
Minutes

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

October 3, 2023

Webinar/Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

The Honorable Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

The Honorable Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Boardmembers provided self-introduction. A meeting quorum was confirmed.

The agenda was adjusted to reflect the *Chair Report* as the last item of consideration.

WEBINAR/SAFETY BRIEFING

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

LIGHTNING TALK - *Informational*

Timber Cruising 101 and TRIS

Michael Sly, Chief Check Cruiser, Product Sales and Leasing Division

Mr. Sly briefed the Board on timber cruising on state lands.

Timber cruising is a collection of data and statistics requiring years to master in terms of sampling methods and procedures and details. Cruising utilizes several different sampling methods dependent upon the situation. The most popular method for timber sales is variable radius plot

1 sampling used when 100% sampling is not feasible. The method selects sample trees with a
2 probability that is proportional to tree size using a Relaskop and basal area factor (BAF) to sample
3 four to seven trees on randomized plots. Sampling errors average less than 10%. A sound cruise
4 design, sampling accuracy/consistency, and acceptable plot intensity enables an extrapolation of
5 data across a large stand to determine volume.
6

7 Mr. Sly described details of the sampling process.
8

9 The Timber Resource Inventory System (TRIS) was released and implemented in the statewide
10 cruising program in January 2020. The system replaced an existing cruising application to create a
11 modern, user-friendly, and accurate cruising application integrated into all components for a land
12 management system. The system enables staff to make changes internally rather than through a
13 contracted software developer. All DNR cruisers have access to the cloud-based application
14 enabling the sharing of information, easy collaboration, and statewide oversight.
15

16 Mr. Sly shared and described several screen shots reflecting the functionality of TRIS. TRIS is
17 preloaded with all scanning rules and necessary equations to calculate volume in the field. Each
18 timber sale includes a TRIS-generated cruise report. TRIS enables DNR to develop a cruise report
19 similar but more relevant to the previous reports used in the prior system. The cruise narrative
20 section on each sales report offer potential purchasers with information on what cruisers identified
21 on site and the quality of timber. The report includes volume by log sorts.
22

23 Since implementation of TRIS, accuracy is factored on cut out data, the comparison of cruise
24 volume compared to actual delivered volume from any sale. DNR collects and obtains cut data in
25 three ways to evaluate cruise accuracy. Sort sales or contract harvest timber sales enable a final
26 delivered volume to be identified using the log and accounting system (CT3). The system
27 provides total sale volume across all destinations during the life of a sale. Stumpage and lump
28 sum timber sales enable purchasers to choose when to harvest over the length of the contract,
29 which can delay information on cut out for several years. The main way in obtaining data is by
30 working collaboratively with the Department of Revenue (DOR). Purchasers participating in
31 DNR timber sales are required by state law to report harvest volume to DOR at the conclusion of
32 each sale. DOR utilizes the data and auction results to determine timber tax and stumpage
33 valuations across the state. As the information is provided by purchasers, DNR is unable to verify
34 the accuracy of the data. Since TRIS was implemented, DNR has sold and completed 39 contract
35 harvest sales with a statewide cut out percentage of 98.43%. DNR has sold 266 timber lump sum
36 or stumpage timber sales since 2020. Of those 266 sales, DOR cut out data was completed on 75
37 sales reflecting a cut out percentage of 98.84% statewide.
38

39 Mr. Sly reported DNR cruisers are some of the most versatile and well-rounded cruisers in the
40 industry. The diversity of state timber is unmatched in the private sector. Mr. Sly invited
41 questions.
42

43 Mr. Cahill asked about the length of the process for cruising a timber sale and the number of staff
44 assigned to the task. Mr. Sly reported the Department is supported by approximately 12 cruisers
45 statewide. A typical workday involves sampling approximately 20 to 30 plots. Larger sales
46 require more time.

1
2 Commissioner Janicki asked whether the TRIS application is capable of consolidating different
3 types of inventory data across the landscape that could be used to benefit the development of the
4 Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC). Mr. Sly said cruising timber sales and inventorying are
5 two separate processes. Inventorying is typically completed on fewer plots per acre than the
6 cruising process, which uses a different type of inventory application.
7

8 Kate McBurney, Assistant Division Manager, Forest Resources Division, affirmed that different
9 plot data are used as a data source for the SHC. TRIS is important because it serves as a
10 validation. Data from the TRIS application are detailed and enable adjustments in inventory
11 estimates in terms of merchantable volume. Staff is pursuing an option of separating
12 merchandizing components of the application to utilize as a source of data for validation to ensure
13 volume estimates from inventorying align. Additionally, TRIS stand data are much different than
14 inventory data as the inventory accounts for different sizes of trees. Pre-harvest cruising samples
15 specific trees or identifies where potential trees are located for a timber sale.
16

17 PUBLIC COMMENTS

18 **Ed Bowen, Clallam County**, pointed out the lack of attendance of two elected members of the
19 Board. The DNR website reflects the removal of information on members of the Board. He
20 reiterated concerns about the lack of progress moving forward on the SHC. Although other
21 activity may be stalling progress on the SHC, the Board had an opportunity earlier in the summer
22 to develop an agreement or settlement offer. His concerns continue as no progress is occurring to
23 develop a new SHC. The only information available is from a scoping meeting in 2021. He was
24 pleased to learn of a timber sale in Clallam County included in this month's timber sales proposal.
25 The sale had been delayed for over 2-1/2 years. He noted concerns surrounding the Chair Report
26 because information is lacking on the advisory group created to work with DNR.
27

28 Ms. Kellogg advised that the DNR webpage was revised to comply with The Healthy Environment
29 for All (HEAL) Act. The webpage includes a link of the member roster with information on each
30 member.
31

32 **Robert Mitchell** spoke to an analogy of previous comments shared by the Board regarding their
33 children graduating from high school and his negative experience in high school because he
34 believes he would have been better educated by standing trees the Board cuts down to fund
35 attempts to indoctrinate him. Declining school enrollment due to increased home schooling may
36 signal that his reaction to public schooling is not unique. Ending mandatory schooling, cutting
37 fewer trees, opening more access to forests to enable people to escape to the great outdoors, and
38 establishing an Idaho-style endowment fund would increase school, county, and junior taxing
39 district funding even as timber sales decrease.
40

41 **Lee First, resident of Thurston County**, said she serves as the Twin Harbors water keeper and
42 works to protect water quality and habitat in the Chehalis and Willapa watersheds. She asked for
43 the removal of several timber sales located in the Willapa and Chehalis watersheds. For the sake
44 of climate, the sales should be pulled as well as others with mature, structurally complex and
45 naturally revegetated forests. Carbon storage in those forests with many trees over 21 inches in
46 diameter are a tiny percentage of the forest but store 42% of above ground carbon. The Willapa

1 and Chehalis Rivers experienced an all-time instream low flow during the summer. In January
2 2022, the worst flood occurred in more than a decade. The issue is not rocket science. The Board
3 should reserve the last remaining mature forest stands for the sake of the planet and for the health
4 of watersheds and communities. At the last meeting, a commenter requested that DNR help mills
5 to process large logs from forests. The speaker said large timbers from the mills are essential for
6 building lodges and high-end homes. Today, the world is experiencing a climate crisis and a
7 housing crisis. Providing expensive timbers will not help. It is time to focus on a strategy to
8 generate revenue for trust beneficiaries that conserves older forests and accelerates the
9 development of fully functional forests while generating revenue for schools, colleges, and critical
10 local services.

11
12 **Joshua Wright** requested the Board not approve the In the Pipeline timber sale located in the
13 Willapa Bay watershed. The timber sale is one of the only structurally complex old forests in the
14 watershed. Retention of the forest is necessary to meet DNR's goal of regaining structurally
15 complex old growth forests by the 21st century. Logging similar forests results in DNR sabotaging
16 efforts to restore old growth across HCP planning units. The crisis facing the state has been
17 generated by DNR for the most part because legacy forests were not previously targeted for
18 logging. DNR is deliberately planning timber sales in areas of structurally complex older forests.
19 The Department has available stock of younger plantation forests but is actively choosing to target
20 older forests. DNR plantations contain sufficient inventory to meet short-term obligations for the
21 next 10 years.

22
23 **Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council (AFRC)**, cited a USDA resource planning
24 act assessment of projected status trends and the future of forest and range lands. The toll of fire
25 will likely be experienced in supplies of certain softwood species especially in the Rocky
26 Mountain region and along the Pacific Coast region. Douglas fir and ponderosa pine are at most
27 risk. Tree mortality from fire is expected to increase 63% to 100% in the Pacific Coast region.
28 The report anticipates the U.S. will become reliant on softwood lumber imports through 2070.
29 Random lengths of softwood lumber imports totaled 1.3 mmbf last month with most from Canada.
30 The prior month import was 1.38 mmbf from Canada. Active forest management is recognized as
31 a tool to address climate and housing issues. He asked that the record reflect that the proposed
32 M1100 acquisition would not affect management of the adjacent Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA).

33
34 **Jerry Bonagofsky, Washington Contract Loggers Association**, said the organization represents
35 logging, log hauling, and log road construction companies. He thanked staff for the incredible
36 amount of work completed to bring timber sales forward meeting all regulatory requirements and
37 for their work in maintaining healthy and sustainable forests. Lightening Talks highlight activities
38 completed prior to a timber sale. The timber sales program is critical to maintain the infrastructure
39 of the industry and to provide silviculture on DNR and private land for the production of climate-
40 friendly building materials derived from a renewable resource to meet the increasing demand for
41 wood products.

42
43 **Laura Wilkeson** reported she serves as the State Policy Director for Hampton Lumber. The
44 company owns timberlands and saw mills in Morton, Randle, and Darrington, Washington. On
45 behalf of employees, contractors, and the communities relying on the wood products industry, she
46 thanked DNR staff for their time, efforts, and dedication to the timber sales program and for

1 reaching out to county councils to educate them and the public on the details of DNR lands and
2 management. For every million dollars spent on timber sale, another \$1.6 million is generated for
3 local businesses and workers. Locking up forests has been touted as the best thing to do for
4 climate change. The United Nations and the IPPC suggest otherwise. Storing carbon in long-lived
5 wood products and using renewable materials within the built environment are better than using
6 carbon-intensive materials. The housing crisis should be solved with materials from within the
7 state. Wood from all DNR timber sales in 2021 stored 1.4 million metric tons of carbon
8 equivalent to 300,000 car emissions in one year. Hampton purchases in 2021 were sufficient to
9 frame 13,000 houses.

10
11 **Heath Heikkila, American Forest Resource Council (AFRC)**, supports a long-term natural
12 climate solution, working forests, and renewable climate-friendly wood products produced by
13 DNR. Last month he spoke to July's USDA's assessment and its finding of carbon sequestration
14 rates dropping in the nation's forests as forests age. Unless something changes, the assessment
15 found that the nation's forests will become net emitters by 2070. The assessment mandated by
16 Congress was recently refuted by several individuals who supported two scientists with titles of
17 chief scientist of Wild Heritage, a project of Earth Island Institute and a forest and fire ecologist
18 with the John Muir project of Earth Island Institute. With over half of Washington forests set-
19 aside from harvesting including nearly 44% of national forests, it is difficult to comprehend how
20 setting aside more forests is a climate solution as it appears to be more like nimbyism. He is
21 hopeful DNR utilizes the \$3 million allocated by the Legislature to complete a thorough un-biased
22 science-based review consistent with legislative direction that includes the affects of leakage
23 caused by shifting harvest elsewhere and the substitution of concrete and steel as building
24 materials in place of wood in any carbon accounting. DNR timber sales provide a range of
25 products from lumber to utility poles and cross arms to engineered wood products. While carbon
26 accounting is a complex topic, there is significant international scientific consensus about the need
27 to use more wood products. He supports the approval of the Ode to Joyce timber sale in Clallam
28 County and commended Clallam County Commissioners for their thoughtful and fact-based
29 approach regarding the sale.

30
31 **Rod Fleck, City of Forks**, commented about similar concerns regarding the SHC and the process,
32 which is essential for all junior taxing districts. He spoke to the carbon sequestration discussion
33 and the offset of harvesting as the Board should be engaged in a parallel discussion at the policy
34 level in conjunction with discussions involving the various stakeholder groups the Legislature
35 required the Department to establish. He recommended approval of the proposed timber sales to
36 include a timber sale in Clallam County that was vetted in numerous public forums in Clallam
37 County. As highlighted during those meetings, within the small landscape of the proposed sale, a
38 significant amount of the landscape has been set-aside for various ecological obligations.

39
40 **Dr. Julie Ratner** said cherry-picking is often used by science denialists to contradict scientific
41 findings. It is used in climate change denial and denial in health effects of consuming tobacco. It
42 is important to understand the urgency for protecting those cherry-picked carbon workhorses that
43 are the mature parcels. The Board set a precedent and suspended the sale of the Juno timber sale.
44 The Board should stop ignoring Thurston County's letter and stop selling precious forests before a
45 plan is in place. Deny the approval of the In the Pipeline timber sale and prioritize the Thurston
46 County Climate Mitigation goals by suspending all parcels with trees over 24-inch diameter and

1 breast height. Remove the Marshmallow, Evergreen, and Gold parcels from Thurston County and
2 all other future sales. As mentioned, earlier, plenty of timber is available for DNR revenue. She
3 opposes future options of all mature forest parcels as the parcels have been cherry-picked for
4 harvesting trees for greed. The value of a tree is not in terms of board feet but biological. The
5 number one priority to alleviate extreme weather of droughts, storms, and wildfires is to store the
6 maximum amount of carbon and protect trees. Science and economics prove short harvest cycles
7 and the current rate of clearcutting is not sustainable.
8

9 **Donna Albert** requested suspending all logging sales of legacy forests. The Board has been
10 passive and has not challenged staff on fast-breaking changes in climate science or forestry. A
11 member of the Board represents the Governor. She asked whether Jay Inslee is aware DNR is
12 harvesting mature and structurally complex forests with likely twice the carbon than monoculture
13 plantations. Unknown biodiversity and soils on the forest floor are lost during harvesting during
14 the height of a climate and biodiversity crisis despite DNR's monoculture forests that are ready for
15 harvest. The Board should defer all legacy forests to stop the irreversible harm and provide
16 sufficient time for the Board to obtain the facts.
17

18 **Ed Chadd, Clallam County**, supported the comments of Lee First, Joshua Wright, and Donna
19 Albert. A study group was formed to work on older forest issues. He questioned why the Board
20 has not requested suspending all work-ups of timber sales. The Board continues to render
21 decisions in light of the Washington State Supreme Court decision that state lands are not just for
22 the trusts but for all people of the state and therefore decisions would be rendered in consideration
23 of the interests of all people. However, the Board currently does not reflect all people in the state.
24 It would be an honorable show of integrity to request the Legislature, in light of the recent ruling,
25 to reconstitute the Board of Natural Resources to reflect all people in the state. Previous
26 comments that speak to scientific integrity of the Forest Service data and the recommendations
27 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the bias of the studies and
28 recommendations have been documented.
29

30 **Miguel Perez-Gibson, Washington Conservation Action (WCA)**, said the last time the SHC
31 was a topic by the Board was at the April 2023 meeting, although he suspects staff is working on
32 the issue for future presentations to the Board. WCA believes in the importance of three issues:

- 33 1. Inventory and utilizing state-of-the-art technology, such as remote sensing in combination
34 with cost-effective field practices
- 35 2. New policies addressing mature forests, carbon resiliency, rotation age, and the production of
36 high value lumber products
- 37 3. Modeling and the importance of a multi-objective optimization model system to include
38 climate change and other variables

39 He acknowledged the difficulty of developing a true sustainable harvest level projecting the next
40 100 years. He acknowledged the work by staff on the recent harbor line adjustment as it benefits
41 navigation and maintains shipyard services on the Columbia River by a family-owned and
42 operated marine service business.
43

44 **Brian Karnes, Cascade Hardwood Group**, said the company employs 205 employees between
45 two facilities in Washington and supports many jobs indirectly in the areas of the facilities. He
46 thanked legislators for funding the alder-cedar salvage position for another two years and staff for

1 their accomplishments when the position was staffed. The position has been vacant for three
2 months. The position provides an opportunity to make a lasting impact on alder and cedar volume
3 offered from DNR lands. Hardwood logs from timber sales comprise approximately 20% of the
4 volume the company processes annually. It is important to maintain a consistent supply of
5 hardwood logs. He thanked staff and the Board for moving forward with the Ode to Joyce timber
6 sale and is hopeful DNR moves forward with all sales that have been suspended. Suspending
7 timber sales after considerable work by staff is demoralizing. Two sales on Tiger Mountain were
8 suspended despite a year of work by staff and several years of field work by the forester. He
9 thanked the Board for offering HCP compliant timber sales.

10
11 **Brel Froebe, Center for Responsible Forestry**, thanked DNR for the informative Lightning
12 Talk. He recommended the timber cruising process should include identification of stands that
13 meet DNR's definition of Maturation 1 and 2 using the *Identifying Mature and Old Forests in*
14 *Western Washington* guide authored by Robert Van Pelt, which has been used as a guide for
15 training citizens in ground truthing timber sales to identify mature forest stands sale units. The
16 Board should suspend all timber sales containing mature, structurally complex forests until the
17 stakeholder group has completed its work on collaborating on approaches to conservation and
18 management of structurally complex forests. He urged the Board to pull timber sales containing
19 mature forests representing 44% of the total proposed timber sales.

20
21 **Peter Goldman, Washington Forest Law Center**, spoke on behalf of the law center and
22 reiterated how conservation advocates are committed to identifying and maintaining a sustainable
23 and environmentally responsible timber sales program on state lands. Enormously important
24 scientific forestry and economic assumptions and calculations that comprise a sustainable,
25 environmental, and responsible timber sales program are why the decadal SHC is so important.
26 The SHC is based on key issues some of which are often invisible and are why the Board needs to
27 probe a recent development occurring last week involving the public receiving copies of a letter
28 dated September 22, 2023, co-written by the American Forest Resource Council and Dan Cothren,
29 Wahkiakum County Commissioner. The letter announced and accompanied the withdrawal of two
30 lawsuits against the Board and DNR pending in Whatcom County and Thurston County relating to
31 DNR's 2018-2024 SHC calculation and a breach of trust case alleging DNR under calculated the
32 decadal cut. The letter cites commitments and understandings agreed to by the parties that mirror
33 some of the points in the settlement agreement the Board rejected on July 5, 2022. By law, the
34 Board is charged with setting policy as to how DNR conducts its timber sales program. Because
35 the Board rejected the settlement agreement, he urged the Board to request DNR provide a detailed
36 explanation at the November meeting of DNR's plans because of the dismissal of the two lawsuits.
37 Good and transparent government requires an explanation.

38
39 **Ed Martin, Western Forest Products**, said the company converts the world's best renewable
40 resource into items that enrich the lives of Washingtonians. He thanked DNR for bringing the Ode
41 to Joyce timber sale before the Board after years of languishing. The need for timber to produce
42 cross arm timbers is extremely high. Cross arm timbers are the essential structural supply of the
43 electrical grid and facilitate the construction of green energy projects in high demand. The Ode to
44 Joyce timber sale is well suited to provide the raw material needed. Of course, some would have
45 everyone believing the sky is falling by approving the timber sale. The facts are DNR's
46 comprehensive HCP sets aside 50% of trust lands permanently. The remaining working forest of

1 DNR lands is overseen by a stringent list of environmental requirements before timber sales move
2 forward. Forest products are by definition, sequestered carbon. Communities receive economic
3 and environmental benefits from sustainably produced wood products originating in the state
4 rather than from other countries with poorly regulated lands. DNR completes a high bar of due
5 diligence to present sales to the Board. The Board should respect the work of the trust manager
6 and approve the timber sale and all other future timber sales.

7
8 **Bryan Pelach, Washington Conservation Action (WCA)**, thanked staff for the hard work on the
9 natural climate solution proviso for 2,000 acres of structured, complex older forests. Given the
10 short timeline and request, he sincerely appreciates the time taken to discuss the process and
11 identification with WCA and other conservation organizations and Whatcom County
12 Commissioners. The compressed timeline also poses a few challenges to include DNR staff
13 actively working to identify potential acres as a limited window exists between nominating older
14 forests and presenting them to the Board for approval. The narrow timeframe leaves limited
15 ability for stakeholders and counties to provide feedback, a concern shared by several elected
16 representatives from various counties impacted by the proviso. On September 30, 2023 and
17 October 2, 2023, WCA was contacted by representatives from two counties not engaged with
18 DNR. Both counties were seeking information about the proviso and steps needed by the counties
19 to ensure participation. Outreach as described in the proviso's geographic area has not reached all
20 counties equally. It is hoped that all interested counties will have the opportunity to engage before
21 the final acres are selected.

22
23 **Susan Arman** said the Board and DNR should protect legacy forests before it is too late. Follow
24 the science as the proof of the state's mature forests do more for the health of the planet if left
25 standing. It is time to look beyond the short-term benefit the timber industry would like and save
26 the remaining legacy forests. The Board has the power to say no to the timber industry with their
27 insatiable needs. Let the remaining mature legacy forests be the Board's legacy – one that the
28 Board could be proud of. The Board has the power to help or hurt. What will the Board choose?

29
30 **Brian Grad, City of Sequim resident**, supported the City of Port Angeles in its application to
31 transfer trust lands. The Board should thoughtfully consider the petition and save Port Angeles as
32 previously requested by canceling timber harvests in the Elwha River watershed. The logging
33 operation is known as Power Plant. There are concerns by members of the community that
34 removing timber on steep slopes above the Elwha River will lead to increased sedimentation that
35 could harm spawning salmon and damage the river that provides drinking water to residents of the
36 City of Port Angeles and 25% of Clallam County. DNR asserts its geologic and hydrologic
37 studies have found no issues rising to the level of concern expressed by the City of Port Angeles,
38 the Port of Angeles City Council, State Representatives Mike Chapman and Steve Tharinger,
39 Clallam County Democrats, the 24th Legislative District, Olympic Climate Action, and various
40 advocacy groups. DNR provided a presentation to the Clallam Board of County Commissioners
41 to demonstrate the extent of its analysis. Yet, there appears to be no published recorded report.
42 Public information requests have been submitted to DNR requesting any documents associated
43 with the Department's assessment. He cited documents he is supplying that call into question
44 DNR's conclusion that logging the stand does not present a potential threat to the recovery of the
45 Elwha River. The Board is asked to study the information and admit it into the record and
46 determine if the information provided by DNR is sufficient to address the scientific considerations

1 in question.
2

3 **Lisa Decker** commented on the application from the City of Port Angeles to transfer trust lands of
4 the Power Plant tract. She lives outside of Port Angeles and is one of a group of 20 citizens who
5 recently hiked through parts of the site last week to determine how close the timber site is to the
6 river. In addition to ecological and water quality issues posed by the sale, consideration is
7 warranted in terms of the optics. With the removal of the two Elwha dams, a restoration plan was
8 developed for the watershed and salmon. The dam removal project cost \$350 million and included
9 detailed research on the riparian area and its plant and wildlife. That research continues today.
10 The project serves as a nationally recognized success serving as a bellwether for other potential
11 river recoveries through dam removal. The Elwha River recovery is in the spotlight as a positive
12 example of what government agencies can accomplish for river restoration. As there are potential
13 risks and threats to that success via a government-authorized timber removal, it may be a very bad
14 picture regardless of the public outcry that could occur if a heavy rainstorm on the exposed slope
15 causes major damage to the river, to salmon, or the water supply of Port Angeles. The Board is
16 urged to do everything possible to halt or delay the current sales agreement and accept the
17 application from the Port Angeles City Council.
18

19 **Ellen Menshew** spoke in support of the City of Port Angeles application for trust land transfer
20 known as the Power Plant and TCB 23 timber harvests. As a resident of Clallam County, she has
21 witnessed the efforts to restore the natural ecosystem and the native salmon runs in the Elwha
22 River. The removal of the two dams that inhibited the natural flow of the river cost over \$350
23 million and included construction of a new water treatment facility to ensure clean drinking water
24 to residents of the area. During the past 12 years, remarkable results have occurred in the
25 restoration of the natural ecosystem including improved salmon runs in the Elwha River. The
26 recent timber sale that includes an area of the Elwha River watershed has created intense concern
27 by members of the community, state legislators, environmental advocacy, local political parties,
28 and the City of Port Angeles since the Elwha River is the only source of drinking water for the
29 City. Any potential to the water supply and quality of life concerns related to the safe availability
30 of public drinking water should supersede any other considerations related to a timber sale.
31 Secondary to quality of life issues is the potential risk to the successful process for restoration
32 since the removal of the dams. She questioned whether a \$650,000 timber sale in such a sensitive
33 area is worth the risk. The remediation process from timber sales is pitting junior taxing districts
34 against each other, as the process is not an equitable path resulting in bond levies for schools
35 failing in the community.
36

37 **Nina Sarmiento, resident of Clallam County**, commented that everyone is going to die and the
38 question is what will be left behind. Today, the Board's legacy is fire, drought, landslides,
39 degraded streams, and degraded salmon habitat. Speciesism is the practice of treating members of
40 one species as morally more important than members of other species. It is a human held belief
41 that all other animal species are inferior. Unfortunately, all policies and the economy and ways
42 humans relate to the earth and its resources are coded in speciesism. Nothing illustrates this better
43 than believing wood products are friendly. Wood products are friendly to the timber industry,
44 which fund the studies to continue the lie. Those studies purport how more carbon is stored in
45 wood products than in mature forests. Her goal is not to harm the forest products industry but
46 rather right the relations with the land to enable humans to coexist with the land for many more

1 generations. The Board should halt the Power Plant timber sale and all planned harvesting in the
2 Elwha watershed.

3
4 **Timothy Wheeler, resident of Sequim**, spoke on behalf of Voices for Health and Healing and
5 Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action. The groups unanimously appeal to the Public
6 Lands Commissioner to cancel the Power Plant timber sale. He agrees with previous speakers as
7 the region has spent a considerable amount of money to remove the dams and restore spawning
8 beds. Logging puts at risk everything gained by the region as well as the drinking water needed by
9 the people of Port Angeles. The City of Port Angeles has done everything in its power to stop the
10 insanity. To date, DNR has rejected those appeals. The Board needs to listen to sanity and do
11 what is right and save the iconic valley.

12
13 **HARBOR Line COMMISSION – Action**
14 **Vancouver Area Harbor Line Adjustment, Resolution 1612**
15 **Hugo Flores, Aquatic Resources Division**

16 Mr. Flores briefed members on a request from JT Marine for a harbor line adjustment.

17
18 Under RCW 79.115.010, the Board serves as the Harbor Line Commission. The Commission is
19 responsible for locating and establishing harbor lines in the navigable waters of all harbors,
20 estuaries, bays and inlets of the state, within or in front of the corporate limits of any city or within
21 one mile on either side. The state shall never give, sell, or lease to private corporations,
22 associations or individuals any rights beyond harbor lines. Those areas shall be forever reserved
23 for landings, wharves, streets, and other conveniences of navigation and commerce. Enabling
24 legislation under RCW 79.115.030 enables the Harbor Line Commission to change, relocate, or
25 reestablish harbor lines.

26
27 Mr. Flores cited WAC 332-30-109, which provides guidance to DNR to manage harbor areas and
28 WAC 332-30-115 that establishes specific use classes including water-dependent commerce,
29 water-oriented commerce, interim uses, and public access.

30
31 Guidance and criteria for harbor line relocations under WAC 332-30-116 require maintaining or
32 enhancement of the type and amount of harbor area needed for long-term water-dependent
33 commerce, maintaining adequate space for navigation beyond the outer harbor line, agreement
34 with plans and development of public ports, counties, cities, and other local, state, tribal and
35 federal agencies, and maintaining public access to the waterfront.

36
37 JT Marine Harbor is requesting a change in the harbor line to relocate the outer harbor line 50 feet
38 outward. The change would provide additional space for the company for barges and equipment
39 currently moored beyond the harbor outer line adding approximately 3.4 acres of additional harbor
40 area. Mr. Flores shared a map of the proposal to move the outer harbor line to enable JT Marine
41 activities to occur within the harbor area to comply with Article 15 of the Constitution. Staff
42 conducted a public hearing on August 25, 2023 in Vancouver, Washington. Attendees to the
43 hearing did not offer any comments on the proposal. The Board received an initial briefing on the
44 request on September 5, 2023. Staff initiated SEPA review for the project on September 6, 2023
45 with no comments received. Staff recommends the Board approve the proposal to change the
46 Vancouver outer harbor line. The project will maintain economic viability in that section of the

1 harbor and ensure compliance of the operation of the JT Marine shipyard.

2
3 MOTION: Mr. Cahill moved to approve Resolution 1612; Vancouver Area Harbor Line
4 Adjustment as presented.

5
6 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

7
8 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

9
10 **LAND TRANSACTIONS – Action**

11 **M1100 Purchase, 08-105531, Resolution 1611**

12 **Bob Winslow, Transaction Project Manager, Acquisitions and Divestures Program**

13 Mr. Winslow reported the proposal is acquisition of forest land in Pacific County. He shared a bar
14 chart depicting the productivity of the land over 50 years based on the site class of the property
15 equating to approximately 40,000 mmbf per acre over the next 50 years.

16
17 The property is located 14 miles southeast of Raymond in Pacific County. The private in-holding
18 parcel is located within DNR's Trap Creek landscape. Purchase of the property is from funds
19 provided by the Legislature. The Legislature provided funds to replace forest land in three
20 southwest counties for lands removed from inventory because of the Endangered Species Act.
21 The property is approximately 169.93 acres of 28–30-year-old mixed conifer and hardwoods. The
22 property is rated as a combination Site Class II and III. The road system is from the north of the
23 property across other existing state trust lands. South of the property is common school trust
24 property with existing timber DNR has been unable to access. Acquisition of the property
25 provides the potential for DNR to access that property. Extensive riparian buffers and habitat exist
26 in the area. Marbled murrelet occupies areas to the east and southeast of the property; however,
27 the property is not considered marbled murrelet habitat and is unlikely to transition to marbled
28 murrelet habitat. The intent of the acquisition is to harvest the property except for habitat areas to
29 produce revenue for Pacific County. Removal of logs would occur to the north/northeast of the
30 property dependent upon the sorts and species to be logged.

31
32 Benefits include adding Site Class 2 and 3 forest land to the trust portfolio, removal of a private in-
33 holding within DNR managed trust lands, future trust revenue potential, and potential access to
34 existing state trust timber previously inaccessible to the south.

35
36 The purchase Price is \$500,000 or \$2,942 per acre.

37
38 Mr. Winslow requested adoption of Resolution 1611, approving the acquisition of the M1100
39 property located in Pacific County. He invited questions from the Board.

40
41 Commissioner Janicki asked whether Pacific County and Washington State Association of
42 Counties have reviewed the proposed land acquisition. Mr. Winslow affirmed both entities
43 reviewed and supported the proposed acquisition.

44
45 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution 1611; M1100 Purchase, 08-
46 105531 as presented.

1
2 MOTION: Mr. Cahill seconded the motion.

3
4 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

5
6 **TIMBER SALES - Action**

7 **Auction Results for September 2023, FY 2024 Update, & Proposed Timber Sales for**
8 **November 2023**

9 **Padraic Callahan, Acting Assistant Division Manager, Product Sales and Leasing Division**

10 Mr. Callahan presented the results of September timber sales. Seven sales were offered in
11 September totaling 27 mmbf at a projected value of \$4.7 million or 174 per mbf. All seven sales
12 sold for a value of \$6.6 million totaling 27 mmbf or \$248 per mbf. Average bids per sale totaled
13 2.9.

14
15 Mr. Callahan invited questions. The Board offered no comments.

16
17 Mr. Callahan reviewed the status of fiscal year 2024 planned timber volume of the current plan for
18 auction volume, forecasted volume for the remainder of the year, and sold volume. He noted the
19 Department nearly achieved the first quarter target. One unsold sale will be reconfigured and
20 offered at a later date. Some sales were removed from the second quarter but will be included
21 later in the fiscal year.

22
23 Vice Chair Brown questioned whether the current plan reflects the withdrawal of the sales. Mr.
24 Callahan responded that the original plan reflected 236 with the current plan reflecting 161 for the
25 second quarter.

26
27 The November timber proposal includes 7 sales totaling 35 mmbf for a value of \$9.2 million or
28 \$262 per mbf. Of the six westside sales in the package, 1,483 acres were evaluated by foresters,
29 geologists, and engineers. Following the evaluation, 500 acres were set-aside in conservation
30 status in riparian management zones, cultural resources, unstable slope protection, or other
31 conservation purposes leaving 983 acres for harvesting.

32
33 Mr. Callahan invited questions on the proposed sales. No comments were offered by the Board.
34 Mr. Callahan requested approval of the proposed sales.

35
36 MOTION: Mr. Cahill moved to approve the proposed sales for November 2023 as presented.

37
38 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

39
40 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

41
42 **CHAIR REPORTS**

43 **Climate Commitment Act Update – Informational**

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

45 Mr. Emmons updated the Board on Natural Climate Solutions Funding, a legislative budget
46 proviso providing \$83 million to the Department. Of that amount, \$70 million was designated to

1 acquire working forest lands. After initiating acquisitions, the Department can allocate up to 2,000
2 acres of land defined as structurally complex, carbon dense forests. The remaining of lands
3 acquired will be used as replacement lands for encumbered lands in counties for habitat protection
4 and the HCP. Affected counties include Skamania, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Clallam, and Jefferson
5 Counties.
6

7 The proviso also provided \$2.5 million to convene a workgroup to collaborate on approaches to
8 conservation and management of structurally complex, carbon dense forests to increase carbon
9 sequestration storage in forests and wood products, generate predictable revenue for beneficiaries,
10 maintain timber supplies supporting local industry, address the economic needs of rural counties,
11 develop an understanding of the current timber supply by region and impacts to regional wood
12 supply from management changes, contract with universities or other researchers to develop a
13 common understanding of carbon accounting and quantification methodologies to assess
14 sequestration and storage in both forests and wood products, report the group's findings to the
15 Legislature by December 1, 2023, and utilize \$500,000 to investigate hiring brokers to assist in
16 acquiring lands. It is unlikely findings will be available to submit by December 1, 2023 as it is
17 likely the proviso listed the date in error.
18

19 The status for identifying 2,000 acres includes meetings with stakeholders to discuss ways to
20 identify carbon dense, structurally complex forests. The Department is utilizing Van Pelt's Guide
21 of definitions of Maturation 1 and Maturation 2 forests to assist in identifying "carbon dense,
22 structurally complex" forests. DNR is also utilizing available inventory tools to identify areas
23 with a high carbon inventory, as well as other tools to identify structural complexity. The effort
24 seeks to conserve areas adjacent to existing habitat, in areas to improve connectivity, and to avoid
25 isolated small fragments scattered across ownership. Following identification of areas, DNR will
26 field validate the sites to ensure the sites meet the intent. Meetings with counties continue to seek
27 concurrence on the process of identification, land transaction process, and the nature of federal and
28 state forest transfer trusts with counties.
29

30 Mr. Emmons shared information on discussions held with numerous counties to date. Jefferson
31 County provided maps of individual parcels to consider. Other counties are seeking more
32 information about the program and process and what it would entail for the taxing districts. Staff
33 plans to provide updates to the Board in either November or December. Concurrence of counties
34 is required to initiate any land transfers.
35

36 Vice Chair Brown asked whether the funding is designated to purchase lands in counties with
37 lands encumbered by the HCP. Mr. Emmons affirmed the interpretation. Dr. Brown questioned
38 whether the set-aside of 2,000 acres would be in different counties with concurrence of those
39 counties to preserve the acreage. Mr. Emmons described the different processes. DNR received
40 \$70 million to acquire land that has no trust designation. Following acquisition of land, the first
41 requirement is to identify and begin pursuing a transfer of up to 2,000 acres of carbon dense,
42 structurally complex forest. The challenge is identifying lands that currently generate revenue for
43 counties and fund junior taxing districts to allocate for preservation. During the last legislative
44 session, HB 1460 was passed expanding a tool DNR used once in Skagit County allowing the
45 county with land acquired by DNR to retain the revenue within a new taxing district or devise a
46 mechanism to transfer the revenue to the former taxing district. Another tool included in HB 1460

1 is the concept of land pooling, which is similar to a unitary trust. DNR could acquire land in a
2 county that benefits several counties with generated revenue from the land distributed
3 proportionally based on the size of the land set-aside in the counties. All participating counties
4 must agree to cooperate. The purchase of land could occur anywhere in Western Washington,
5 which requires the need for many discussions and speaks to the importance of DNR identifying the
6 2,000 acres prior to any land acquisition. The \$70 million is to be used to acquire land and replace
7 encumbered land. The allocation process will be a through appraisal as the 2,000-acre set-aside of
8 carbon-dense, structurally complex forests with mature timber typically having a higher value of
9 \$10,000 to \$15,000 per acre. Of the \$70 million funds allocated to DNR, approximately \$20
10 million to \$30 million could be allocated to the purchase of the 2,000 acres.

11
12 Mr. Emmons reported concurrence by participating counties is desired as soon as possible with
13 initial discussions focusing on the complexity of the process.

