage, DNR may develop specific management strategies, maps,
18 databases, or other items designed to achieve specific policy objectives. DNR is laying
19 the groundwork for a tactical forest state model incorporating spatial harvest constraints.
20 The tactical models enable the development of tactical plans or harvest schedules. The
21 operational stage of planning includes DNR foresters, engineers, and specialists using
22 guidance from policies and procedures to formulate individual timber sales, roads, and
23 the development of harvest plans. Mr. Emmons cited examples of what is involved in the
24 tactical stage to develop the tactical model to include adjacency constraints and harvest
25 deferrals.

26
27 Next steps in early 2023 include the Board finalizing a need, purpose, and objective for
28 the project to define the scope of the work moving forward. The project will have
29 implications on policy questions the Board may choose to consider as part of the process
30 with staff structuring discussions with options for consideration by the Board. Staff plans
31 to provide more technical background on the framework of the Sustainable Harvest Level
32 as well.

33
34 Mr. Cahill inquired as to the information planned for presentation at the Board's January
35 meeting. Mr. Emmons said the information would include elements that could be
36 included within the next SHC to enable the Board to provide direction at the February
37 meeting to enable staff to begin developing models.

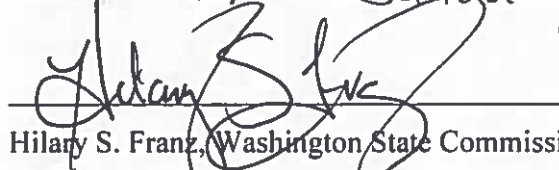
38
39 Dr. Brown commented that the tactical stage as outlined in the SA is a new formalization
40 of existing practices. It appears the adjacency constraint is a new way of implementing
41 landscape level criteria. He asked for concurrence as to whether new methods would be
42 utilized as part of the process for development of the SHC and the status of the
43 development of the tactical stage. Angus Brodie, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands,
44 explained that the tactical stage is new in terms of the modeling for information and
45 support for field personnel. However, field personnel have been developing five and 10-
46 year plans in some areas manually. The goal is converting the information to
47 computerized modeling to aid in decision-making.
48

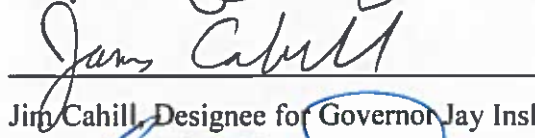
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ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Approved this 17th day of January, 2023


Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands


Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee


Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

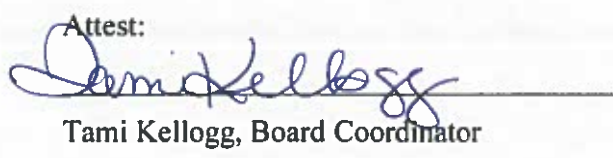

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

approved via webinar

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

approved via webinar

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

Attest:

Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator