
Minutes
Board of Natural Resources Meeting

January 3, 2024

Webinar/Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

The Honorable Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

WEBINAR/SAFETY BRIEFING

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2023 - *Action*

MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to approve the minutes as presented.

SECOND: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Bowen, Clallam County, commented on the withdrawal of a valuable timber sale in Clallam County and included in the Department's presentation for the carbon project. He questioned the reason for removing the timber sale. A letter was sent December 18, 2023 to Clallam County Commissioners who were unable to review the letter because of a holiday

1 break. He asked whether the timber sale is on hold, was dissolved, or has been deferred. The
2 Board is entering into dangerous territory because the agency scheduled a timber sale
3 approved in June and sold in July 2023. The timber company has a limited amount of time to
4 harvest. He inquired about the responsibility, accountability, and the authority within the
5 carbon program enabling the withdrawal of a timber sale if other proponents of the project are
6 encountering a similar situation. He questioned the lack of a public process for withdrawing a
7 sold timber sale of 69 acres.

8
9 **Paul Butler, Thurston County**, supported DNR moving forward to protect 2,000 acres of
10 mature forest in Western Washington. Although it is a step in the right direction, Thurston
11 County was shut out of the process. In 2022, he and other likeminded citizens contacted
12 Thurston County Commissioners about saving the little remaining structurally complex,
13 naturally regenerated forests. The Commissioners agreed stands on state trust lands should be
14 permanently protected and submitted a bipartisan and unanimous request to DNR. State
15 management of county trust lands is supposed to be a partnership; however, DNR has failed
16 to make a good faith effort to act on the Commission's request. Commissioner Franz and
17 others have indicated conservation efforts would likely continue. He questioned DNR for
18 scheduling timber sales of mature stands that might qualify for future consideration. Two of
19 the sales proposed this month are located in Thurston County – Carrot and Cabbage Patch.
20 Not only were no mature forests in Thurston County protected in the initial 2,000 acres, DNR
21 has made it likely that no unprotected mature forests would be considered. He urged pulling
22 back all sales containing mature forests, especially Carrot and Cabbage Patch because plenty
23 of plantation acres are available to auction while conservation efforts continue.

24
25 **Robert Mitchell** referred to public comments at the last meeting about feeling powerless and
26 questioned whether the Board also felt powerless. If it surrounds money, he suggested more
27 money is available in finance rather than by logging. For example, Idaho's Land Endowment
28 Fund distributed \$80 million last year to beneficiaries compared to DNR's profit and loss
29 statement. He recently visited an area on public land and found garbage strewn everywhere.
30 After picking up the trash in three trash bags, he had no way of disposing the bags. If DNR
31 had placed a dumpster, he could have properly disposed the garbage. The lack of a container
32 is an excuse enabling DNR to gate roads. He questioned why his access to public lands has
33 been shut down when he is not the problem. He also found it inappropriate that jokes were
34 shared by the Board about football during the approval of timber sales at the last meeting
35 especially in light of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's announcement to execute 400,000
36 Barred Owls due to declining spotted owl populations in the Northwest. He questioned
37 whether the Forest Plan planned for such a precipitous decline, and if not, it might be time to
38 update the plan. He realizes jokes are social bonding mechanisms, but it would be more
39 appropriate to make jokes while approving financial investments rather than declining spotted
40 owl habitat.

41
42 **Lynn Fitz-Hugh** supported the coalition of tree groups lobbying the Legislature for climate
43 solutions funding enabling DNR to save 2,000 acres of legacy forests throughout the state.
44 The process was completely unfair leaving Thurston, Pierce, and Kitsap Counties without any
45 protected parcels. Thurston County consistently and insistently asked for protection of legacy
46 forests. The Department had an acceptable process to address the needs of Thurston County

1 but did not. She rejects the concept of connectivity used to exclude Capitol State Forest. It is
2 not the county's fault that because of the mismanagement of Capitol State Forest, legacy
3 forests sit among cuts and plantation forests. Even next to plantations, legacy forests serve as
4 an important wildlife corridor. She rejects the concept that this is because some parcels are in
5 a repayment status. A letter was sent to DNR pointing out other ways to handle the payments.
6 Thurston County Commissioner Menser sent a letter of objection and Commissioner Mejia is
7 testifying later. She asked Mr. Cahill whether he would vote over the objections of Thurston
8 County Commissioners and whether the Governor would support his action. Commissioner
9 Janicki promised over a year ago to represent all counties even the counties she disagreed
10 with. She asked whether she would vote over the objections of Thurston County
11 Commissioners. Superintendent Reykdal has conveyed how logging forests do not serve
12 children. She asked whether he would vote over the objections of the children of Thurston
13 County.
14

15 **Jim Oliver** echoed previous comments as the timber sale proposals known at Carrot, Cabbage
16 Patch, Backyard, Punch Bowl, Deep Dive, and O'Brien must not be allowed to proceed. He
17 cited the ongoing call from thousands of Washingtonians including many in attendance to
18 cancel the timber sales of Breaking Bud, Last Crocker, and TCB 23 as all the sales contain
19 structurally complex mature forests that must be protected according to a growing consensus
20 within the scientific community. The list of timber sales, if allowed to proceed, will not only
21 deprive Washington of approximately 1,600 acres of essential carbon storage and biodiversity
22 refuge, it would also be a signal of blatant disrespect to Thurston County Commissioners who
23 have asked the Board repeatedly to stop clear-cutting mature forests in Thurston County, as
24 well as to the thousands of other Washingtonians who have declared that mature forests are
25 worth more alive than as toothpicks or rotting slash piles left as eyesores on a once beautiful
26 landscape. He cited results of a new study from November 2023. Although decades of
27 research reflect higher species richness improves ecosystem functioning and stability, most
28 replanted forests are monocultures including the ones in Washington. Researchers reviewed
29 over 11,300 studies and found that above ground carbon stocks in mixed forests were 70%
30 higher than the average monoculture and 77% higher than commercial monocultures. There
31 are multiple reasons why different species may have ways of using resources so that the
32 mixture of species may coexist more easily than stands containing only one species. With
33 global temperatures rising, investing in biodiversity could provide insurance against one
34 species reacting badly to new weather patterns. He invited the Board to read the study in the
35 academic journal of "Frontiers in Forests and Global Change" and incorporate the information
36 within the Board's decisions on whether to approve ongoing clear-cuts of Washington mature
37 forests.
38

39 **Donna Albert, resident of Montesano**, said everyone knows destroying a biodiverse mature
40 forest in the Philippines and replacing it with a monocrop of palm oil trees is deforestation.
41 Destroying a biodiverse mature forest in Washington and replacing it with a monocrop of
42 timber trees is also deforestation. Half or more of the carbon in forests is stored as biomass on
43 or under the ground. Harvesting releases stored carbon immediately. Mature forests
44 converted to plantations release massive amounts of carbon and after 120 years, carbon debt is
45 not repaid through the cycle of planting and harvesting. Rain forests along the West Coast and
46 the Amazon provide some of the greatest carbon sequestration potential anywhere on earth.

1 The Department is squandering those riches. The state is losing irreplaceable ecosystems. She
2 regrets the loss of About Time in Willapa Hills. It appears some of the revenue was used for a
3 skylight project on Capitol Campus. The MM MM Good (timber sale) was recently auctioned
4 at the headwaters of the North River in Willapa Hills. The area has some of the largest
5 remaining trees in the Grays Harbor side of Capitol State Forest. Depot Stove (timber sale) is
6 also located in Grays Harbor and residents want to keep the forests for our children and their
7 children. All legacy forest sales and harvests should be paused until the consequences to
8 future generations is properly evaluated as required by SEPA. According to RCW
9 43.21.C.020, it is the continuing responsibility of the state of Washington and all state
10 agencies to fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment. The
11 Board should take the responsibility for future generations seriously and stop all legacy
12 forests sales.
13

14 **Dr. Julie Ratner** commented on how forests serve as the lungs for the state, but we are losing
15 them at a staggering rate. Nature is everyone's home and not just a place to visit. Extending
16 protections to nature makes common sense since the population is interdependent for its own
17 survival. Mother trees are the heart of the forest as they nurture life through underground
18 neural networks. If left intact, mother trees can live hundreds if not thousands of years. Trees
19 and the ecosystems they support are integral to protecting biodiversity and storing tremendous
20 amounts of carbon pollution. The Board should not vote over the objections of Thurston
21 County Commissioners and not sell Carrot and Cabbage Patch timber sales or Evergreen Gold
22 later in the year. The Carrot parcel has a complex canopy and healthy forest floor and many
23 mother trees of both Douglas fir and cedar 35 to 45 inches in diameter. Rather than measuring
24 trees in board feet, the Department should strive in 2024 to ensure timber harvesting projects
25 have human, wildlife communities, and nature at their fore. Her hope in 2024 is for the
26 Department to see the forest through the trees.
27

28 **Joshua Wright** objected to the sales of Carrot and Cabbage Patch parcels as others have
29 addressed. DNR is responsible for managing trust lands for beneficiaries. In the case of the
30 Carrot timber sale, Thurston County is the sole beneficiary apart from DNR. The beneficiary
31 has asked DNR not to log Carrot. To log Carrot or Cabbage Patch over the objections of
32 Thurston County Board of County Commissioners would be in violation of DNR's core
33 purpose. Presenting the timber sales to the Board for approval is shameful especially since it
34 would leave Thurston County entirely out of the 2,000 acres in conservation funding. Funding
35 was passed to protect forests. The proposed timber unit would be a good example of utilizing
36 funds set-aside to protect legacy forests that would otherwise be cut. The purpose of the fund
37 is to compensate trusts for areas that are protected. The trust beneficiary for the proposed sale
38 wants the area protected. The Board should not approve Carrot and Cabbage Patch timber
39 sales and ask staff why the sales were presented for approval when Thurston County
40 Commissioners unanimously objected to both sales.
41

42 **Julie Puhich, resident of Rochester,** urged the Board to deny the Carrot and Cabbage Patch
43 timber sales. She has visited the Carrot area several times. The area is of great beauty and
44 solace. In all Western Washington lowland forests, so little remains of naturally regenerated
45 older forests despite being offered for sale month after month despite growing community
46 awareness and advocacy for their conservation. Adding them has become business as usual. It

1 appears as though the Department has every intention of cutting them into extinction. She
2 read the testimony provided by Stephen Kropp of the Legacy Forest Defense Coalition. It
3 contains a thoroughly researched and compelling analysis of the Department's failure to meet
4 commitments in the Policy for Sustainable Forests. Preparing forests for auction is yet another
5 instance of that failure to comply with its own obligations. She urged the Board to read and
6 investigate the assertions by the Legacy Forest Defense Coalition and remove Carrot and
7 Cabbage Patch from the auction block in addition to other older, naturally regenerated
8 structurally complex forests.
9

10 **Lee First, Twin Harbors Water Keeper**, spoke in defense of Depot Stove and MM MM
11 Good located in Willapa Hills in Grays Harbor County. Few people are aware Southwest
12 Washington is the most logged part of the state. Despite the Chehalis Tribe and others asking
13 for a stop on the sale of MM MM Good, DNR ignored the requests. To add insult to injury,
14 much of the proceeds from the sales will go to the State Capitol Construction budget for
15 Seattle-area projects. She asked why forests are being cut down when there are so many tree
16 plantations to cut. Some trees in the stands are over 100 years old and are in the process of
17 becoming old growth. She has seen small streams in vast clearcuts in all directions. Sullivan
18 Creek, which is impaired for temperature, runs through Unit 2 of Depot Stove. At 800 feet
19 above sea level, those areas are important as the largest remaining block of legacy forests in
20 Southwest Washington. Grays Harbor County is the second largest forest county in the state.
21 Schools must have funding; however, not from vanishing forests. Recent scientific studies
22 suggest biodiversity of existing forests is worth more standing than cut. The value of forests is
23 not in lumber, but in the ecosystem services forests provide. Forests should be learning forests
24 for young people. That should begin today by starting a new trend.
25

26 **Ed Chadd** reported the Forest and Carbon Management Work Group is beginning its
27 important work of analyzing various issues related to conserving mature forests. It makes no
28 sense to continue to log forests while they are being studied for potential conservation.
29 Similar to the logging pause during the marbled murrelet habitat process while policy was
30 developed, the Board should direct DNR to pause work-ups of timber sales containing mature
31 forests until the work group delivers its findings. In March 2021, Commissioner Franz
32 committed to developing an older forests policy telling the Seattle Times, "You stand back
33 and look at the ecological function that an older forest provides and we especially need to be
34 doing this in the context of climate change. So, we will be taking a step back and looking at
35 this at the watershed level at the functions these older forests have." That commitment aligns
36 with multiple DNR commitments to provide old growth forests across 10% to 15% of each
37 HCP planning unit in Western Washington. DNR's mature forest conservation policy should
38 also be based on DNR's own guide to identify mature and old growth forests written by
39 Robert Van Pelt. An estimated 70,000 acres of unprotected mature forests remain in Western
40 Washington. Approximately 3,000 to 6,000 acres of those acres are being auctioned. At that
41 rate, most of the acres will disappear even if the current natural climate solution funding
42 continues. He asked the Board to delay further work-ups of mature forests and request the
43 Legislature provide additional funding.
44

45 **Carolina Mejia, Thurston County Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County**
46 **Commissioners**, spoke on behalf of the Board with a request to cancel the proposed timber

1 sales of Carrot and Cabbage Patch. The two parcels were recently identified as high
2 importance to the residents of Thurston County and were included in the county's recent
3 request to swap the mature, structurally complex forest units for younger newly acquired
4 lands pursuant to the Legislature's Natural Climate Solution Proviso. Although the parcels
5 were not selected by DNR, despite multiple requests, the letter informing the Board of County
6 Commissioners of the non-selection indicated DNR would continue to work with Thurston
7 County to use several other tools in managing county trust lands. Commissioner Franz has
8 repeatedly indicated her willingness to work with local communities on forest management
9 issues, specifically related to the protection of mature, carbon dense forest lands. If the parcels
10 at issue are cut before those discussions take place, the assurances of goodwill and
11 collaboration Thurston County has with DNR will be compromised. The request has not
12 changed to cancel the proposed timber sales of Carrot and Cabbage Patch. She thanked the
13 Board for its consideration of the request. She acknowledged the letter submitted by Thurston
14 County Commissioner Tye Menser on January 2, 2024. Commissioner Menser attached
15 multiple exhibits to the letter. Although the letter was not signed by all County
16 Commissioners because of the holiday break, all Commissioners approved the letter.
17

18 **Kyle Krakow** said several of the timber sales under consideration contain mature, naturally
19 regenerated forests. Cabbage Patch is irreplaceable and Carrot has trees well over 100 years
20 old. Deep Dive provides clean water to Elk Creek and the Chehalis River and contains cedars
21 7-1/2-feet in diameter. Each forest is awe inspiring in beauty and scale and ecologically vital
22 in ways everyone is beginning to understand. When he sends photos of places such as Deep
23 Dive to friends across the country, they ask which National Park he is visiting, as they believe
24 the landscape so unique would be protected and revered, not slated for clear-cutting. When
25 they learn about DNR's proposal, they are outraged as they should be. With limited means,
26 people worldwide devote their lives to protect even the smallest pockets of older forests.
27 Meanwhile, the Board wields its power by signing off on the erasure of entire ecosystems
28 month after month by disregarding the will of the people, tribes, scientists, and the future of
29 climate. It is shameful. No one denies the political and economic interests to weigh; however,
30 the idea that the Board's hands are somewhat tied on the issue is absurd because the costs of
31 prepping a sale for auction is a tired excuse. Logging legacy forests is unnecessary and
32 completely indefensible. Do the right thing and reject Carrot, Cabbage Patch, and Deep Dive
33 timber sales.
34

35 **Heather Pence** thanked DNR for saving 2,000 acres of old growth forests but questioned why
36 legacy forests in Thurston, Mason, and Kitsap Counties were not selected for preservation.
37 After saving 2,000 acres of old growth forests she asked why DNR is auctioning 900 acres of
38 old growth in Capitol State Forest in the next year. The Board should not approve the timber
39 sales of Carrot and Cabbage Patch parcels and listen to Thurston County Commissioners and
40 many citizens of Thurston County opposed to cutting down those forests. The value forests
41 provide is many times the money generated by selling the parcels. The Carrot parcel is located
42 on a 30-degree slope and cutting the parcel will cause runoff and erosion of Cedar Creek. The
43 disturbance to ecological systems would be devastating. She cited the number of old and large
44 diameter trees existing on the Cabbage Patch parcel. Those trees are irreplaceable in the short
45 time left to save the planet. The Board should vote against auctioning Carrot and Cabbage
46 Patch.

1
2 **Nina Sarmiento, Center for Responsible Forestry**, echoed comments of previous speakers.
3 What is urgently needed is a mature forest conservation policy that is based on DNR's own
4 guide to identify mature and old growth forests. The Board should direct DNR to temporarily
5 pause bringing forward timber sales containing mature forests until the work group has
6 delivered its findings to the Board and State Legislature. This includes the TCB 23 timber sale
7 in the Elwha watershed. It was sold without Board approval as part of a pilot program to
8 clearcut mature hardwood forests to convert to monoculture plantations. TCB 23 has massive
9 trees with the largest at 94 inches in diameter. Recently, a portion of the sale was identified as
10 a critically impaired forest. A survey of the area was completed by the Center for Responsible
11 Forestry with findings reported to DNR and the Natural Heritage Program. She hopes the
12 program will be directed to conduct an evaluation of the rare plant community before it is too
13 late. Since the plant community was not identified in the SEPA Environmental Checklist, an
14 investigation warrants a pause on the sale. The planet is in a climate crisis and it is time to
15 take mature forest conservation seriously and not leave a legacy of destruction by cutting the
16 state's last mature forests.

17
18 **Bill Turner** shared several maps identifying the 2,000 acres of conserved forests. He stressed
19 the importance of the Board establishing clear guidelines on how the parcels are appraised, as
20 well as the replacement parcels. It is important to identify value for value and be
21 intergenerationally fair. The trust mandate requires the Board to establish guidelines. The first
22 map of the Brokedown Palace set-aside acreage depicts the conserved areas proposed by DNR
23 that includes many 45-year old stands comprising up to one-third of the parcel and not the
24 structurally complex mature forest as required by the budget proviso. The proposed timber
25 sale was evaluated for conservation; however, a portion of the parcel does not meet the
26 conservation criteria. Another map depicting the Anderson Block is representative of an area
27 comprised of different tree ages to the point that might result in encumbered lands that would
28 be unable to access if the acres are set-aside creating collateral damage that should be
29 evaluated. If there are more encumbered lands than the 2,000 acres, they will be impossible to
30 manage and must be appraised as well.

31
32 **Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council**, encouraged the Board to study
33 "arrearage" as defined in RCW 79.10.330 because it will be considered as a component of the
34 next Habitat Conservation Plan. It is important to understand how the 2,000 acres including
35 timber sales scheduled over the decade will impact arrearage moving forward. He questioned
36 the impacts to the trusts in terms of revenue, loss of economic activity, and the lack of
37 achieving timber volume. He questioned potential impacts in volume over the next decade, as
38 Lewis County is 106% over its volume this decade, as well as last decade, which speaks to
39 whether that trend is sustainable and impacts future generations. Other issues are impacts of
40 staffing at DNR and the lack of funding. One revenue generator is by managing state lands.
41 Time and staff resources for projects that are not offered for sales are a waste of time and
42 money. He submitted several presentations annotated with many questions as managing state
43 lands must not include emotion, otherwise it results in ignorance. He offered a challenge to
44 many in attendance because if logging is such an issue he is hopeful citizens will vote to
45 support bonds and levies. He encouraged everyone to donate 50% of their pensions, social
46 security checks, etc. to support junior taxing districts.

1
2 **Teresa Jennings, resident of Thurston County**, asked the Board to remove Cabbage Patch
3 and Carrot from the list of parcels for auction. Thurston County Commissioners have written
4 to the Board and met with DNR requesting cancellation of the auction of legacy forests within
5 Capitol State Forest. It is difficult to know what more can be conveyed because citizens and
6 elected officials have repeatedly made the case for preserving the forests as a means to
7 combat climate change, provide critical habitat for wildlife, and offer recreational
8 opportunities for generations. Once cut, legacy forests are not easily or ever replaced. The
9 plantation style plantings dosed with herbicides will never compare. It has been challenging
10 but most discouraging as she has watched month after month with increasing dismay of the
11 disregard the Board has conveyed for the repeated requests to save Capitol State Forest lands.
12 The Board should help citizens believe that the voices of the people still matter and stop all
13 legacy forest sales.
14

15 **Janine L.** said cutting down Carrot and Cabbage Patch parcels would not match the spirit or
16 substance, which Hilary Franz expresses at length in her June 7, 2023 letter to Thurston
17 County Commissioners. The letter was written in response to the community and the
18 unanimous requests from the Commission to leave Capitol State Forest mature trees intact.
19 Withdraw the parcels today and in perpetuity from DNR's too industry friendly approach. She
20 directed her testimony to two members of the Board, specifically Mr. Cahill and
21 Superintendent Reykdal. Mr. Cahill's twin sons attended Lincoln Options Elementary School
22 with her daughter. The special school included curriculum grounded in teaching sustainable
23 environment, socially just principles, and taking care of the earth. When Mr. Cahill votes to
24 remove this most precious resource, the forests and lungs of the earth, which are so critical to
25 keep rising temperatures from a dangerous tipping point, he is conveying very directly to the
26 children that he lacks the will to protect their future. Superintendent Reykdal's wife served as
27 her son's high school counselor for four years. She worked hard to help students achieve
28 success. She has to believe those are the same efforts he carries forward in his work at the
29 Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. However, when he votes on matters that
30 take away a child's future, then it is a mockery of all the counseling and teaching of children.
31 She urged the Board to vote against the auctions for the county, the state, the world, and for
32 the children who need the Board to prioritize their future.
33

34 **Barbara Carey, resident of Olympia**, asked the Board to vote against auctioning two
35 Thurston County parcels of Carrot and Cabbage Patch. As representatives of the people of
36 Washington, it is critical for members to abide by Thurston County Commission's unanimous
37 request over the past two years not to cut areas containing nearly extinct oasis of legacy
38 forests in the county. All 73 acres of Carrot are precious legacy forests. Cabbage Patch
39 contains many trees at least 100 years old with diameters up to 50 inches. Both parcels
40 deserve to be preserved as irreplaceable World Heritage Sites and not cut down for timber.
41 The connectivity argument against preserving Capitol State Forest parcels does not hold up.
42 Legacy forests provide animal habitat and wildlife corridors even if located next to plantation
43 forests. Once the forests are gone the world will forever lose the ecosystems that are complex,
44 stunning, and alive. Alternatives are available to allow the areas to survive by voting no for
45 auctioning Carrot, Cabbage Patch, and other mature parcels. Thurston County has made it
46 clear that it does not want tax proceeds from the short-sighted sales and citizens across the

1 county and state are crying out to save the last remaining areas of biodiversity. The Board
2 should listen to the voters and give them faith that democracy is still alive and not subservient
3 to industry pressure.
4

5 **Carol Price, member of the Kitsap Environmental Coalition,** urged the Board not to
6 approve the auction of Unit 1 of the Breaking Bud parcel in the Green Mountain area of south
7 Kitsap. On November 7, 2023, Kitsap County Commissioners sent a letter requesting
8 preservation of the acres. Since Kitsap County would be the beneficiary of the acres, she
9 urged the Board to consider conserving the parcel under NRCA status and co-manage the
10 public land with the county. Breaking Bud includes a portion of the Tahuya River watershed
11 located in the Green Mountain State Forest, which must be protected as critical habitat for
12 salmon and for valuable water resources. She urged DNR to embrace ecological forestry
13 practices on all public lands, especially in naturally regenerated forests. The acreage should be
14 managed as ecosystems rather than as crops. Use ecological practices that improve forest
15 health and sustainability that improve structural complexity and species diversity. Allow the
16 forests to remain the effective buffer against climate change that are so needed. Protect the
17 best as represented by naturally regenerated forests and restore the rest of the forests on public
18 lands to vitality and health. Prioritize conservation and restoration over recreation,
19 productivity, and economic activity. Leave the forests in the ground.
20

21 **Heath Heikkila** encouraged members to watch the December 5, 2023 House Agriculture and
22 Natural Resources work session that included an update by DNR on the utilization of Climate
23 Commitment Act funds. The update was insightful and a fact-driven presentation. Using
24 Climate Commitment Act funds for the protection of 2,000 acres is not a climate solution,
25 which was the emphasis of the work session. It is known that old growth forests store
26 significant amounts of carbon but do not sequester carbon at the same rate as younger and
27 healthy forests, which is why the United States along with other countries last month pledged
28 to increase the amount of sustainable forest management and the use of more wood products
29 in the built environment because it serves as a real climate solution. It may be possible as
30 voters may have an opportunity to decide how they feel about the Climate Commitment Act
31 and how some of the funds have been expended and whether climate benefits are achieved.
32 Serious questions exist about how the funds have been used. The country is not losing forests
33 to sustainable timber management but rather the loss is due to development, wildfires, and
34 other threats to include the 45% of Washington's forests managed by the federal government
35 which are not touched or half of DNR's state trust lands in Western Washington that have
36 been set-aside. The state has many older forests. He reinforced the need to obtain more
37 information on the 2,000 acres of parcels, the maps, and the GIS layer, which would be
38 helpful for the Board when completing a thorough analysis.
39

40 **Beverly Parsons, resident of Hansville in Kitsap County,** thanked DNR for its efforts to
41 conserve naturally regenerated forests. The Kitsap Board of County Commissioners sent a
42 letter to DNR regarding the timber sale located above Lake Tahuya in the Green Mountain
43 State Forest. The request was to remove Unit 1 from the Breaking Bud timber sale. However,
44 it appears the sale is moving forward for auction in March 2024. The forest is naturally
45 regenerated and is structurally complex and contains a diverse mix of native plants and tree
46 species with Douglas fir and cedar trees up to 49 inches in diameter. It has high ecological

1 and social value for current and future generations. Kitsap County Commissioners specifically
2 requested removal of the timber sale as well as others located in the Green Mountain State
3 Forest until the county and DNR can work jointly to identify a long-term solution to protect
4 remaining forests. Plenty of plantation forests exist in Kitsap County managed by DNR that
5 can satisfy overall sustainable harvest targets for the current planning decade and fulfill
6 DNR's current commitments to generate revenue for the county and junior taxing districts.
7 DNR is not fulfilling a mandate or following best available science by logging the rare
8 century-old forest. The Board should review best available science and cancel the Breaking
9 Bud timber sale.

10
11 **Natasha Hayes** shared her concerns about the proposed sales of the Carrot and Cabbage
12 Patch units, as well as the unanimous decision by the Thurston County Board of County
13 Commissioners that was ignored. Other speakers opposing the proposed sales represent a
14 large percentage of the population in Thurston County. When she speaks with people and
15 shares information about the issue, their reaction is shock. They agree with many of the
16 speakers, which the Board should consider in addition to the comments shared by speakers
17 during the meeting. Many people from her native state of North Carolina have indicated that
18 they believed Washington State was a liberal state and a place where the environment is
19 protected. The issue does not just affect Washingtonians because others believe the action is
20 another detriment that is causing climate change. The year of 2023 was the turning point as
21 the hottest year on record.

22
23 **Miguel Perez-Gibson, Washington Conservation Action**, supported scheduling a
24 discussion on the 2,000 acres funded through the Natural Solutions Account. It is important to
25 note that the account is a State Treasury Account for the expenditure of public dollars. There
26 is public interest in ensuring that approximately \$50 million is spent prudently in the purchase
27 of mature, structurally complex forest stands. The proviso meets the laws requiring the
28 preservation, increase in carbon sequestration, and storage benefits in forests. A lower priority
29 of the funds is land already eligible for other funding sources, such as Trust Land Transfer
30 Program lands or land previously considered for preservation as a natural area. High priority
31 areas are those mature stands scheduled for harvest with no other alternative preservation
32 funding source. It is assumed staff assembled a robust list of nominations and are interested in
33 why some stands were included or excluded particularly by county and why Thurston
34 County's mature forest issue did not receive any conservation, which is perplexing. While
35 DNR reviews transactions as to what is in the best interests of the trust or management's best
36 interest, that should not serve as the driver alone. The program is not a forest purchase as the
37 people of Washington are responsible for ensuring the millions of dollars are spent to satisfy
38 the proviso's intent and that the list should be reflected as provisional with the Board able to
39 refine the list before granting approval.

40
41 **Charlotte Parsons** said her comments echo other comments surrounding Cabbage Patch and
42 Carrot timber sales in Thurston County. She believes there are some people in attendance who
43 journeyed to attend the meeting. She offered to yield her time to others attending the meeting.
44

45 **Brel Froebe, Center for Responsible Forestry**, said it is encouraging DNR is beginning to
46 use JS modeling to identify structurally complex mature forests on the landscape. He is

1 hopeful the work continues and that the Board will direct DNR to complete a full inventory of
2 all mature, structurally complex carbon dense forests on state lands. Knowing the number of
3 acres would be helpful to the work group and to future considerations for the westside
4 Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC). The 2,000 acres represent the first time he agrees
5 with Bill Turner as some areas should be refined, such as Broke Down Palace. The modeling
6 may have identified some areas that are plantations. He encouraged the Board and staff to
7 consider some adjustments and refinements to ensure the best acres are conserved. Based on
8 prior testimony, if excess acres are identified, DNR should consider assigning those acres to
9 Thurston County based on the strong need and desire by Thurston County. He encouraged
10 DNR to work with Thurston County.

11
12 **Esther Kronenberg** spoke against the proposed sales of legacy forests. Public lands belong
13 to the people and it speaks to the question of which people DNR serves when auctioning the
14 stands against the wishes of the people and their elected representatives.

15
16 **Doug Cooper, Hampton Lumber**, reported the company operates three sawmills in the state
17 that are dependent on DNR timber sales program. The mills are part of the critical
18 manufacturing infrastructure needed in Washington to supply carbon-friendly wood products,
19 sustain healthy forests, and support rural and urban economies. DNR's recent expenditure of
20 \$55 million to purchase 9,115 acres of productive private forest land is an issue that he cannot
21 let go. That land was being managed to protect the resources and produce immediate and
22 continuing economic benefit to local communities and the state. He asked about DNR's plan
23 for the Deep River Woods land. Quoting from a pending report before the Board is the
24 statement, "As Manager of state trust lands, DNR has legal fiduciary responsibilities." The
25 Chair Report includes Department profit and loss schedules for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.
26 For Deep River Woods and other land transactions regardless of how funded, the Board must
27 require the Department to show its work in the financial and biometric calculations, in the
28 details of footnote disclaimers in the presentations, in the profit and loss schedule, and a
29 comparison of how the land was managed by prior owners compared to how DNR plans to
30 manage the land, as well as sharing how the Board's approval of the purchase was a good
31 decision. He urged not sweeping the 9,115 acres under the rug for the next SHC. Ensure those
32 acres will work because of the importance of the Department requesting approval of future
33 land transactions. It is important all decisions are good ones.

34 35 **CHAIR REPORT**

36 **Natural Climate Solutions Act Update**

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

38
39 Chair Franz described the opportunity to preserve 2,000 acres of structurally complex older
40 forests and the extensive amount of outreach to counties throughout Western Washington, as
41 well as efforts by staff on the extensive amount of mapping and layering of older structurally
42 complex forests, reviews of habitat required by various DNR plans and policies and natural
43 resource conservation areas and natural heritage conservation areas to assist in framing a
44 picture outlining how a conserved landscape would benefit from connectivity, protection of
45 fish and wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and reducing the impacts caused by climate change.
46

1 Mr. Emmons reported the update covers the parcels identified for inclusion in the 2,000 acres.
2 Information on the parcels was provided to the Board in December 2023 for review. Letters
3 were mailed to each affected county to receive concurrence as required by the budget proviso,
4 as well as letters sent to counties wishing to be considered but not selected.
5

6 The process for identifying the 2,000 acres included a review of existing field guides to
7 identify structural complexity on the landscape. The guides include definitions and a process
8 for identifying different maturity levels of forests. Additionally, because carbon storage is not
9 defined by county or state borders, the intent was seeking as many co-benefits as possible.
10 Staff continues to meet with counties with several meetings scheduled with counties that
11 received letters identifying selected lands.
12

13 The selections are based on best available science to ensure durability of the lands and the
14 ability to sequester and store carbon over time. The goal was to identify areas that are carbon
15 dense and structurally complex.
16

17 Dr. Brown asked whether the Legislature specified that the focus on forests should be for
18 storing carbon, sequestering, or both. Mr. Emmons advised that the provision directed the
19 Department to set-aside up to 2,000 acres of carbon dense, structurally complex forests. To
20 assist in identifying those areas, the methodology includes stands with at least 60 metric tons
21 per acre of live carbon and meeting established criteria of at least 1.8 modeled canopy layers,
22 a Quadratic Mean Diameter (average diameter) of at least 17 inches for the largest 100 trees,
23 and at least 12 trees per acre that are in the 30-inch diameter class or larger.
24

25 Dr. Brown cited the complexity and the funding necessary to screen all carbon dense forests
26 in Western Washington. He asked whether staff pursued some type of selection process prior
27 to selecting the parcels. Mr. Emmons explained that staff considered forests recommended by
28 counties followed by a professional review of those counties that had not conveyed interest in
29 participating to conserve acres. The proviso requires concurrence of counties with lands
30 selected for conservation. An additional refinement in the process is a requirement for the
31 land to be age operable. Riparian areas, unstable slopes, buffers, and habitat areas reserved for
32 specific species were excluded.
33

34 Chair Franz added that the first step involved mapping all structurally complex, carbon dense
35 forests existing on operable lands through a layering process based on existing forest stands.
36 The first layer was based on the Legislative proviso with subsequent layering of other types of
37 protection zones or policies protecting areas that are currently set-aside allowing for increased
38 connectivity to structurally complex and carbon dense stands. Another layer identified critical
39 habitat for marbled murrelet followed by a layer of natural conservation lands and federal
40 lands. The final layer was lands recommended for conservation by a county.
41

42 Mr. Emmons reported the proposed Anderson Creek area in Whatcom County is an example
43 of the layering process. Each area includes the identification of specific trust lands as the
44 legislation requires equal replacement of all lands conserved. Ideally, acquisition of
45 replacement land would occur in the same county or taxing district; however, if unable, the
46 county must consider how it distributes revenue to junior taxing districts.

1
2 Chair Franz noted that it was not necessarily determinative of the properties selected;
3 however, it was important to provide as much information and awareness as to which trusts
4 would be impacted as part of the selections.
5

6 Mr. Emmons said the initial layering process did not account for trusts because the primary
7 outcome was determining conservation value. However, during the process some counties
8 indicated an interest of not creating near-term impacts to county beneficiaries, which was
9 added to the list of considerations.
10

11 The Anderson Creek area co-benefits enable a larger contiguous block of structurally complex
12 forests, is adjacent to existing murrelet habitat, and has the potential for creating a larger
13 contiguous National Resource Conservation Area. The proposal will be refined as staff
14 prepares the land transaction, which must be approved by the Board.
15

16 Chair Franz pointed out for clarity that the Anderson Creek proposal is over 500 acres and
17 meets the definition of structurally complex, carbon dense older forests coupled with adjacent
18 protected areas resulting in larger connectivity and a greater value for fish and wildlife
19 habitat, and water quality protection in Lake Whatcom.
20

21 Mr. Emmons added that some of the maps of the proposed conservation areas include
22 information on planned timber sales that may have existed. Within the Anderson Creek
23 parcel, a timber sale was previously planned with the next stage of the planning process
24 designating leave trees. The area meets the maturation requirements and could potentially
25 benefit from a thinning to place it on a trajectory to move maturation faster. The Department
26 would need to explore whether that type of treatment would benefit the stand and result in a
27 financial gain. Prior to placement of areas for permanent conservation, staff will assess
28 whether the areas could benefit from a specific treatment to increase climate resiliency to the
29 extent possible. Additionally, should the proposals exceed 2,000 acres in total; staff will
30 continue to refine the proposals prior to presentation to the Board for consideration to adhere
31 to the 2,000-acre limit within the budget proviso.
32

33 Brokedown Palace is a 75-acre parcel located in Whatcom County. Benefits for placement of
34 the parcel include connectivity between larger blocks of conservation, adjacency to
35 approximately 35 acres identified as old growth, and increasing the buffer for Nooksack
36 River.
37

38 Staff met with Snohomish County elected officials prior to the selection of parcels to review
39 the process, the budget proviso, and ongoing management of county trust lands. The County
40 Council sent a letter requesting consideration of areas within the county without harming
41 beneficiaries in the short-term. Based on those considerations, the Marsh Creek parcel of
42 approximately 68 acres was identified by staff. One co-benefit is protection of buffers around
43 a rare and sensitive wetland complex. Other co-benefits include an area identified by the
44 Washington Natural Heritage Council as high priority for conservation and it avoids short-
45 term impact to beneficiaries at the request of the Snohomish County Council. The parcel has
46 connectivity to murrelet habitat and other special management areas.

1
2 In Jefferson County, the Dabob area of 671 acres was selected with co-benefits of adjacency
3 to an existing Natural Area, presence of a rare plant community in the vicinity, and close
4 proximity to federal ownership.
5

6 The proposed Mount Walker and Notch Pass areas in Jefferson County encompass 281 acres
7 with co-benefits identified as close proximity to an existing Natural Area, adjacent to existing
8 habitat, increased riparian buffers, and adjacent to federal ownership.
9

10 Chair Franz cited the presentation map of the area as a good example of how the proposal
11 enables a large-scale adaption by creating a mosaic of habitats to support natural and the
12 facilitation of migration of plants, animals, and other organisms across the landscape to help
13 mitigate the impacts of climate change while enhancing the flow of genetic material.
14 Connectivity of the parcel supports biodiversity by enabling wildlife to move freely to access
15 food, water, shelter, and breeding habitat, while facilitating a shift in range of plants, animals,
16 and natural communities, as well as the response to environmental and climate changes.
17

18 Mr. Cahill inquired as to whether Jefferson County identified the parcels. Mr. Emmons said
19 staff is working closely with Jefferson County officials. The county is engaged with all DNR
20 work groups. The county in conjunction with citizens and conservation organizations
21 identified some parcels in the areas that would meet the criteria and be good candidates for
22 inclusion.
23

24 Mr. Emmons reviewed the West Tiger Mountain area in King County. The area is adjacent to
25 a Natural Resource Conservation Area. King County provided feedback in a letter requesting
26 the set-aside of some specific timber sales or exploring areas for conservation through the
27 proviso while also conveying interest in learning about the short-term impacts to
28 beneficiaries. The proposed area includes a unit of a planned timber sale, which would be set-
29 aside in conservation. The map of the area provides a good example of how to avoid creating
30 isolated parcels or small areas. As work continues on the proposal, staff will continue to refine
31 the proposal and consider other areas that might be included to avoid isolating other areas.
32

33 Mr. Emmons responded to questions about whether the designation would impact identified
34 timber sales in 2026. Only the proposed areas designated on the map would be set-aside with
35 other surrounding areas denoted on the map harvested in the future. Because of a future
36 timber sale in the proposed area, the bulk of the sale would be protected and the sale would
37 need to be reconfigured. Most of the surrounding forested area is long-term forest cover to be
38 field verified. The proposed area is adjacent to an existing Natural Resource Conservation
39 Area and is within the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.
40

41 Chair Franz commented that there are opportunities for review of the proposed area as the
42 surrounding natural area could result in an expansion to reduce potential conflicts with timber
43 sales.
44

45 Dr. Brown asked whether the field inspection would also consider whether there is adherence
46 to the principles for meeting the definition of carbon dense, structurally complex forests. Mr.

1 Emmons replied that the majority of the field inspection would focus on the definition to
2 provide an estimate on whether the site meets the criteria. Additionally, the change in trust
3 status will be a complex process. Staff does not intend to complete a land survey of each
4 parcel as the cost would be too prohibitive. When the parcels are transferred, the process will
5 be similar to the set-aside process for old growth areas.
6

7 In Clallam County, the proposed area for conservation is Power Plant, a parcel of 69 acres
8 with co-benefits of proximity to existing habitat and federal ownership along the river
9 corridor. The area is adjacent to a recreation area in the Elwha watershed. The map
10 demonstrates the units of the Power Plant timber sale and murrelet habitat extending to
11 federal land along the river. Other areas include field verified old growth. DNR conserves
12 over 2,000 acres of carbon dense, structurally complex old growth based on policy.
13

14 Dr. Brown asked how the timber sales sold through auction is considered as part of the
15 proposal. Mr. Emmons explained how the RCWs enable DNR to work with the purchaser on
16 a variety of methods from identifying and substituting additional volume, enabling the
17 purchaser to voluntarily forfeit the sale by providing the bid deposit, or substituting an
18 existing timber sale contract comprised of the same trusts with equal value. Staff will work
19 with the purchaser to identify a resolution employing the authorities under the RCWs. The
20 purchaser has agreed to work with DNR as the area was identified to meet multiple
21 objectives.
22

23 Mr. Emmons said the next step in the process is obtaining county concurrence. Letters sent to
24 the counties requested confirmation of concurrence by the end of January to enable staff to
25 continue the work of identifying replacement land. The recent purchase of land in
26 Wahkiakum County will be used to replace some of the conserved lands, as well as for
27 encumbered lands of counties with acres set-aside for murrelet habitat. Following
28 concurrence from the legislative body of each county, staff will begin work on the transfers to
29 include appraisals at fair market value. Each transfer must be approved by the Board.
30

31 Commissioner Janicki said the 68-acre Marsh Creek parcel appears to be different than the
32 definition for carbon dense, structurally complex forests. She asked how the parcel meets the
33 criteria and how the parcel of marsh land is appraised or valued. Mr. Emmons explained that
34 the parcel is forestland and meets the definition of carbon dense, structurally complex. DNR
35 has previously harvested in the area. As noted on the project map, an area is designated as
36 riparian and buffers for the wetland system. The Natural Heritage Council included notes
37 about the parcel recognizing that despite previous harvesting on the parcel and surrounding
38 forests, no introduction of evasive weeds or a change in the ecosystem has occurred partially
39 because DNR buffers are larger than Forest Practices buffers.
40

41 Chair Franz clarified that the map depicts areas that have been previously conserved. She
42 identified areas previously harvested that are included within the proposed parcel for
43 conservation. When staff completed the first layer map of structurally complex older forests
44 to comply with language in the budget proviso, many isolated parcels were identified. The
45 intent is to obtain greater value for the investment in structurally complex forests by
46 increasing connectivity to habitat, protecting water bodies, or protecting sensitive wetland

1 complexes valuable for species and water, as well as for carbon sequestration. The result was
2 a suite of individual patches of areas connected to larger and critical valuable habitat areas.
3

4 Mr. Cahill recognized that appraisals have not been initiated for any of the parcels. He asked
5 whether staff is confident the combined amount does not exceed the budget proviso of \$70
6 million. Mr. Emmons advised that based on estimates of value, staff estimated an initial cost
7 of over \$40 million. However, adding timber value on some of the parcels increases the value
8 of land. The appraisal will define the final cost; however, he does not anticipate the 2,000
9 acres would exceed \$70 million.
10

11 Robin Hammill responded to questions about the timeline for acquisition of replacement
12 lands. For many of the parcels, replacement property has not been identified. The acquisition
13 process includes purchase of replacement properties prior to transacting trust transfers.
14 Initiating the appraisal process might be premature as the work will be difficult and require an
15 extensive amount of staff resources. The entire process will take time as the issues are
16 complex.
17

18 Mr. Emmons responded to comments about the potential of any remaining funds from the \$70
19 million. The budget proviso directs the Department to set aside up to 2,000 acres of “carbon
20 dense, structurally complex” forests and any remaining amount of the \$70 million would be
21 allocated to replacing lands for counties with encumbered lands.
22

23 Mr. Cahill cited the requirements of the proviso for staff to present the preliminary list of
24 areas to the Board. He asked whether other action is required by the Board. Mr. Emmons
25 explained that the proviso does not require the Board to vote or approve the proposed list
26 other than reviewing the list. The Governor’s budget did not include any additional funding to
27 acquire properties. The legislative intent for an additional round of purchases is unknown at
28 this time. Dr. Cahill requested receiving a list of the other counties submitting requests for
29 consideration. It would also be helpful for the Board to consider the process for the next
30 biennium to identify parcels or additional work to protect lands in the future because future
31 funding opportunities are unknown at this time.
32

33 *Chair Franz recessed the meeting from 11:28 a.m. to 11:33 a.m. for a break.*
34

35 The agenda was revised removing the Chair Report on State of the State Lands Report – Part
36 1: FY22 & FY23.
37

38 **Outdoor Access & Responsible Recreation Strategic Plan Update**
39 **Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Recreation and Conservation Division Manager**
40 **Andrea Martin, Assistant Division Manager and Statewide Recreation Manager**
41

42 Chair Franz reported on the importance of all public lands managed by DNR for trusts,
43 beneficiaries, communities, as well as for recreation recognizing the conflicts because of more
44 users and the advent of more abuse and impacts to tribal nations and cultural resources and
45 the need to protect them. The Department initiated an effort to develop a plan that assists in
46 planning for the long-term health of recreational lands while also respecting tribal treaty rights

1 and the importance of habitat protection.

2
3 Ms. Ohlson-Kiehn and Ms. Martin presented the update on the DNR planning process for the
4 Outdoor Access & Responsible Recreation (OARR) Strategic Plan. The planning process was
5 introduced to the Board at the July 2023 meeting and during the August Board retreat during
6 visits to Whatcom and Skagit Counties during a tour on *Recreation within Working Forests in*
7 *DNR's Northwest Region*.

8
9 Ms. Ohlson-Kiehn reported DNR manages 5.6 million acres of land in Washington.
10 Recreation is available on all lands and of those lands, approximately 3 million acres are trust
11 lands managed for revenue production for beneficiaries, 2.6 million acres are state-owned
12 aquatic lands, and 167,000 acres are conservation lands.

13
14 An array of recreation opportunities is provided through an extensive network of trails and
15 sites including over 200 recreational facilities including 80 campgrounds, shelters, and
16 restrooms, and 1,300 miles of multi-use trails to include 500 miles designated for motorized
17 use. DNR's website features a Go Map detailing all recreational sites on DNR managed lands
18 located at www.dnr.wa.gov/go. Recreational opportunities are available to anyone with the
19 purchase of a Discover Pass.

20
21 Tribes have rights and interests in lands managed by DNR. Treaties signed in the 1850s ceded
22 millions of acres of land to the federal government; however, tribes reserved rights to fish,
23 hunt, and gather on those lands. Tribes continue to exercise those rights today in areas that
24 include trust lands, aquatic lands, and natural areas. Washington has 29 federally recognized
25 tribes with other tribes recognized through Executive Orders. Each tribe is recognized as a
26 sovereign nation. DNR works with tribes on a government-to-government basis and with two
27 other federally recognized tribes in Idaho and Oregon that exercise treaty rights within the
28 boundaries of Washington State.

29
30 Outdoor recreation on public lands has grown steadily over the last several years. Over that
31 time, tribal leaders expressed concerns that the increase has created impacts on the condition
32 of state managed lands and is undermining the integrity of ecosystems and natural resources
33 important to tribal communities. Table data from a 2022 Earth Economics Report on Outdoor
34 Recreation on State Lands in Washington documented visitation trends from 2019 to 2020. A
35 significant increase of 12% of visitation on all state lands was documented with DNR lands
36 experiencing the largest increase in visitation of 21%. An update of the data is scheduled.

37
38 Challenges and opportunities in the Recreation Program caused by both population growth
39 and users have increased trends in irresponsible recreation in the form of unsanctioned trails
40 established and used at higher rates, increased public abuse, an increase in homeless
41 encampments, and people utilizing state lands to vandalize or dump waste. As land stewards,
42 DNR is concerned in addition to tribal concerns about the impacts of recreation and public
43 abuse to cultural and environmental resources. DNR plans to address those issues in addition
44 to the importance of access to lands for all communities because some barriers exist for some
45 populations. DNR also lacks a holistic vision for recreation on lands managed by the
46 Department. To address challenges and opportunities effectively, DNR and the Recreation

1 Program require tools, such as added capacity and sufficient and stable funding for the
2 Recreation Program. Although some funding was received from the Legislature, the amount is
3 insufficient to move the Recreation Program forward. During the 2024 legislative session,
4 DNR requested funding to engage in a statewide planning effort.
5

6 The planning effort has been designed to engage in conversations with all people with rights
7 and interests related to the issues involving beneficiaries, tribes, recreation and conservation
8 organizations, and the public. OARR is a planning process to document feedback from the
9 groups in the form of a strategic plan to help guide future decision-making by the Department.
10 The process is anticipated to produce a number of products, ideas on policies, legislative
11 funding requests, and ideas for operational improvements or initiatives within existing policy.
12 Following finalization of the OARR Strategic Plan, the next step is presenting policy ideas to
13 the Board to receive direction on next steps to pursue or prioritizing ideas.
14

15 Work completed to date includes launching OARR during a tribal summit in July 2023. The
16 tribal summit is a key meeting held annually between the Commissioner of Public Lands and
17 the tribes as a formal government-to-government meeting with the tribal chair, staff, and
18 representatives discussing topics of importance to tribes. Recreation was the top issue of the
19 four topics addressed during the summit. The launch of OARR during the summit was to
20 demonstrate to tribes the understanding and importance DNR recognizes of the issue of
21 impacts to natural resources on state lands and the importance of the relationship with tribes
22 and tribal participation in the OARR planning process. Based on feedback, the tribes
23 recommended hosting four day-long tribal forums across the state to discuss the purpose and
24 goals for the process and desired outcomes to achieve. In addition to the forums, staff
25 continues to offer tribes additional one-on-one meetings.
26

27 Concurrently, another statewide process was underway parallel to the OARR planning
28 process for managing recreation impacts on state lands and a protected tribal rights process
29 referred to as the Recreation Impacts Program. The program includes other state agencies
30 working with tribes with territories in the state to improve management of recreation impacts
31 on natural and cultural resources and protected tribal rights on state lands. The Legislature
32 provided funding to the state's three land management agencies to participate in the program.
33 The program includes a steering committee and a facilitator. The meeting agendas for the
34 program include a standing update on the OARR planning process.
35

36 With the assistance of DNR's contractor, staff compiled the results of the forum discussions
37 into a draft summary report. The report was presented to tribes during a follow-up meeting in
38 early December. Feedback from the tribes is pending. The intent is to incorporate the report
39 and tribal feedback into the OARR Strategic Plan as an appendix.
40

41 The two main themes from forum discussions included an abundance of tribal support for
42 wildlife and habitat protection. Forum participants articulated an interest for the strategic plan
43 to acknowledge recreation as a stressor to the cultural and environmental resources on DNR
44 managed lands and interest for the OARR Strategic Plan to underscore the importance of
45 protecting habitat from impacts of recreational activities. The second theme is support for
46 tribal ability to continue to exercise their reserved rights on state lands. Because of

1 recreational impacts, the tribes perceive impediments of their ability to engage in cultural and
2 spiritual activities. Tribes also do not consider tribal activities, such as hunting, fishing, and
3 gathering as recreational activities.
4

5 Forum participants provided recommendations for potential strategies to include in the
6 strategic plan. The suggestions were characterized into five groups of interest of increased
7 enforcement, more tracking of impacts and information gathering, more statewide
8 coordination between state agencies, more educational opportunities, and efforts to address
9 intersecting and conflicting mandates.
10

11 Ms. Martin briefed members on the status of the purpose and goal statements and actions
12 planned during 2024.
13

14 A draft of the purpose statement is based on feedback from the tribal forums and from the
15 Board during the retreat in August:
16

17 *Develop a shared vision for outdoor access to and responsible recreation on all DNR-*
18 *managed lands, that protects natural and cultural resources, so that tribes may exercise their*
19 *rights, including tribal cultural and spiritual practices, while also providing sustainable,*
20 *diverse, and high-quality recreational opportunities that fosters engagement from all*
21 *communities, promotes a strong sense of environmental stewardship, and enriches the quality*
22 *of life in Washington, consistent with the Multiple Use Act and DNR's legal and management*
23 *framework.*
24

25 The first change to the goals includes adding explicit language on the importance of
26 protecting natural and cultural resources so that tribes may exercise their protected rights
27 including engaging in cultural and spiritual practices. The second change adds language that
28 the planning process would work within DNR's existing legal and management framework
29 including the trust mandate. The draft version will be used for ongoing engagement to seek
30 input on the plan.
31

32 Draft goals were updated based on input received from tribes and the Board. The draft
33 includes six goals:
34

- 35 1. **Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Cultural Resources**
36 Actively address outdoor access and recreation activities that impact natural and
37 cultural resources and tribal rights on DNR-managed lands, including the health of
38 fish, wildlife, and habitat.
- 39 2. **Cultivate a Stewardship and Responsibility Ethic through User Education and**
40 **Engagement**
41 Improve user awareness of recreation's impacts on natural and cultural resources and
42 their understanding of appropriate etiquette in different landscapes, knowledge of
43 rights and interests of all groups, and ways to engage in activities safely.
- 44 3. **Improve Equitable Access**
45 Reduce barriers that disproportionately impact overburdened and vulnerable
46 communities, including tribes, to access DNR-managed lands.

1 **4. Respect All Rights and Involve All User Groups in Future Planning**

2 Tribes, partners, and stakeholders are proactively involved in the recreation and
3 outdoor access planning process. DNR staff have the tools, resources, and expertise to
4 foster meaningful participation.

5 **5. Secure Financial Stability for Management, Operations, Infrastructure, and**
6 **Stewardship**

7 Identify current and future funding needs and achieve a sustainable operating model
8 that supports other program goals. Leverage existing investments in outdoor access
9 and recreation to achieve sustainable program funding to meet current and future
10 needs, protect the environment, and benefit the economy.

11 **6. Mitigate Climate Impacts and Build Resilience**

12 Prepare for extreme climate-related events, implement climate-resilient infrastructure
13 design and maintenance, and integrate management and operations techniques that
14 improve resilience and human safety, in alignment with DNR's Plan for Climate
15 Resilience.

16 Ms. Martin recapped all planning efforts completed to date in the development of the OARR
17 Strategic Plan and planned activities scheduled in 2024 in support of the planning process. A
18 draft plan is scheduled for release by summer 2024 for tribal and public comment with a goal
19 to complete the final plan prior to the end of 2024. Information on the OARR planning
20 process is available at www.dnr.wa.gov/staterecplan or by email at OARRPlan@dnr.wa.gov.

21
22 Commissioner Janicki acknowledged efforts with the tribes as important but would like the
23 process to acknowledge the role of beneficiaries. She asked for consideration of including
24 references to beneficiaries in the purpose statement by adding the trust mandate within the
25 legal and management framework and within Goal #4 adding representative beneficiaries.

26
27 Dr. Brown inquired about the possibility of the process producing a set of priorities to help
28 inform decision-making or funding requests. Commissioner Franz advised of the
29 Department's lack of a Recreation Plan or strategy. Because of the lack of a clear strategy for
30 development of recreational uses and management and funding of recreation, an enormous
31 amount of challenges have been experienced by the Department even prior to COVID, which
32 resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of users and activities on recreation lands
33 creating substantial conflicts. The intent of the planning process is the ability to solicit all
34 voices interested, concerned, or committed to public lands for environmental benefits, for
35 fiduciary responsibilities, and for recreation to help the Department understand the different
36 concerns and desires while incorporating the Department's responsibilities to tribal nations
37 and incorporating climate resilience, adaption, and mitigation within the plan. The intent of
38 the plan is to reduce the amount of numerous conflicts occurring on the landscape and
39 between different parties (i.e. state agencies, public, and the tribes) and seek adequate funding
40 for the Recreation Program and law enforcement officers.

41
42 **Trust Land Transfer Overview**

43 **Robin Hammill, Assistant Division Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic**
44 **Planning Office**

45
46 Ms. Hammill reported the Trust Land Transfer Program (TLT) was revitalized in the 2021-

1 2023 biennium, approved during the 2023 legislative session under SHB 1460, and codified in
2 RCW 79.17.300 – 79.17.310. The program enables DNR to transfer economically
3 underperforming state land and state forestland and directs the full fair market value deposited
4 into replacement accounts for future purchases eliminating the need for an inter-trust
5 exchange prior to a transfer. The program requires DNR to purchase replacement lands
6 utilizing at least 50% of all previous appropriations and caps the appropriation amount to \$30
7 million per TLT list.

8
9 The Legislature funded five TLT projects in the 2023 capital budget (Egdon, Devil’s Lake,
10 Chapman Lake, Upper Dry Gulch, & West Tiger Mountain). One of the parcels overlooked
11 for funding by the Legislature was Morning Star within West Tiger Mountain. The goal is to
12 process the parcels by order as per the requirements of the legislation. Chapman Lake will be
13 processed out of order as the work was previously completed and helps facilitate development
14 of the property by WDFW and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

15
16 The Governor’s 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget funded an additional five properties
17 (Morning Star – NRCA, Lake Spokane – State Parks, Blakely Island – San Juan County,
18 Moses Lake Sand Dunes – Grant County, and Rustler’s Gulch – Department of Fish and
19 Wildlife). All proposals presented to the Board will include specific descriptions of all recent
20 legislative changes to the TLT Program. The current application period closed on September
21 30, 2023. DNR received 34 applications. Staff are interviewing applicants for the TLT
22 Program Manager position. By February, staff are scheduled to recommend properties to
23 move to the next level of the process. The next stage is outreach to beneficiaries and tribes for
24 feedback followed by the advisory committee process to rank properties based on established
25 criteria. The ranked list will be presented to the Board for consideration in July 2024 for
26 approval in September 2024.

27
28 **LAND TRANSACTIONS - Action**

29 **Cape Horn Minerals Transfer, 02-106007, Resolution 1622**

30 **Sarah Rice, Program Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic Planning Office**

31 **Robin Hammill, Assistant Division Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic**
32 **Planning Office**

33
34 Ms. Rice reported the proposal is a direct transfer of property located eight miles west of
35 Washougal within the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area. The parcel is approximately 13 acres
36 with DNR reserving mineral rights in the Common School Trust in 1990 when the parcel was
37 sold to a private party. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) now owns the property and is
38 applying for the acquisition of mineral rights. The parcel includes a portion of the Pacific
39 Crest Trail and is located near the trailhead. Under the RCW 79.11.220, state mineral rights
40 may be transferred to the federal government. In 2020, the Board approved a similar
41 transaction of a nearby parcel. A property review was completed in 2020 with no known
42 mineral potential or value identified on the property. USFS will pay for the transfer costs.

43
44 Dr. Brown inquired about the possibility of discovering minerals on the property. Ms.
45 Hammill replied that per the report by the state geologist, there are no minerals on the
46 property.

1
2 Chair Franz requested approval of Resolution 1622 as presented.

3
4 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution 1622, Cape Horn
5 Minerals Transfer, 02-106007 as presented.

6
7 MOTION: Dr. Brown seconded the motion.

8
9 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

10
11 **Chapman Lake Trust Land Transfer, 02-104161, Resolution 1623**
12 **Tanner Williams, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic Planning**
13 **Office**

14
15 Mr. Williams reported the proposal is a Trust Land Transfer to the Department of Fish and
16 Wildlife (WDFW) of a 530.35-acre property located approximately 12 miles southwest of the
17 City of Spokane and south of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. The property would add
18 wildlife habitat south of the 23,000-acre refuge. The property is zoned Rural Conservation
19 with the property currently used for grazing and dispersed recreation. No building
20 improvements are located on the property. The property beneficiary is Common School Trust.
21 The property has high ecological value with a lake and riparian habitat and is currently
22 economically underperforming with its current and projected lease rentals. The riparian areas
23 to the south are utilized by numerous species of wildlife. WDFW plans to manage, monitor,
24 and protect ecological values. Currently, no public access is available to the lake. WDFW
25 plans to develop a boat launch site to benefit those recreating in Spokane County.
26 Repositioning the asset value into another property is in the best interests of the trust. The
27 appraised value of the property is \$1,450,000. DNR proposes the transfer of the property to
28 WDFW as the appropriate steward of the property and the opportunity to reinvest the asset
29 value elsewhere. Sales proceeds would be deposited to the real property replacement account
30 to be used to purchase replacement lands for trust management.

31
32 Based on no questions from the Board, staff requests approval of Resolution 1623.

33
34 MOTION: Mr. Cahill moved to approve Resolution 1623, Chapman Lake Trust Land
35 Transfer, 02-104161 as presented.

36
37 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

38
39 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

40
41 **TIMBER SALES - Action**
42 **Auction Results for December 2023, FY 2024 Update, & Proposed Timber Sales for**
43 **February 2024**
44 **Padraic Callahan, Acting Assistant Division Manager, Product Sales and Leasing**
45 **Division**
46

1 Mr. Callahan presented the results of December timber sales. Eight sales were offered totaling
2 32.6 mmbf for \$14 million for an average of \$432 per mbf with an average of 3.72 bidders per
3 sale.
4

5 Mr. Callahan reviewed the status of Fiscal Year 24 planned timber volume of the current plan
6 for auction volume, forecasted volume for the remainder of the year, and sold volume. He
7 invited questions from the Board. Board members offered no questions.
8

9 Mr. Callahan presented proposed timber sales for February 2024 totaling 10 sales of
10 approximately 44.2 mmbf at an appraised minimum value of \$14.9 million or \$338 per mbf.
11

12 Of the 10 sales, 2,571 acres were evaluated for timber harvesting with approximately 38% of
13 the acreage conserved for riparian areas, unstable slopes, and the required leave trees
14 representing a total harvest area of 1,584 acres or 62% of the total acreage evaluated.
15

16 Mr. Callahan invited questions from the Board on the proposed sales.
17

18 Commissioner Janicki commented on the number of comments and emails regarding the
19 Carrot and Cabbage Patch timber sales. When she evaluates each sale, she considers which
20 trusts would be affected. In terms of Cabbage Patch, the trust is identified as Trust 1 County
21 transfer of land at 60% of the projected timber sales representing both Thurston County and
22 Grays Harbor County. Mr. Callahan confirmed two counties are represented in the sale.
23 Commissioner Janicki said her concerns surround the testimony of Thurston County
24 Commissioner Mejia and the letter from Commissioner Tye Menser. Given the feedback, she
25 offered a motion.
26

27 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the proposed February timber sales
28 except for Cabbage Patch and defer the sale for a further conversation with
29 Thurston County.
30

31 MOTION: Mr. Cahill seconded the motion.
32

33 Discussion ensued on the structure of the motion based on concerns surrounding both
34 Cabbage Patch and Carrot timber sales.
35

36 Dr. Brown questioned the outcome of the motion lacking direction on the outcome of the
37 Cabbage Patch timber sale. Chair Franz invited staff to address concerns and questions
38 surrounding the Cabbage Patch timber sale.
39

40 Mr. Emmons said the Cabbage Patch timber unit was evaluated during the process of
41 selecting 2,000 acres for conservation. As previously noted, Capitol State Forest has no
42 murrelet habitat and no spotted owl habitat or designated conservation areas. The closest
43 murrelet habitat is located a distance of eight miles from the forest in Grays Harbor County.
44 Capitol State Forest spans two counties with the majority of the timber sale in Thurston
45 County and a smaller portion in Grays Harbor County. The timber sale is comprised of small
46 parcels located along the road system. Setting aside the sale for further discussion could

1 include reviewing other mechanisms the county could consider for conservation or moving
2 the unit to reconveyance status. The proposed sale is located within the center of the block of
3 land designated as county trust land within Capitol State Forest. During the discussions on
4 legacy sales, an article featured in a Grays Harbor publication spoke to the timber sale and the
5 county's review of the sale. Grays Harbor County is one of the only counties that did not
6 transfer a majority of its lands to the state to manage. The county reviewed the proposed sale
7 and did not raise any concerns about the sale. Grays Harbor County also interviewed Dr. Jerry
8 Franklin, who noted that those types of forests when they are naturally disturbed and naturally
9 regenerated are worthy of discussion for conservation. The Department's definition of old
10 growth is very similar to the proposal by the Biden Administration, which was noted by Dr.
11 Franklin in terms of the site previously harvested.

12
13 Chair Franz noted the numerous conversations with counties and the scheduling of meetings
14 regarding forest trust lands. Conversations with Thurston County have occurred with respect
15 to reconveyance that were specific to lands within Capitol State Forest. She asked whether the
16 Cabbage Patch sale is one of the areas identified by Thurston County for reconveyance. Mr.
17 Emmons advised that the sale was identified in a June 2022 letter seeking preservation of
18 approximately 2,000 acres. Other discussions centered on the various tools available to the
19 county, such as reconveyance on portions of county trust land. No other further discussions
20 have occurred about a larger reconveyance. The Capitol State Forest landscape lacks large
21 contiguous blocks of legacy forests. Rather the sites are smaller 10 to 15-acre blocks scattered
22 throughout the forest.

23
24 Superintendent Reykdal acknowledged the efforts by Thurston County to participate in the
25 2,000-acre process but because the lands lacked adjacency or contiguous features, the lands
26 were not included. As a former representative of the district, it has always been concerning
27 how the Black Hills is an area of extensive harvesting because the forest lacks structural
28 complexity. Within Thurston County, there are no close or accessible older mature forests. He
29 plans to reject timber sales involving the Black Hills area especially when Thurston County
30 has weighed in aggressively. He conveyed appreciation of staff's prior presentation of
31 preparing a timber sale and the years required; however, something is amiss when County
32 Commissioners are unaware of the lengthy process until just before the sale is presented for
33 approval. He plans to vote against the motion as it narrowly focuses on one of the sales.

34
35 Chair Franz noted the Department offers an assortment of tools with each having some type of
36 restrictions. She understands that conversations have occurred over the last year with
37 Thurston County Commissioners regarding older stands and lands that could be available for
38 reconveyance. Mr. Emmons affirmed that staff has met with Thurston County Commissioners
39 a number of times on older forests, trust land management, and the Department's fiduciary
40 responsibilities. Another meeting was held on site of the Juno timber sale that has been
41 paused. The conversation spoke to the availability of different tools and the county's desire to
42 set-aside up to 2,000 acres throughout Thurston County lands in Capital State Forest, as well
43 as discussion reviewing different tools and the 2,000 acres for conservation. Staff also
44 discussed reconveyance of lands surrounding Summit Lake as a way to provide protection and
45 create a county park.

1 Chair Franz asked for verification of whether the conversations concerned Cabbage Patch and
2 whether it was an area Thurston County was considering for potential reconveyance or the
3 ability for the county to reclaim the property for county management. Mr. Emmons said the
4 conversation did not involve any references to the letter the county provided in June 2022
5 with a list of specific timber sales. However, the discussion focused on the availability of
6 different tools the county could use to achieve its goals. He noted uncertainty as to whether
7 Carrot and Cabbage Patch timber sales were included in the list during the larger discussion
8 with the county. A list was provided later in the year in response to the 2,000 acres, which did
9 include Cabbage and Carrot timber units. Staff did not meet and discuss specific individual
10 timber sales with the County Commissioners or discuss tools or mechanism for each unit.
11

12 Chair Franz noted for the record, that Thurston County was aware of the Carrot and Cabbage
13 timber sales as well as engaging in many conversations about opportunities for reconveyance
14 or the county taking lands back to manage.
15

16 Mr. Cahill said he seconded the motion because of concerns surrounding the Cabbage Patch
17 timber sale. He supported Thurston County reviewing the timber proposal as some of the
18 county's materials forwarded to the Board speak to opportunities for harvesting. It would be
19 helpful for Thurston County to review options and tools especially with the addition of two
20 new Commissioners. Additionally, the legislative session is scheduled next week that might
21 entail the addition of more conservation funds providing an opportunity for the Department to
22 consider other parcels. He supported an amendment to include the Carrot timber sale.
23

24 Superintendent Reykdal conveyed an interest in receiving more information on the description
25 of both units.
26

27 Dr. Brown acknowledged the distinction by Commissioner Janicki between Carrot and
28 Cabbage Patch, as there are more vehicles available to the county because of reconveyance
29 options for Cabbage Patch than for Carrot. However, previous conversations have also
30 addressed other options. The question is whether to amend the motion to include the Carrot
31 timber sale.
32

33 Commissioner Janicki requested clarification as to whether there is some flexibility for
34 payments to Trust 42. Mr. Emmons said Trust 42 is the State Forest Board Repayment Trust
35 for timber value of trust lands serving as the vehicle for paying the inter-trust loan. To transact
36 some type of transfer to the county trust, reconveyance, or a direct transfer, it would require
37 compensation to Trust 42. If the Department elects not to harvest, the Department must pay
38 the loan back. Mr. Kearney said timber rights were transferred in the 1980s. The repayment
39 liability expires in 2030.
40

41 Chair Franz noted Trust 42 was established by the Legislature for the specific purpose of
42 transferring timber rights in the 1980s.
43

44 Michael Kearney, Product Sales and Leasing Division Manager, noted that the Board was
45 responsible for determining how the loan would be repaid. Essentially, the Board encumbered
46 the timber value of county lands assumed by the state for management to repay the loan.

1
2 Commissioner Janicki said the explanation speaks to her preference not to include Carrot in
3 the motion.
4

5 Chair Franz cited some specifics of harvest details of the proposed Carrot and Cabbage Patch
6 timber sales.
7

8 Mr. Emmons shared that when the state acquired the forest in the 1920s and 1930s it was
9 because the forest had experienced fires and was referred to as the Black Hills for that reason.
10 The Department even published an article in the 1970s on the forest that came back because
11 of the state's management of the forest. The site includes many individual fragmented parcels
12 of younger and older forests. Because of its history and prior poor management, Capitol State
13 Forest is different from other forests but continues to provide wood products and supports the
14 management of other forests in the state.
15

16 Discussion ensued on the percentage of revenue allocated to the various trusts for Carrot and
17 Cabbage Patch timber sales. Chair Franz questioned whether deferral of Cabbage Patch would
18 affect Grays Harbor and junior taxing districts. Mr. Kearney advised that the revenue loss
19 would be approximately 19% to 25% of the 36% of revenue distributed to taxing districts in
20 Grays Harbor County.
21

22 Dr. Brown expressed appreciation for the structured process for screening and prioritizing the
23 parcels included in the 2,000 acres for conservation based on direction and funding by the
24 Legislature. The process of setting aside a particular sale does not benefit from the structured
25 process of prioritizing. His concern is decision making concerning individual sales when the
26 decisions by the Department are at a landscape scale with consideration of specific
27 environmental benefits and social benefits and in the ways the Department manages forests.
28 That process requires a review of the full portfolio and rendering decisions across the entire
29 landscape rather than one parcel at a time.
30

31 Superintendent Reykdal pointed out his observation of 45-year old trees within acreage in
32 Whatcom County that is slated for protection yet 100-year old trees in Thurston County
33 elected officials would like to protect would be harvested. It is that imbalance that is not
34 sensible as it will require reengineering the acreage to create some capacity for county's that
35 were not included in the 2,000 acres for conservation.
36

37 Chair Franz noted it should be recognized that the 2,000-acre proposal includes some
38 younger stands based on the location. There have been a significant number of conversations
39 to include tours with the Commissioners on the landscape about opportunities for other tools
40 in addition to the 2,000-acre set-aside over the last year. The landscape perspective is
41 important versus reactive actions especially if it pertains to critical fish and wildlife habitat
42 protection, addressing climate change, and ensuring healthy forests for both climate protection
43 and the value of habitat and connectivity for recreation and trails. That approach has been
44 shared during those conversations with the county and beneficiaries as a whole.
45 Unfortunately, the motion creates an isolated and island approach rather than a landscape
46 approach.

1
2 Mr. Emmons responded to questions on the size of leave tree requirements and strategies for
3 harvested units.

4
5 ACTION: A roll call vote failed to pass the motion.

6
7 Chair Franz invited consideration of another motion.

8
9 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve the proposed February timber sales
10 removing Cabbage Patch and Carrot timber sales.

11
12 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

13
14 Superintendent Reykdal questioned whether a schedule exists for repayment to Trust 42 in
15 terms of the actual urgency of the repayment obligation that requires approval for harvesting a
16 timber sale. Mr. Emmons advised of no mechanism or schedule for payments as the payments
17 are managed on the same schedule similar to timber sales based on the sustainable harvest
18 level and adjacency of other sales and field staff progressing on future timber sales.

19
20 ACTION: A roll call vote failed to pass the motion.

21
22 Chair Franz invited another motion for consideration.

23
24 MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to approve the February timber sales as presented.

25
26 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

27
28 ACTION: A roll call vote passed the motion.

29
30 As an acknowledgement of the concerns, Chair Franz advised of next steps to meet with staff
31 to discuss outreach to Thurston County Commissioners on properties, timber sales, and areas
32 the county would like to conserve and the available tools to consider.

33
34 **ADJOURNMENT**

35 With there being no further business, Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.
36
37

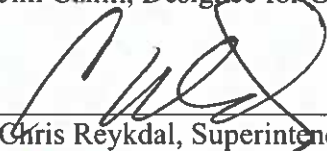
Approved this 6TH day of February, 2024

absent

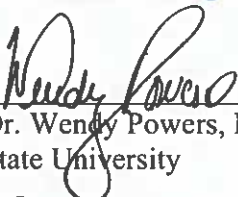
Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands


approved via webinar

Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee


Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County


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