
Minutes

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

January 6, 2015
Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

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

The Honorable Jim McEntire, Commissioner, Clallam County

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

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

The Honorable Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 Chair Goldmark called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. All Board members introduced
3 themselves. Chair Goldmark noted there was a quorum for the meeting with two Board
4 members absent.

5
6 Chair Goldmark welcomed Commissioner McEntire, representing the Counties, to the Board of
7 Natural Resources.

8 9 SAFETY REVIEW

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

12 13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

14 Chair Goldmark called for approval of the minutes for the December 2, 2014 Regular Board of
15 Natural Resources Meeting.

16
17 MOTION: Director DeLuca moved to approve the minutes.

18
19 SECOND: Ms. Austin seconded the motion.

20
21 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

22

1 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR TIMBER SALE ACTION ITEMS**

2 Commissioner Dan Cothren, Chair, Board of Wahkiakum County, remarked that timber sale
3 revenue is very important to the counties and detrimental when declined. He added that the
4 counties cannot afford to absorb the cost.

5
6 Chris Brong, representing Skamania County, thanked the Board for their work with small
7 counties like Skamania County. Mr. Brong stated that Skamania County is very dependent on
8 timber revenue. He asked the Board to reconsider the timber harvest for the next two year for
9 Skamania County and increase it as much as possible, as DNR timber sales is a large portion of
10 their revenue source.

11
12 Kendra Smith, representing Skagit County, thanked the Board for their work on putting the
13 timber sales forward. Ms. Smith expressed the importance of timber sale revenue and shared
14 with the Board where the funds are distributed throughout Skagit County. She added that
15 counties depend heavy on timber sale revenue.

16
17 **TIMBER SALES (Action Items)**

18 **Proposed Timber Sales for January 2015| 3 handouts, including the presentation**

19 Tom Shay, Product Sales & Leasing Division

20
21 Mr. Shay presented the results of the December auctions to the Board. The Department offered
22 14 sales totaling 38.4 MMBF in December. All 14 sales sold, totaling \$15.2 million for an
23 average of \$397 per MBF.

24
25 Mr. Shay remarked about the fair amount of interest in December sales, with an average of 2.5
26 bidders per sale.

27
28 Mr. Deluca asked about the price received for the Chicken Sandwich sale which was \$663.90 per
29 MBF.

30
31 Mr. Shay responded that the sale had a large amount of high value products (poles) that attracted
32 bids from pole purchasers, as well as lumber marketers.

33
34 Mr. Shay then presented the proposed February 2015 sales to the Board.

35
36 Mr. Shay asked for approval of the proposed February 2015 sales.

37
38 MOTION: Director DeLuca moved to approve the proposed February 2015 sales.

39
40 SECOND: Commissioner McEntire seconded the motion.

41
42 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

43
44 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR SURVEY MAP RECORDING FEE INCREASE ACTION**
45 **ITEMS**

46 None.

1 **SURVEY MAP RECORDING FEE INCREASE (Action Items)**

2 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

3 Pat Beehler, Land Survey Manager

4
5 Mr. Blum and Mr. Beehler presented historical background of the surcharge fee for recording
6 survey maps. Mr. Blum explained that fees collected by the county auditor are remitted to the
7 Surveys & Maps Account in the state General Fund. The money in the Surveys & Maps Account
8 is appropriated to DNR by the legislature to support the Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) in
9 their mission to collect and index survey records on a statewide basis. The records are made
10 available through an on-line subscription service, staff research assistance and a public
11 information counter.

12
13 The staff of the PLSO has been reduced due to a dramatic decrease in recording fees, which has
14 led to the current backlog of scanning and indexing the survey records. Two members of the
15 PLSO staff, Mary Zuris and Kris Horton, presented the Board with examples of the material that
16 needs to be entered into the records system and made available for research. Ms. Zuris and Mr.
17 Horton answered the questions asked by the Board and related how the records are scanned and
18 indexed.

19
20 Mr. Blum asked for approval to authorize DNR to begin the rule-making process under the
21 Washington Administrative Procedure Act for raising the recording fee surcharge from the
22 current \$46 to a new fee of \$64; with a future public hearing before the Board and final
23 consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

24
25 Mr. Blum recommended approval of Resolution 1436.

26
27 MOTION: Commissioner McEntire moved to approve Resolution 1436.

28
29 SECOND: Director DeLuca seconded the motion.

30
31 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

32
33 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR MARBLED MURRELET LONG-TERM CONSERVATION**
34 **STRATEGY**

35 Marcy J. Golde, Olympic Forest Coalition Board member, stated that marbled murrelets are on a
36 downward trajectory and headed toward extirpation if there is no change. She further expressed
37 that this is a moral issue, not just a management issue.

38
39 Elizabeth Ruther, Northwest Program Representative with Defenders of Wildlife, thanked the
40 Board for their continued work on the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy. She
41 stated that completing the long-term conservation strategy should be a priority. The strategy
42 should be completed before the new harvest calculation is updated. Ms. Ruther remarked that
43 Defenders requests the Board to recall that the HCP commits the state to make a significant
44 contribution to maintaining and protecting the marbled murrelet population.

1 Kaitlyn Schwindt, University of Washington graduate, remarked on the federal obligation under
2 the Endangered Species Act to ensure the survival and recovery of the marbled murrelet. Ms.
3 Schwindt urged the Board to make the long-term conversation strategy a priority.
4

5 Susan North, Conservation Manager for the Seattle Audubon Society, stated that she is mindful
6 that the Board knows that DNR's obligations are required under the HCP. Ms. North remarked
7 that she recognizes DNR's obligation to balance its fiduciary responsibility to contribute to the
8 recovery of the species. She expressed that the long-term conservation strategy should be
9 prioritized prior to the sustainable harvest calculation.
10

11 Commissioner Dan Cothren, Chair, Board of Wahkiakum County, stated that through legislation
12 Wahkiakum County has land set aside for conservation status that the county will be reimbursed
13 for, but the issue is that there is additional land that cannot be harvested. Mr. Cothren expressed
14 that securing up the lands is not helping the other species and the economic aspect is hurting the
15 county.
16

17 Ms. Austin stated that this is a very important subject and she is working with Mr. Blum on
18 understanding the parallel between the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy and
19 the Sustainable Harvest Calculation, and that she will continue to be engaged in this discussion.
20

21 Ms. Austin departed the meeting at 10:27 AM.
22

23 Ann Forest Burn, Vice President, American Forest Resource Council, commended staff for its
24 careful work to craft a framework for the long-term conservation strategy that will meet all five
25 objectives in the Need, Purpose and Objectives adopted by the Board. AFRC urged the Board to
26 assure that the methods employed are understandable, transparent, and scientifically defensible.
27

28 Chuck Burley, Public Affairs Manager for Interfor, stated that Interfor's sawmills are highly
29 dependent on DNR timber sales, and expressed the concerns they have with marbled murrelet
30 habitat on the Olympic Peninsula. Interfor is interested in seeing the draft long-term strategy and
31 how it meets the five objectives adopted by the Board. Mr. Burley stated that if the long-term
32 strategy is tied up in years of litigation there will be no certainty to the trusts' beneficiaries or
33 those that depend on the lands for their employment.
34

35 Wyatt Golding with the Washington Forest Law Center, representing the OFCO, the Sierra Club,
36 and Seattle Audubon, remarked that the conservation community supports the long-term
37 conservation strategy and then addressing the sustainable harvest calculation. The long-term
38 conservation strategy needs to be a priority. Mr. Golding remarked that they would like to see
39 the biological benefits for the marbled murrelets included in the analytical framework.
40

41 Kevin Schmelzlen, with the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project, remarked that he looks forward
42 to hearing Commissioner McEntire's thoughts on how to best balance the financial needs of the
43 beneficiaries with the obligation our state has under the Federal Endangered Species Act to
44 protect and recover the marbled murrelets. Mr. Schmelzlen believes that the 2008 Science Report
45 took the DNR's fiduciary responsibility and counties reliance on timber into account, and that
46 the report strives for saving the marbled murrelet from extinction while ensuring timber revenue
47 continues to flow.

1
2 Shelly Spalding, retired Federal Endangered Species Biologist, stated that it is important that the
3 long-term conservation strategy be applied using consistent methodology across the six Westside
4 planning units. Ms. Spalding remarked that she strongly supports the methods developed by the
5 expert marbled murrelet science team. It is important that the long-term conservation strategy be
6 developed prior to the sustainable harvest calculation in order to not preclude the strategy options
7 by agreeing to a sustainable harvest calculation that would contribute to the decline of the
8 marbled murrelets.

9
10 Peggy Burton, citizen, stated that she agrees to setting the baseline back to 1997. Ms. Burton
11 urged the Board to make the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy a priority over the
12 sustainable harvest calculation.

13
14 Chair Goldmark convened a break, and then reconvened the meeting at 10:16 AM.

15
16 **MARBLED MURRELET LONG-TERM CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

17 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

18 Peter Harrison, Project Manager, Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy

19
20 Mr. Blum introduced the presentation by clarifying how the Marbled Murrelet Long-term
21 Conservation Strategy (MMLTCS) and the Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC) will be
22 developed in a concurrent process as directed by the Board at previous meetings. Mr. Blum
23 explained that DNR will complete the processes concurrently so that the impacts of the
24 MMLTCS can inform the SHC harvest. The concurrent process will analyze the range of
25 MMLTCS alternatives in the SHC. This will allow the board to understand how different choices
26 made in the MMLTCS affect the SHC level.

27
28 Director DeLuca asked about how project interaction would work for the SHC if significant
29 comments were received on the MMLTCS. Mr. Blum stated that if significant changes are
30 received, the project team will take the necessary time to incorporate those changes into the
31 SHC.

32
33 Mr. Blum introduced 'disturbance take' as another piece of the MMLTCS analytical framework
34 that was developed jointly by DNR and USFWS.

35
36 Mr. Harrison explained the definition of disturbance take as effects to murrelets that may occur
37 from actions generating loud noises and activity in close proximity to nesting murrelets, resulting
38 in a potential disruption of murrelet breeding and nesting behaviors. He then explained a list of
39 forest management activities listed in the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan
40 (HCP) that may result in disturbance to the marbled murrelet.

41
42 Mr. Harrison explained how USFWS and DNR developed a process to measure the significance
43 of disturbances associated with the HCP forest management activities. This process was
44 evaluated by using three tools: stressors of the activity, duration of the activity and response from
45 the marbled murrelet.

1 Stressor categories include ground-based noise, visual disturbance, predator attraction, impulsive
2 noise and aircraft noise. Duration categories include activities that occur less than 1 day, less
3 than 7 days, greater than 7 days but less than a month, and greater than 1 month. Response
4 categories include no significant response, aborted feedings, adults flushing, mortality from
5 removal of nest tree, mortality from predation and hearing damage. A stressor, duration and
6 response was assigned to each forest management activity. Activities that had the same stressor,
7 duration and response were grouped together. This resulted in six different groups for the forest
8 management activities.

9
10 Mr. Blum introduced a specific example for campgrounds that gives a detailed explanation of
11 how potential disturbance take would be calculated for this forest management activity.
12 Campgrounds were assigned stressors of ground-based noise and visual disturbance, a duration
13 of less than 1 month, and response of potential mortality from removal of nest tree, increased
14 predation risk, aborted feedings and adults flushing.

15
16 The first step is to determine the location of potential impact or where the activity occurs. Using
17 DNR GIS and other corporate data we identified the locations that each activity occurred, or the
18 activity footprint. The next step is to buffer the activity with 100 meters from the edge of the
19 activity footprint. Once we have identified the activity footprint and buffer we identify the sum
20 of the p-stage habitat. For campgrounds statewide the total footprints and buffers equals 1,336
21 acres. The p-stage habitat within the campgrounds footprints and buffers is 305 acres.

22
23 Mr. Blum explained that to factor in habitat quality we assigned an average p-stage habitat value
24 to the p-stage habitat identified within campgrounds. For this example, we used .34 as the
25 average p-stage habitat across DNR lands. This number is not a real number of the average p-
26 stage habitat, it is being used for illustration purposes. When a real number is available it will be
27 presented. To factor habitat quality we multiply 305 acres by .34 to get 104 weighted p-stage
28 acres.

29
30 Areas of long-term forest cover will be conserved for the life of the HCP and is the habitat that is
31 subject to disturbance take. We identified the percentage of DNR lands in areas of long-term
32 forest cover (ALTFC) as 51%. We multiply 104 weighted p-stage acres by 51% to get 53 acres,
33 the average proportion of DNR lands in ALTFC.

34
35 The second phase of identifying potential disturbance take is to adjust for time. Adjusting for
36 time is important because the same acre can be impacted by disturbance take multiple times over
37 the life of the HCP. Another consideration for time is considering the nesting season. This
38 consideration is because an activity that causes take when it occurs in the nesting season, may
39 not cause take if it occurs outside of the nesting season. USFWS and DNR identified the nesting
40 season as 176 days in duration. To account for some activities that occur during the nesting
41 season, but only occur during the weekdays we assigned a percentage of occurrence of 5/7 days
42 or 7/7 days out of the nesting season for each activity.

43
44 Mr. Blum explained that in the campground example to adjust for the nesting season we take 53
45 acres and multiply it by the number of days the activity overlaps with nesting season and then
46 multiply it by the activity occurrence. For the campground example this is 53 acres* (176/176)
47 *(7/7) which results in 53 acres.

1
2 The last step in adjusting for time is to include the years remaining in the HCP. For the
3 campground example with 53 years remaining in the HCP we multiply 53 years*53 acres
4 resulting in 2,809 time-adjusted acres.

5 Commissioner McEntire asked if we will run this same algorithm for the 36 different types of
6 potential disturbance take.

7
8 Mr. Blum clarified that we will lump the 36 activities into groups to have six separate totals.
9 After we have those totals we will determine the biological implications for each group total as
10 each group will have a different level of impact.

11
12 Mr. Blum walked through another example for potential disturbance take associated with timber
13 harvest.

14
15 Mr. Blum explained that the next steps for the MMLTCS is to bring the biological implications
16 information, the baseline acres and the alternatives for the Draft Environmental Impact
17 Statement.

18
19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE HARVEST CALCULATION (SHC)**

20 Marcy J. Golde, Olympic Forest Coalition Board Member, asked the Board extend the comment
21 period for the two EISs in parallel. Ms. Golde urged the Board to give the public 90 days to
22 provide their comments.

23
24 Mike Davis, Division Forester for the Cowlitz Division of Hampton Lumber, stated that in April
25 he had strongly supported the Board to be engaged and deliberate in the development of the next
26 decadal sustainable yield harvest calculation. Mr. Davis urged the Board to remain within the
27 confines of existing policy and maintain a narrow scope; and to be deliberate but prompt in
28 moving the process forward. He expressed that sawmills and communities are directly linked to
29 DNR trust lands, and the certainty of these trust lands, to provide a steady, reliable flow of
30 timber.

31
32 Matt Comisky, Washington Manager for AFRC, stated that AFRC applauds the narrow and
33 focused scope of the Purpose and Need statement, however it feels that further refinement is
34 needed. Mr. Comisky provided the Board with a revised draft of the Purpose and Need
35 statement for the Sustainable Harvest Calculation. He urged the Board to incorporate the
36 suggested changes when adopting the Purpose and Need Statement.

37
38 Rick Homelick, representing the Timberland Regional Library (TRL), expressed his gratitude for
39 the work the Board has done. Mr. Homelink would like to give content to the term trust
40 beneficiary. One of TRL's mission is community engagement, and he remarked that the
41 sustainable harvest calculation will have an impact on TRL's budget.

42
43 Wyatt Golding, with the Washington Forest Law Center, representing the OFCO, the Sierra
44 Club, and Seattle Audubon, stated that having both the marbled murrelet long-term conservation
45 strategy and sustainable harvest calculation run parallel will further delay the long-term
46 conservation strategy. Mr. Golding encouraged the Board to address climate change in the

1 Purpose and Need Statement, as the trust obligation requires DNR to “ensure perpetual revenue
2 for the trusts.”

3
4 Patty Wood, Kelso School Board of Directors, representing the trust beneficiaries of state lands
5 and public school children, urged the Board to keep in my mind that the lands are entrusted for
6 our public school students. Ms. Wood expressed that the public schools rely on the revenue that
7 the lands generate.

8
9 Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, Chair of the Washington State School Directors’ Association Trust Land
10 Task Force, stated that he is pleased to see the level of engagement that the Board has been
11 giving to the sustainable harvest calculation process and the careful work that the DNR staff has
12 prepared for the Board. Mr. Pfeiffer-Hoyt believes that the existing policies, *Policy for*
13 *Sustainable Forests*, are working well. He urged the Board to keep the work focused on the
14 SHC long-term conservation strategy in a manner that maximizes long-term value to the trusts.

15
16 **SUSTAINABLE HARVEST CALCULATION (SHC)**

17 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

18
19 Mr. Blum introduced the Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC) by stating that the information
20 he will be presenting is the same as the previous presentation given at the December BNR
21 meeting. Mr. Blum wanted to give the Board an opportunity to review the information and
22 provide feedback.

23
24 Mr. Blum reviewed the concurrent processes diagram for both the SHC and the Marbled
25 Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy (MMLTCS). Commissioner McEntire asked about
26 the legal timeframe for USFWS to complete a biological opinion on the MMLTCS. Mr. Blum
27 responded by stating that for a major amendment to the HCP the implementing agreement states
28 they will respond within 180 days.

29
30 Mr. Blum reviewed the language of the Purpose and Need statement for the Sustainable Harvest
31 Calculation scoping phase directed by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process.

32
33 Mr. Blum asked the Board members if they had any questions on the Purpose and Need language
34 prior to the scoping phase of the project.

35
36 Director DeLuca asked about the process the Department would undertake if they added
37 language about climate change to the 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests. Mr. Blum stated that it
38 would need to be addressed through the SEPA process.

39
40 Commissioner Goldmark stated that he would like to move the Purpose and Need language
41 forward into the scoping phase for the SHC.

42
43 Commissioner McEntire asked to hear about uncertainties that would be associated with
44 introducing new policies into the Sustainable Harvest Calculation when the Department reaches
45 that point. He stated that the existing draft Purpose and Need statement seems to be satisfactory
46 to move forward with the scoping phase.

1 Director DeLuca stated that he would like to move forward into the scoping and noted that BNR
2 members not present need information about scoping.

3

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

5 Kevin Schmelzlen, with the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project, urged the Board to allow video
6 recorded public comments at future Board meetings.

7

8 Susan North, Conservation Manager for the Seattle Audubon Society, state that the marbled
9 murrelet species are listed as 'threaten with extinction', which is why they are on the endangered
10 species act. Ms. North claims that DNR has agreed to contribute to the recovery of marbled
11 murrelets through agreeing to implement the HCP. She added that she hopes to see more of the
12 marbled murrelet biology in future presentations.

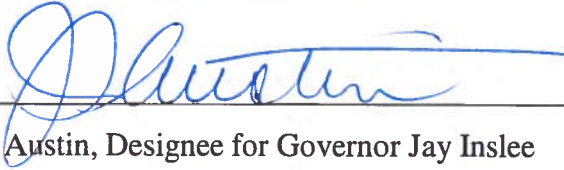
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14 Meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM

Approved this 3rd day of February, 2015



Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands



JT Austin, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

not present

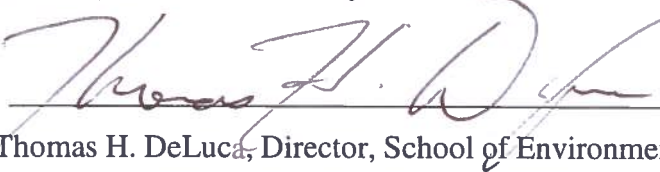
Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction



Jim McEntire, Commissioner, Clallam County

via conference call

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



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

Attest:



Sarah Vansot, Board Coordinator