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# Minutes

## Board of Natural Resources Meeting

November 3, 2015

Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

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

The Honorable Jim McEntire, Commissioner, Clallam County

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

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

The Honorable Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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

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### 1 CALL TO ORDER

2 Chair Goldmark called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

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4 All Board members introduced themselves. Chair Goldmark noted there was a quorum for the  
5 meeting.

### 6 SAFETY REVIEW

7  
8 Ms. Vansot gave a safety overview and instruction on evacuating the building in case of an  
9 emergency.

### 10 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11 Chair Goldmark called for approval of the minutes for the October 6, 2015 Board of Natural  
12 Resources Meeting and noted that the October 15, 2015 Special Board Meeting minutes were not  
13 ready for review.  
14

15  
16 MOTION: Dean Mittelhammer moved to approve the minutes.

17  
18 SECOND: Commissioner McEntire seconded the motion.

19  
20 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

### 21 PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

22

1 Phillip Kitchel, citizen, spoke about the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) and the  
2 dollar value of old growth timber sales. Mr. Kitchel expressed the importance of the trust  
3 mandate as the Board continues to make its decisions.  
4

5 Cheryl Heywood, Library Director, representing the Timberland Regional Library (TRL), a trust  
6 beneficiary, spoke about how TRL assists dislocated workers and military transition.  
7

8 Wyatt Golding, citizen, thanked the Commissioner, the Board, and DNR for withdrawing the  
9 application of the North Zender Timber Sale. Mr. Golding asked the Board to continue to take a  
10 precaution approach consistent with the trust mandate.  
11

12 Peter Goldman, Director of the WFLC and Council for the Sierra Club, Seattle Audubon, and  
13 OFCO, stated that the Board should not exclude alternatives from the purpose and need  
14 statement. Mr. Goldman expressed that no fiduciary duty towards the trust prevents the Board  
15 from adopting an alternative that recovers marbled murrelets on state forests. He urged the  
16 Board to include alternative F among the other alternatives.  
17

18 Maria Ruth, member of the Black Hills Audubon Society, spoke in support of the 150 meter  
19 buffers around marbled murrelet occupied sites. Ms. Ruth asked the Board to consider  
20 establishing 150 meter buffers in a combined C+D alternative.  
21

22 Linda Murtfeldt, representing the Seattle Audubon, spoke about protecting land for the marbled  
23 murrelet. Ms. Murtfeldt also supports the 150 meter buffers in a combined C+D alternative.  
24

#### 25 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR CHAIR REPORT**

26 Phillip Kitchel, citizen, spoke about the OESF and remarked that none of the options satisfies the  
27 legal requirements of the trust. Mr. Kitchel urged the Board to include an additional no action  
28 alternative.  
29

30 Wyatt Golding, with the Washington Forest Law Center, representing the Olympic Forest  
31 Coalition, the Sierra Club, and Seattle Audubon, asked the Board to use all the tools possible to  
32 see what works best for marbled murrelets. He urged the Board to test out a more protective  
33 alternative and see what is possible on DNR managed lands.  
34

35 Matt Comisky, Washington Manager for AFRC, stated their concerns about the long-term  
36 conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. First, it would be beneficial for both the Board  
37 and the public to have all the information before them prior to taking action. Firm guidelines and  
38 the impacted acres will need to be known before each alternative can be fully analyzed. Mr.  
39 Comisky remarked that it would be prudent to have a discussion on how each of the alternatives  
40 meet the purpose and objective outlined in the Need, Purpose, and Objective statement.  
41

42 Bill Wallace, representing the Washington State School Directors' Association Trust Land Task  
43 Force, stated his concerns about alternative E and the large number of acres that would reduce  
44 the sustainable harvest. Mr. Wallace remarked that the Board should have all the information  
45 present to determine what is in the best interest of the trust.  
46

1 Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, Chair of the Washington State School Directors' Association Trust Land  
2 Task Force, stated that it is important to note that DNR manages each trust individually. Mr.  
3 Pfeiffer-Hoyt expressed his concerns about the OESF landscape to protect habitat and produce  
4 trust revenue and supports amending the alternatives to preserve the intent of the OESF.

5  
6 Kevin Schmelzlen, with the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project, spoke about the impacts on  
7 marbled murrelet habitat. Mr. Schmelzlen encouraged the Board to consider alternative F and  
8 asked the Board to request Dr. Peery to run an analysis through his PBA. He then urged the  
9 Board to merge alternative C+D.

## 10 11 **CHAIR REPORT**

12 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

13  
14 Mr. Blum stated that the purpose of this presentation is to review the information that was  
15 presented at the October 15, 2015 special meeting and get feedback from board members on the  
16 marbled murrelet proposed alternatives.

17  
18 Mr. Blum presented a comprehensive summary of the marbled murrelet proposed alternatives.

19  
20 Chair Goldmark thanked Mr. Blum for the comprehensive presentation and reminded the Board  
21 that this is the culmination of almost two years of collaborative work between DNR and USFWS  
22 to agree to these proposed alternatives.

23  
24 Dean Mittelhammer asked if proposed alternative C subsumes alternative D. Mr. Blum stated  
25 that it does not.

26  
27 Dean Mittelhammer asked what special habitat in proposed alternative D is not special habitat in  
28 proposed alternative C? Mr. Blum highlighted the differences of special habitat areas between  
29 the proposed alternatives on the maps included in the presentation.

30  
31 Dean Mittelhammer asked for the rationale for putting acres in and out of special habitat areas to  
32 define the proposed alternatives. Mr. Blum stated that conservation was varied amongst by  
33 landscapes in the planning units for the proposed alternatives.

34  
35 Dean Mittelhammer stated that he is a proponent of proposed alternatives C+D, and asked for an  
36 estimate of acres for the combined alternatives. Mr. Blum estimated that it would conserve  
37 660,000 acres, but cautioned that the analysis hasn't been done to be able to provide an acreage  
38 number. Dean Mittelhammer stated that he would like a combined alternative of proposed  
39 alternative C+D.

40  
41 Chair Goldmark stated that the choices that are made today do not limit the Board from selecting  
42 pieces of each alternative after the environmental and economic analysis has been completed.

43  
44 Dean Mittelhammer stated that his concern is that the proposed alternatives are not additive, and  
45 that is why he would like to combine them at this point in the process.



1 Ms. Austin stated that the shared goal of this step in the process is to have a broad range of  
2 alternatives. She also stated that she understands that if we continue to add to what she thinks is  
3 already a broad range, that this has an impact on staff resources and timeline. However, she  
4 stated that to not preclude options she also favors a combined C+D alternative for analysis.  
5

6 Ms. Austin requested more information about access for roads. Mr. Blum stated that the  
7 department understands the need for operational flexibility for access and is further developing  
8 that with USFWS.  
9

10 Ms. Austin stated that there is a lot of different science around the marbled murrelet buffers. She  
11 suggested to consider 150 meter buffers for one alternative.  
12

13 Commissioner McEntire stated that with all of these details that have been presented to the  
14 Board recently he wanted to share some perspective and context on the marbled murrelet and  
15 Washington State. He stated that by his calculations approximately one percent of the marbled  
16 murrelet population is in our state, and 11 percent of that is marbled murrelet habitat. This would  
17 mean that roughly one-tenth of a percent of the bird population is on DNR-managed lands. He  
18 stated that he would ask the Board to consider a range of alternatives that represent what is  
19 reasonable and rational under the Endangered Species Act obligations.  
20

21 Commissioner McEntire stated that his other interest is to maintain the original intent of the  
22 unzoned forest in the OESF as described in the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation  
23 Plan (HCP). He suggested an idea to remove high quality owl habitat out of proposed alternative  
24 B.  
25

26 Dean Mittelhammer asked what impact these changes might have on our partner, US Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service. Mr. Blum stated that he cannot speak for their agency, but will present these  
28 ideas to them and bring any substantial feedback back to the Board.  
29

30 Dean Mittelhammer suggested adding an alternative of C+D, and conducting an analysis of 150  
31 meter buffers in alternative E and removing the high quality owl habitat from alternative B.  
32

33 Commissioner McEntire asked what implications this would have on the timeline. Mr. Blum  
34 responded that this would have about a 2-5 month delay in our timeline.  
35

36 The Board members agreed to Dean Mittelhammer's suggestions.  
37

### 38 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR TIMBER SALE ACTION ITEMS**

39 Bill Turner, representing Sierra Pacific, spoke about the importance of timber sales.  
40

#### 41 **TIMBER SALES (Action Item)**

42 **Proposed Timber Sales December 2015 3 handouts, including the presentation**

43 Tom Shay, Product Sales & Leasing Division  
44

45 In order to vote on the proposed action item while a quorum was still available, Commissioner  
46 McEntire proposed to move directly to voting on the action item based on the Board having  
47 already viewed the handouts prior to the meeting.

1  
2 Mr. Shay asked the Board for approval of the proposed sale package.

3  
4 MOTION: Commissioner McEntire moved to approve the proposed December 2015 sales.

5  
6 SECOND: Dean Mittelhammer seconded the motion.

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8 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

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

11 No comments.

12  
13 **LAND TRANSACTION (Action Items)**

14 **Pasco 16 Direct Sale; Resolution No. 1475**

15 Dave Gordon, Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions Division

16  
17 Mr. Gordon presented the proposal to contract with a professional auctioneer for the Pasco 16  
18 sale in Franklin County. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the auction to sell Pasco 16 was unsuccessful.

19  
20 Chair Goldmark asked about the appraisal process and Mr. Gordon answered that there was a  
21 minimum bid established and the Department received no bids.

22  
23 RCW 79.11.340 states that if the lands are not sold at public auction, the Department may, with  
24 approval of the Board, market the lands through persons licensed under chapter 18.85 RCW or  
25 through other commercially feasible means at a price not lower than the land's appraised value.

26  
27 Mr. Gordon asked the Board for approval to contract with a licensed auctioneer to market and  
28 sell the Pasco 16 property at public auction.

29  
30 MOTION: Commissioner McEntire moved to approve Resolution 1475.

31  
32 SECOND: Dean Mittelhammer seconded the motion.

33  
34 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

35  
36 Chair Goldmark thanked the Board members for their participation and Mr. Blum and his staff  
37 for their work to bring the alternatives to the Board.

38  
39 Meeting Adjourned 11:02 AM.

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Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2015



Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

absent

JT Austin, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

via phone @ 9:50 AM

Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction

via phone

Jim McEntire, Commissioner, Clallam County

via phone

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

via phone

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

Attest:



Sarah Vansot, Board Coordinator