14
15 Mr. Cahill cited the use of Maturation 1 and Maturation 2 definitions to identify the 2,000 acres.
16 Based on the previous presentation, the land would primarily be of structural complexity rather
17 than density of carbon. He asked whether staff is using other factors to determine carbon density.
18 Mr. Emmons said staff would utilize inventory data, which has estimates of carbon on the
19 landscape. Land defined as Maturation 2 includes larger trees, which typically store more carbon.

20
21 Mr. Cahill asked whether staff plans to conduct additional field surveys of potential areas in
22 addition to existing metrics available to staff to verify carbon density or maturity. Mr. Emmons
23 said staff is not anticipating completing a field inventory or a timber cruise. The process entails a
24 review using available tools and information as to whether the site is considered Maturation 1 or
25 Maturation 2. If data indicates land is Maturation 1 and staff determines through field inspection
26 that the site contains some large trees and a single layer of overstory, staff would determine the
27 site was not structurally complex.

28
29 Mr. Cahill asked whether DNR's carbon project plays any role in the project. Mr. Emmons said
30 some areas identified for the carbon project might be included. The carbon project does not have
31 the same objectives as the funding project of identifying older structures with carbon storage
32 capabilities. The carbon project includes areas of younger stands that would sequester more
33 carbon.

34
35 Mr. Cahill asked whether the list of areas provided before the end of the year would include the
36 Board identifying the parcels as recommended by staff. It is also likely those parcels would be
37 held in abeyance of any logging activity as the process involves county concurrence.

38
39 Vice Chair Brown cited a public comment expressing concerns about the timeframe of the process
40 and whether counties have sufficient time to evaluate or propose lands. Mr. Emmons affirmed
41 staff recognizes any proposals offered to the Board at a potential special meeting in December
42 would not be possible; however, review of a proposal in November could enable the county to
43 determine specific impacts of the proposal and whether to concur with the proposal. The goal is to
44 afford time for the counties to work through the process. Staff is corresponding with many
45 counties via email to coordinate schedules and timing of meetings and information sharing.

1 Mr. Emmons reported that in addition to the process of land acquisition, funding was awarded to
2 investigate utilization of brokers to assist the Department and others in acquiring large tracts of
3 forest land. The Department released a Request for Proposals with a due date of September 29,
4 2023. DNR received several bids. Staff plans to evaluate the bids through the normal state
5 procurement process and select a vendor to assist DNR and the workgroup identify off-market
6 parcels.

7
8 Another requirement is the establishment of a stakeholder group to review carbon dense,
9 structurally complex older forests and other criteria. Staff offered a solicitation for workgroup
10 members via emails to over 175 individuals and entities to include counties, previous speakers
11 during Board meetings, environmental justice groups, tribes, and others. Staff received the last
12 confirmation of membership and DNR plans to publish a list of workgroup members. Three
13 members represent the environmental community, three members represent the industry, three
14 members are beneficiaries, one tribe is participating with another tribe pending confirmation of
15 participation, and one member represents an environmental justice organization. The process
16 included outreach to under-represented groups and individuals to encourage participation.

17
18 Mr. Emmons reported DNR is contracting for completion of the “wood basket analysis” to
19 evaluate existing and future demand for wood supply by region, including levels required to
20 maintain existing industry related infrastructure, and modeled impacts on wood supply increases
21 or decreases based on potential changes to forest management practices. Another contract will
22 focus on analysis of carbon sequestration and storage in forests and wood products, carbon
23 accounting and quantification methodologies outlined by the IPCC, as well as emerging scientific
24 research. The methodologies considered must be used to verify and assess the potential increases
25 or decreases in carbon sequestration and storage in both forests and harvested wood products
26 based on potential changes to management practices on forested state trust lands that also account
27 for increases or decreases in the availability of wood products harvested from forests managed by
28 the Department. Because of the complexity associated with completing the analysis, staff
29 anticipates completing the analysis by June 2025. The workgroup will guide some of the initial
30 questions of the research.

31
32 The funding appropriation also provided funds for silviculture work and habitat thinning in spotted
33 owl management and riparian areas, which may be impacted by the degree of effort required to
34 complete the work with results of the efforts provided in the next several years based on staff
35 resource availability. DNR will work with the Office of Financial Management and the
36 Legislature on the potential of moving some of the funds into the next biennium.

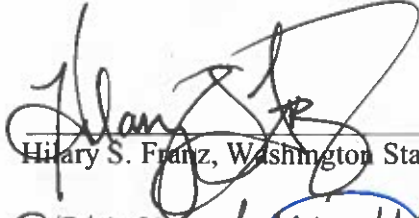
37
38 Vice Chair Brown commended staff for its management and approach for managing state trust
39 lands.

40
41 Commissioner Janicki expressed appreciation for efforts to engage with counties. She asked that
42 the Board receive an update at the November meeting on the status of the SHC. Mr. Emmons
43 affirmed staff plans to work on the timing of presentations on the Westside and Eastside
44 Sustainable Harvest Calculation to the Board.

1 **ADJOURNMENT**

2 With there being no further business, Vice Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

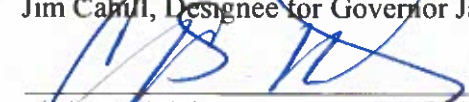
Approved this 7th day of November, 2023



Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

approved via webinar

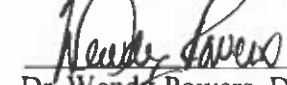
Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee



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

approved via webinar

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

Attest:


Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator