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**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources Meeting**

September 4, 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

Clare Ryan, Acting Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hilary Franz called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

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

**WEBINAR/SAFETY BRIEFING**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 2, 2024 - Action**

MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve the minutes as published.

SECOND: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council (AFRC)**, encouraged the Board to  
review correspondence submitted by former state legislator Jim Buck. He expects the Board

1 to hear from many well-meaning but ill-informed individuals who object to the timber sales  
2 program and specific timber sales. AFRC believes the program is the premier public timber  
3 program in the country managed by professional staff and competent foresters, engineers,  
4 biologists, and other professionals. AFRC believes in continuous improvement, which is why  
5 some aspects of the trust management and decision-making are often challenged. Later in the  
6 meeting, concerns will be conveyed about the Trust Land Transfer Program. The 2019  
7 challenge to the Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC) attempted to address significant  
8 concerns with data and assumptions rather than the final numbers. Commissioner Franz  
9 understood the concern, which speaks to the proposed settlement agreement that attempted to  
10 address the concerns. Unfortunately, many individuals opposed the agreement likely because  
11 they did not understand the agreement. Concerns will likely be shared about other issues,  
12 such as the Freedom timber sale in which DNR recently received a favorable court ruling  
13 stating how DNR is balancing its old growth protections and sustainable timber harvest.  
14 Many will question data the settlement agreement would have resolved. Timber harvests  
15 produce carbon friendly wood products in the state while the alternative is importing wood  
16 from other places, such as Russia and South America. He asked whether those opposing  
17 timber sales prefer cabinets made from U.S. grown hardwood or Russian birch funneled  
18 through China and Vietnam with profits funneled back to Russia to continue bloodshed  
19 around the world.  
20

21 **Lee First** commented that the water temperature at Doty exceeded 60°F 11 times. On three  
22 occasions, water temperature was at or above 80°F reaching a high of 88°F on August 31,  
23 2024 at 4:45 p.m. Mortality of salmon eggs occurs above 52°F and water temperatures of  
24 approximately 73°F to 77°F are lethal to salmon and steelhead. Additionally, fish are  
25 weakened by higher temperatures and are more susceptible to disease. Temperature threats  
26 are made worse because much of the Elk Creek watershed above the confluence is already  
27 clearcut and appears to have narrow buffers or no buffers. Yesterday, the Chehalis River was  
28 flowing 166 cubic feet per second at the Grand Mound gage, which is lower than the  
29 catastrophically low level on the same day in 2023. Without older forests, the Chehalis River  
30 does not stand a chance of becoming the salmon stronghold it once was. She asked whether  
31 the Office of the Chehalis Basin and DNR communicate. If a dam is constructed in the upper  
32 basin, water temperatures and water quality problems will greatly increase. Eight timber sales  
33 scheduled in the Capitol State Forest containing legacy forests are currently on pause. As a  
34 Thurston County resident, she supports the efforts by the Thurston County Board of County  
35 Commissioners to create a viable plan for the restoration of Black Hills.  
36

37 **Joshua Wright, resident of Mason County**, expressed concerns about the Old Forests  
38 Report the Board received at the last meeting. The strategy pertaining to many lowland  
39 watersheds is mostly based on having old forests in narrower riparian buffers. If the strategy  
40 is implemented in Capitol State Forest, only 15% of the older forests in the stream buffers  
41 would be 200 feet or greater away from a forest edge negating the conservation strategy for  
42 lowland regions and others across Western Washington. No interior forest habitats and none  
43 in Capitol State Forest would be more than 400 feet away from a forest edge. DNR indicates  
44 lands are managed for trust beneficiaries while some individuals would also hope lands are  
45 managed for maximum timber production with many members of the public wanting lands  
46 managed for the benefit of the public. The Next Contestant timber sale just moved from

1 SEPA review. He is unsure as to why the agency plans to move forward with the sale given  
2 Superintendent Reykdal's adamant statements that older forests do not need to be harvested  
3 for school construction. Superintendent Reykdal represents the trust beneficiary and the  
4 agency should listen. He thanked Superintendent Reykdal for his outspoken support to  
5 protect older forests.  
6

7 **Kyle Krakow** referred to the proposed Action Item timber sale located in western Lewis  
8 County of over 100 acres in an area fragmented from recent clearcuts. The original plan was  
9 to clearcut 170 acres; however, DNR exercised restraint in the name of conservation, which is  
10 to assure the public that the Department is managing forestlands responsibly and sustainably.  
11 When he hiked through the proposed timber sale, he was partially relieved to see leave tree  
12 area signs placed around some of the massive trees in some parts of Units 2 and 3, which is a  
13 low bar given the current plan would destroy 102 acres of forest in the Elk Creek watershed.  
14 Much of that land is mature, structurally complex, and naturally regenerated. The area is part  
15 of the South Coast Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Planning Unit with only one percent of  
16 protected structurally complex forests according to data from DNR. Considering the 10% to  
17 15% retention target, there is no defense for moving forward with the timber sale. He asked  
18 for a reflection on what is at stake and act accordingly.  
19

20 **Lynn Fitz-Hugh** said DNR asked Thurston County to develop a plan on management of its  
21 lands while specifying that the plan produce the same amount of revenue. DNR required the  
22 county to provide the plan by October in recognition of actions by the Legislature to allocate  
23 funds to save legacy parcels. The Legislature acted; however, the action included a caveat as  
24 funding is pending on whether the Climate Commitment Act survives Initiative 2117 in  
25 November with the appropriation not released until January 2025. Several other parcels, such  
26 as Carrot are subject of a lawsuit. If the intent of waiting until October was to provide clarity  
27 for planning, the deadline should be extended to January 2025. DNR's official position of  
28 cutting legacy forests is to accomplish self-determined board feet goals rather than cutting  
29 large acres of plantation forests. From a board feet perspective, it makes sense while  
30 disregarding ecosystem impacts on salmon, wildlife, plant life, and destroying the state's last  
31 remnants of complex ecosystems. Planned legacy cuts would extinguish the last 5%  
32 remaining of indigenous ecosystems in the next eight years. It appears extinguishing forests  
33 would require cutting much larger acres of plantation forests that eventually would be unable  
34 to keep pace with demand. Perhaps it would be necessary to revise the order to cut plantation  
35 forests today, establish more realistic goals, and acknowledge forests have limits.  
36

37 **Rod Fleck, City of Forks**, suggested the need for realization of the impacts to junior taxing  
38 districts when the Board is requested to remove timber sales. Many junior and special  
39 purpose districts utilize timber revenue for capital improvements. Upwards of 50% of DNR's  
40 total forest inventory is managed and set-aside for habitat needs for numerous species the  
41 state and federal government agreed to protect and preserve. With the recent set-asides for  
42 the Marbled Murrelet Strategy, it was understood the set-aside was necessary to meet habitat  
43 ecological needs while providing certainty of lands for working forests for lumber and  
44 revenues for beneficiaries. The reference to the letter from Jim Buck with Clallam County  
45 Fire District 4 speaks to the district's attempt to raise funds to repurpose a building for a new  
46 fire hall. The request to set-aside the Doc Holiday timber sale based on DNR's estimates of

1 value would remove approximately 17% of the funds the district needs to complete the  
2 project. The district serves an area where the median income is \$45,000 per household. The  
3 ability to tax and raise funds through a levy or a bond is not a simple solution in those areas  
4 where incomes are lower. The situation speaks to why lands are available for the benefit of  
5 beneficiaries, especially with those lands that were provided with certainty to harvest and  
6 generate revenue, produce opportunities for wages, and increase incomes in socially  
7 economically impacted areas.

8  
9 **Nina Sarmiento** advocated for the protection of the state's last remaining legacy forests. An  
10 overwhelming body of evidence demonstrates carbon impacts of clearcut logging as  
11 devastating compared to the benefits of a restored old growth forest. Countless articles from  
12 accredited institutions across the globe point to the timber industry as a major emitter of  
13 carbon. DNR continues to rely on single biased reports commissioned by industry trade  
14 groups that exist only to resist any changes to current DNR practices. A study in the Journal  
15 of Ecological Management last year proposed a need to maintain a maximum gap of 15  
16 meters between trees in order to maintain carbon sharing and sequestering network that trees  
17 maintain underground. Anything less is functionally and biologically a clearcut as the  
18 connections between trees are lost and all microbial and fungal biodiversity eventually die.  
19 The idea of successive thinning would create more and better jobs. Successive thinning is  
20 true ecological forestry that can garner ecosystem services compensation for the decrease in  
21 harvest because ecosystem services are valuable. Unfortunately, any proposal for successive  
22 thinning is automatically labeled as anti-forestry. In the pressure to generate revenue, there is  
23 an obvious detachment from the land and the people. It creates incredible bias, recklessness,  
24 and complete disregard for the industry's role in the climate crisis. It makes no sense to  
25 continue cutting legacy forests when the Forest Carbon Work Group has not completed its  
26 work and older forest targets have not been achieved.

27  
28 **Connie Beauvais, Port of Port Angeles** said she serves as a Port Commissioner and Chair of  
29 the Clallam County taxing district's Revenue Advisory Committee. She supports the Ellens  
30 Rock timber sale and the previous Clallam County trust land sales of Pistol Peak, Doc  
31 Holiday, and others. Ellens Rocks will bring needed funds to the distressed county as junior  
32 taxing districts struggle to make ends meet by trying to pass bond levies and increasing taxing  
33 capacity on an already stressed tax base. Quillayute Valley School District, the county, Port  
34 of Port Angeles, North Olympic Library, and the hospital district west of Lake Crescent will  
35 benefit from the timber sale. She thanked staff for their scrupulous care in setting up the  
36 Ellens Rock timber sale. The sale site started as 392 acres. After setting aside 148 acres for  
37 long-term forest cover areas to protect riparian, wetlands, and forest practice rules identified  
38 landforms, only 244 acres remain to be harvested. Thirty-eight percent of the acreage has  
39 been contributed to long-term forest cover. The county's trust lands are not public lands.  
40 Decisions in multiple court cases state that the trust must act in undivided loyalty to trustee  
41 beneficiaries to the exclusion of other interests. It may not sacrifice this goal to pursue other  
42 objectives no matter how laudable those objectives may be. Keep county trust land forests  
43 and county services sustainable and healthy by approving the Ellens Rock timber sale as  
44 presented and not deferring any proposed sales in Clallam County.

1 **Ed Bowen, resident of Clallam County**, spoke in opposition to the Trust Land Transfer  
2 Program for the South Lake Ozette transfer primarily because there was no community  
3 engagement, public involvement, or public discussion. The public was locked out of the Trust  
4 Land Transfer Advisory Committee and was only allowed to submit a public records request  
5 to obtain information. The public is not aware of the details and no public comment is  
6 allowed in a public forum. Subsequently, the public must wait for weeks to learn about the  
7 list and listen to the committee's discussion. The committee is presenting a priority list. In  
8 his opinion, the process is in violation of SHB 1460. It is clear that the applicant wants to turn  
9 the acreage to federal trust land with all restriction more than likely lifted with the county  
10 losing any rights to management or regulation as to where tax dollars are spent at the local  
11 level. The Board should reconsider the proposal included on the priority list. The proposal  
12 removes state trust lands affecting schools as evidenced by the school district proposing to  
13 raise his taxes to fund schools.  
14

15 **Ed Chadd, resident of Clallam County**, cited Joshua Wright's comments regarding the  
16 Chair Report in July about older forests. As Mr. Wright pointed out, a number of fallacies  
17 exist in the analyses. The Center for Responsible Forestry identified those fallacies as early  
18 as 2021. He forwarded the Board an email with an attachment of the analysis cited by Mr.  
19 Wright. Since 2021, people have been inquiring about DNR's policies for older forests and  
20 have not received an adequate response. Since then, many grass root organizations have  
21 formed and many people have begun understanding. Legislators were lobbied and have  
22 responded, protestors have gone into the woods, and today a candidate for office has emerged  
23 to support the cause of protecting both legacy forests and rural communities around them.  
24 The Board and DNR can respond either reactively or proactively. A reactive Board will fall  
25 behind the curve of events. The Board, should out of prudence, pause all workups of timber  
26 sales of legacy forests until there is more clarity on the democratic process.  
27

28 **Heath Heikkila** thanked staff and the Board for recognizing that it is possible to steward  
29 DNR state trust lands to help prevent wildfires, smoke, create jobs and economic  
30 opportunities, and meet the needs for carbon friendly wood products under the strongest labor  
31 and environmental laws on the planet. That is true sustainability. It is unfortunate that some  
32 seek to control state trust lands through political pressure, litigation, and stirring up  
33 controversy and conflict in communities. Unfortunately, these policies result in the import of  
34 wood products from countries that do not share the same environmental or democratic values.  
35 It also requires the use of more concrete and steel as opposed to carbon friendly wood. The  
36 Board will consider a list of trust land transfer proposals under the new TLT authority. The  
37 TLT program is an important tool for DNR and there are proposals on the list that make  
38 sense. However, some who advocated for the expanded TLT may have some unintended  
39 consequences as they move forward. For example, the TLT transfers to tribal nations, which  
40 dominate the highest ranked parcels this year, raise questions about the continuation of  
41 requirements that apply to DNR managed lands including old growth protections, HCP habitat  
42 thresholds, and prohibitions against log exports. It is unlikely DNR can maintain those  
43 requirements through binding deed restrictions on lands transferred to sovereign nations.  
44 Meanwhile, one county has three proposed TLT transfers and will pocket millions of dollars  
45 to take back its own trust lands with the intent to continue commercial harvest activities on  
46 those lands. While they fall short of the top list of the proposals, it does set a dangerous

1 precedent for those who might be concerned about pro timber counties seeking to take back  
2 county trust lands through TLT program proposals.  
3

4 **Julie Ratner** remarked that unlike the timber representative mentioned earlier, the public  
5 understands the implications of DNR decisions. It is clear the industry is cherry picking  
6 parcels. She asked why no one is listening to over 100 conservation groups to protect legacy  
7 forests from logging. It is shameful the Board is ignoring Thurston County officials. DNR is  
8 ignoring statutory obligations to protect the oldest remaining legacy forests. As Lynn Fitz-  
9 Hugh from Restoring Earth Connections Thurston Friends of Trees mentioned earlier, DNR  
10 gave Thurston County until October to develop a plan in part to see whether the Legislature  
11 would grant the county funds to save parcels. She asked for an extension since Thurston  
12 County needs until January. It is important to remember that decisions will affect  
13 generations. It is also important to watch flooding and extreme temperatures in other states in  
14 the country. Citizens testify each month year after year to illustrate that they stand united to  
15 save Washington legacy forests. The Board should listen to the public and take action by  
16 respecting the Thurston County Commissioners. Nature is our home not just a place to visit.  
17 There are plenty of plantation forests to harvest.  
18

19 **Elizabeth Kerwin** commented on the profound divisions regarding the reality of the climate  
20 emergency. She is amazed to notice that what once seemed a looming threat is now backed  
21 by credible and nearly universal consensus in the scientific community, as well as personal  
22 experience in fire, floods, and distinctly different weather. Acting locally seems the only  
23 option that brings a sense of contribution that will mean less present and future suffering of  
24 humans and other life forms on earth. She opposes the timber sale resulting in the clearcut of  
25 Little Lilly, a mature forest with functional and beautiful biodiversity. With so many  
26 plantations and other places to cut available she questioned why DNR is sacrificing Little  
27 Lilly. State lands should be managed for habitat, carbon storage, and recreation among other  
28 reasons. The state's Carbon and Forest Management Workgroup and the Whatcom Forest  
29 Resilience Task Force are reviewing and developing comprehensive recommendations to  
30 consider conserving the few mature forests remaining. It is important to be thoughtful,  
31 consider options thoroughly before erasing teeming life, beauty, and mature forests like Little  
32 Lilly that also hold many protective effects for humans and those with no voice.  
33

34 **Paul Butler** reported he is a small rural landowner in Thurston County. As everyone is  
35 aware, a new Commissioner of Public Lands will assume the position in January 2025. With  
36 that in mind, he urged the Board to postpone all timber sales with older mature forests until  
37 the new Commissioner has time to establish a policy for those rare and valuable stands while  
38 continuing to provide for trust beneficiaries. He has attended Board meetings for over three  
39 years and at virtually all meetings, timber sales involving older forests have been challenged  
40 because of their ecological value and importance in combating climate change. There was a  
41 time early in his participation when the current Commissioner promised an older forests  
42 policy. He should have recognized that no policy would be forthcoming because timber sales  
43 of older forests were offered for auction each month. Perhaps the next Commissioner will  
44 take seriously the Washington State Supreme Court's unanimous decision that confirmed the  
45 state had a constitutional mandate and broad authority to serve all people of Washington when  
46 managing state lands. The justices recognized DNR can integrate the many diverse public

1 benefits of forests beyond maximizing revenue generation from timber harvests.  
2

3 **Wendy Rae Johnson** said she serves as the Clallam County Conservation District Board  
4 Supervisor. Her comments do not represent the Conservation District. Much is changing in  
5 the political landscape today with a new Governor and new Lands Commissioner.  
6 Additionally, results are pending from the Forest Carbon Working Group. Now would be a  
7 wise time to pause all timber sales of mature forests until the new Commissioner of Public  
8 Lands has time to consider and choose a future path for managing mature forests on public  
9 lands. The Board should delay all sales of mature, older growth legacy forests at this time.  
10 Many forests in the last two years were older, mature forests which have reduced from 7% to  
11 3% today. The rapid cherry picking is obvious. The Board should consider children and  
12 grandchildren and make a difference for future generations.  
13

14 **Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt** said he is the President of the Mount Baker School Board in Whatcom  
15 County. He is speaking on behalf of Mount Baker School District. State forest timber is very  
16 important to Mount Baker as the largest local recipient of state forest revenue in Whatcom  
17 County. From 2015 to 2022, the district averaged \$1.2 million per year in timber revenue.  
18 Due to pauses, delays, and cancellations of timber sales, revenue has nearly stopped. Last  
19 year, the district received only \$107,000 or less than 10% of the annual amount. Mount Baker  
20 is currently operating under binding conditions from the Office of the Superintendent of  
21 Public Instruction (OSPI) because the district budget is in a deficit. The drop in state forest  
22 revenue is a major cause of the deficit. The school district has eliminated 23 teacher positions  
23 and support staff and increased class sizes. Nothing is left to cut without further harm to  
24 students. Decisions made by the Board have real consequences for students. DNR's harvest  
25 plan this year would provide approximately \$700,000 to Mount Baker. The district will only  
26 realize the revenue if the Board does not delay timber sales. The Little Lilly timber sale  
27 would provide nearly \$300,000 to Mount Baker. He understands that Little Lilly has been  
28 delayed for a month, but it is important for the school district that the sale be brought back  
29 and approved for auction along with the remainder of the this year's planned sales.  
30

31 **Pam Turner, resident of Whatcom County**, opposed the Little Lilly timber sale. With only  
32 77,000 acres of mature legacy forests remaining on state land in Western Washington, it is  
33 important to question whether logging mature forests makes sense for short-term profits and  
34 the potential impacts of clearcutting mature forests above the middle fork of the Nooksack  
35 River when several Nooksack basin salmon runs are on the brink of extinction. Industrial  
36 logging contributes to excessive stream temperatures, low water flows, and excessive  
37 turbidity. Industrial logging destroys nesting habitat and increases habitat fragmentation for  
38 endangered marbled murrelet which DNR is required to protect. Logging of legacy forests  
39 removes some of the most well established mechanisms for flood regulation, fire resiliency,  
40 adequate summer water supply, and carbon sequestration. Arguing that there is no sensible  
41 alternative for school construction funding is not sensible when the amount of proceeds from  
42 timber harvesting is less than 1.4% of total school construction funding. Relying on the small  
43 amount of remaining legacy forest acreage is shortsighted and unwise. To her and too many  
44 others invested in the health of communities and the natural world, clearcutting Little Lilly  
45 and other remaining legacy forests make no sense at all.  
46

1 **Rick Eggerth, resident of Bellingham**, said he serves as Co-chair of the Mount Baker Group  
2 of the Washington State Sierra Club. Mount Baker represents Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan  
3 counties. Earlier commentary spoke to an either/or context of cutting or not cutting while  
4 there was no consideration of the nuance that legacy and old growth could be preserved while  
5 forests that are not legacy or old growth could be logged. The Whatcom County Council  
6 requested an effort in coordination with DNR in its logging practices. It is something that  
7 should be explored by all counties in Washington. Meanwhile, legacy and old growth forests  
8 timber auctions should be paused until county and state coordination meetings can be worked  
9 out. It is important to include all stakeholders and not just timber and schools as it involves  
10 the public as well. It is a constitutional mandate that DNR should consider and carefully  
11 guard.  
12

13 **Sheryl Ahlblad** said she owns property in three counties that have planned timber sales of  
14 more than 1000 acres clearcut and sprayed with Roundup glyphosate within the next five  
15 months. The majority of Americans are opposed to logging older forests. Public lands are  
16 part of the largest temperate rainforests in the world and critical for the earth's climate, mental  
17 health, and wildlife. DNR's 1997 policy states that the agency must save 10% to 15% per  
18 unit. Yet, with only 7% of older forests surviving, the agency has fallen vastly short of its  
19 commitments. Board policy dictates that structurally complex forests may be considered for  
20 harvest only after the 10 to 15% target is achieved. Thousands of citizens are signing  
21 petitions, calling, and emailing the agency to preserve the only older bio unique forests.  
22 Many county commissioners who are representing their constituents are in favor of preserving  
23 older forests. She asked why the Board is not listening to them. The Supreme Court found  
24 that there is no constitutional duty to generate revenue from timber harvests for the federal  
25 grant trusts. Only 2% of public school budgets are from timber revenue. She has walked  
26 through timber sales with 125-year-old cedar trees with trunks measuring 59 inches that were  
27 not marked as leave trees because they were not 60 inches. Those trees will be cut as the  
28 public is led to believe the agency is managing forests correctly. If logging continues those  
29 irreplaceable forests will be gone in 5 to 10 years. She asked why forests are not being  
30 preserved and what stands in the way of protecting the last few older forests. If there is a will  
31 and a way in addition to having solutions, together it is possible to do the right thing.  
32

33 **Donna Albert** cited a recent news article on the status of missing Pacific Northwest lichens.  
34 Experts suspect many factors are to blame for missing species. The report lists lichen species  
35 and updates the conservation status of 81 species of lichens found by the state as reported by  
36 members of DNR's Washington Natural Heritage Program. Members formally adopted the  
37 lichen list. Members have encouraged the state to recognize and protect rare lichens. One  
38 researcher suspects logging has fragmented the forest habitat of species leading to the decline.  
39 Another researcher, a qualified lichenologist, declined to make a final recommendation.  
40 However, if the current adoption process follows previous efforts, the decision will be made  
41 further up the chain at DNR. Everyone is dependent upon the natural world as it supports life.  
42 Logging scraps and strips away complicated ecosystems human beings are dependent on and  
43 cannot be restored once gone.  
44

45 **Mary Jean Ryan, resident of Jefferson County**, commented on the Trust Land Transfer  
46 Program recommendations. She thanked staff and those who have served several years on



1 work groups to revitalize the Trust Land Transfer Program. The program is a great tool that  
2 should be funded at a higher level. The Trust Land Transfer Program allows the repositioning  
3 of assets that for a variety of reasons are not going to provide much timber revenue. Perhaps  
4 the parcel is a local priority for recreation or has extraordinary ecological or cultural value.  
5 The transfer method enables DNR to purchase replacement lands for the trust that can provide  
6 revenue over time. She supports the recommended Trust Land Transfer Program package. It  
7 is significant and positive that so many of the highest ranked projects involve tribal  
8 governments as the receiving agency. Much greater tribal participation is a feature of the new  
9 revitalized program. Despite all the good progress there is one issue that needs attention. In  
10 2023, before passage of the new statute, an amendment added a \$30 million cap on the amount  
11 of funds DNR could request each year. She is hopeful of working together on the program  
12 and working with the Legislature to size the funding appropriately.  
13

14 **Cyndy Bratz** spoke as a private citizen of Jefferson County. She is a retired professional  
15 Environmental Engineer. DNR has parcels of older, naturally regenerated forests on the  
16 timber sales list. Legacy forests store a significantly larger amount of carbon compared to  
17 younger forests. Approximately 80% of carbon is released in the atmosphere when harvested.  
18 She referred to a letter sent to DNR from May 13, 2024 prior to the May 14, 2024 meeting for  
19 further documentation. The Board should cancel the timber sales and increase protection of  
20 mature, naturally regenerated forests. It is an important and critical step needed to mitigate  
21 the climate crisis. Cut plantations not legacy forests. The Dabbler timber sale would clearcut  
22 140 acres of 120-year-old natural forest that was previously designated to meet older forests  
23 targets. Of the 140 acres, 94 acres are classified as high quality Type A spotted owl habitat.  
24 According to Bill Wells, Acting Forest Resources Division Manager in 2023, the timber sale  
25 is located in an area that is excluded from any type of harvest activity except in very specific  
26 cases where thinning is needed to meet habitat goals. A recent court order issued by the  
27 Jefferson County Superior Court affirmed that if less than 10% of the planning unit contains  
28 structurally complex forests prioritized to meet older forest targets, then DNR is required to  
29 designate additional structurally complex forests to equal 10% to 15% of the HCP planning  
30 unit for older forests targets. The Dabbler timber sale and other legacy forest parcels on the  
31 timber sales list should be canceled to protect those mature forests.  
32

33 **Robert Mitchell** asked for the withdrawal of the Schism timber sale planned in 2026 to avoid  
34 wasting money on timber sales preparation. Schism is located in Capitol State Forest on the  
35 westside adjacent to the Sauerkraut parcel logged several years ago. Schism has old tree  
36 structures and other features that would easily be old growth under any classification scheme  
37 in the next several decades. Schism has more value standing that could be realized if DNR  
38 uses financial markets to generate revenue. Frequent public comments have noted that within  
39 the AFRC newsletter, Public Lands Commissioner candidate David Upthegrove supports  
40 legacy forest advocates plan to conserve 77,000 acres of old trees at a cost of \$2 billion over  
41 two decades. Idaho's Land Endowment Fund distributed \$100 million to beneficiaries last  
42 year from financial market trading. A forest walk within the parcel is scheduled on  
43 September 14, 2024. He encouraged the Board to participate in the walk sponsored by the  
44 Legacy Forest Defense Coalition of Washington (LFDC) by visiting the LFDC website.  
45  
46

1 **Ed Martin, Western Forest Products**, said the company has over 200 employees and 3  
2 business units in the state. DNR staff employ multiple years of resources to bring timber sales  
3 forward meeting all requirements of the HCP and other governing requirements. The  
4 expensive planning work has been completed on the proposed timber sales. The timber sales  
5 package is unequivocally critical to the health of Washington, to businesses such as Western  
6 Forest Products that require certified sustainably managed logs for use in producing utility  
7 crossarms and engineered wood products for customers, and to the employees who take great  
8 pride in working hard and earning an honorable living for themselves and their families by  
9 making products from renewable resources. Timber sales are important to the health of  
10 contractors and suppliers who support the company's operations, to the health of forests from  
11 forest management, enhanced recreation, wildlife habitat, clean water, and clean air, to the  
12 health of the community through revenue funding from timber sales that support so many  
13 healthy things including schools, libraries, and ambulance services, and to the health of  
14 people in Washington State because the alternative of more steel and concrete is not the  
15 answer nor is outsourcing sustainable desires to other parts of the world. The answer is  
16 creating carbon-friendly produced wood used in the state under the nation's best habitat  
17 conservation plan. When voting on the timber sales package, the Board should proudly and  
18 clearly support the health of Washington.

19  
20 **Dave Sweitzer, Washington Hardwoods Commission**, said the Commission was  
21 established by the Legislature in 1991 to promote the hardwood industry. It is extremely  
22 difficult to promote the hardwood industry when log supply is decreasing, which has caused  
23 numerous mill closures, reduced jobs, and diminished carbon storage. He does not  
24 understand why the Board yields to the pressure of certain groups to suppress the sale of  
25 timber. Soft wood and hardwood sales are hitting rock bottom and the economy is suffering,  
26 school districts receive less money, and trust beneficiaries see less income from timber  
27 harvests. The Board should be increasing timber sales to answer those concerns. Timber  
28 harvesting and replanting increases long-term carbon storage, improves the economy, and  
29 reduces catastrophe wildfires. Logs are needed by the company, consumers need the lumber,  
30 and the environment needs carbon storage.

31  
32 **Rick McGuire, resident of King County**, said he is a volunteer with Alpine Lakes  
33 Protection Society (ALPS). He thanked DNR and the Trust Land Transfer Program staff and  
34 review committee for their recent work to review and rank the Trust Land Transfer proposals  
35 during the first round under the renewed Trust Land Transfer Program. TLT may not be a  
36 perfect program but it has demonstrated over the years that it does work both for conservation  
37 and for preserving the revenue producing timber base. ALPS is the applicant for the Tulalip  
38 Tribes Beckler 6 TLT proposal. Both ALPS and Tulalip Tribes are looking forward to  
39 working with the Legislature to obtain funding not just for Beckler 6 but also for the entire  
40 package of Trust Land Transfer Program recommendations. The goal is convincing the  
41 Legislature to increase funding beyond the \$30 million cap to include even more proposals.

42  
43 **Bryan Pelach, Washington Conservation Action**, spoke to the importance of managing for  
44 multiple outcomes in the forthcoming Eastern and Western Washington Sustainable Harvest  
45 Calculations (SHC) beyond net present value and timber volume. When the Board approved  
46 the last SHC and was informed about the less protected alternative selected for the long-term

1 conservation strategy for marbled murrelets, an additional 30,000 acres of mature forests was  
2 released for harvest. That decision made in previous years has directly led to the burgeoning  
3 grass roots concern for conservation of structurally complex, carbon dense forests currently  
4 scheduled for harvest across DNR's trust lands. The decisions rendered in selecting the 2025  
5 to 2034 SHC will determine how forests are managed and what timber sales will be presented  
6 to the Board over the next decade. In setting the SHC, it is critical the Department explore  
7 new management outcomes such as carbon sequestration, resilience to the impact of climate  
8 change, increased wildfires, and extending harvest rotations to better anticipate the concerns  
9 and needs of Washingtonians throughout the next decade.

10  
11 **Bill Turner** said proposed timber stand harvests were postponed by 20 to 25 years while the  
12 Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the affects of the HCP on  
13 marbled murrelet and the amendment in 2019 releasing acreage for timber to determine  
14 effectiveness. Those stands were deemed excess to the needs of various species managed  
15 under the HCP by both agencies. If the 10% to 15% goal often cited by the public was the  
16 intent by both agencies, it would have been stated as such and both agencies would be  
17 addressing the issue more so than the public. The plan is being implemented as all the  
18 biologists have requested. The Board should adopt the package of timber sales as proposed.  
19 If all timber sales for September do sell, it will only equal 14% of the annual package DNR  
20 intended to sell for the year. The Department is behind in timber sales.

## 21 22 **LANDSCAPE FOREST ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

### 23 **Cameron Crump, Forest Resources Division Manager**

24 Chair Franz invited all six Region Managers to provide self-introduction. Region Managers  
25 manage aquatic lands, forests, agriculture, commercial, industrial, and residential lands, as  
26 well as National Heritage Conservation Areas, and assist in wildfire fighting.

27  
28 Ms. Crump referred to a mapping error identified during the July meeting presentation on the  
29 Landscape Assessment of Older Forests. During the SEPA public comment for the Dabbler  
30 timber sale in the Columbia HCP Planning Unit, it was noted the sale was within an area that  
31 the assessment had designated as permanently Variable Retention Harvest (VRH)-deferred.  
32 DNR analyzes all SEPA comments and appreciates receiving the input to afford a response.

33  
34 As the comment was investigated, staff discovered the timber sale was located within an area  
35 that the query had designated as permanently VRH-deferred. Upon further review of the  
36 analysis, staff was able to determine that the query had misidentified 3,475 acres in the  
37 Columbia HCP Planning Unit as permanently VRH-deferred. Foresters and the region team  
38 outlined the sale correctly and ensured compliance with the HCP, Policy for Sustainable  
39 Forests (PSF), and Forest Practice Rules (FPR). The error involved a GIS mapping layer.  
40 The landscape assessment was revised to account for the error. Additionally, the landscape  
41 assessment is limited to permanently VRH-deferred conservation areas. The data query to  
42 locate permanently VRH-deferred conservation areas within each HCP planning unit included  
43 several types of areas such as permanently conserved areas for Marbled murrelets. Murrelet  
44 conservation areas often overlap with Northern Spotted owl conservation areas. However,  
45 while murrelet conservation areas are permanently deferred from VRH harvesting, owl habitat  
46 is not deferred unless it overlaps a murrelet conservation area or the permanently deferred

1 area. Owl habitat not overlapping with those areas may be available for harvest in planning  
2 units that have exceeded thresholds for habitat amounts set by the Northern Spotted Owl  
3 Conservation Strategy in the HCP. Those areas were excluded from permanently VRH-  
4 deferred conservation areas set aside to meet older forest targets within the assessment.  
5

6 Ms. Crump explained that the error was corrected and that the Columbia HCP Planning Unit  
7 is projected to meet the 10% older forest target by year 2100 rather than by year 2090 as  
8 previously published. Staff also streamlined the spatial processing of the analysis to reduce  
9 some accumulated rounding errors resulting in some 0.1% to 0.2% corrections in data across  
10 planning units. The numbers are conservative estimates of projected older forest conditions  
11 and include a 32% plot discount, a disturbance factor, and are limited to permanently VRH  
12 deferred acreage. DNR lands will meet older forest targets in all planning units by 2100.  
13

14 Ms. Crump added that field foresters are looking at all conservation areas and designing  
15 timber sales to comply with all HCP, PSF, and forest practice requirements. The issue was a  
16 mapping error that misidentified protected acreage. All foresters and sales staff received the  
17 corrected GIS layer and have added additional confirmations to its processes.  
18

#### 19 **TIMBER SALES - Action**

#### 20 **Auction Results for July and August 2024, FY2025 Update, & Proposed Timber Sales** 21 **for October 2024**

22 **Mike Sly, Acting Assistant Division Manager for Product Sales and Leasing Division**

23 Mr. Sly presented auction results for July and August 2024 timber sales  
24

25 In July, six timber sales were offered representing 17.8 mmbf of timber totaling \$6.1 million  
26 generated for distribution to trust beneficiaries. The average stumpage price for four of the  
27 sales was estimated to be \$344 per mbf with an average of 1.58 bids per sale. In August,  
28 three sales were offered totaling seven mmbf of timber for approximately \$1.5 million  
29 generated for trust beneficiaries. The average stumpage price for two of the sales was \$228  
30 per mbf with an average of one bid per sale.  
31

32 Mr. Sly invited questions on the sales.  
33

34 Commissioner Janicki inquired about the status of the no bids in July and August. Mr. Sly  
35 explained that the bids are reevaluated and presented for auction over the next several months  
36 based on process guidelines.  
37

38 Chair Franz offered to provide more details on the status of no sales reoffered for sale over the  
39 last year.  
40

41 Mr. Sly noted three sales were impacted, one in the Olympic Region and two sales in the  
42 Northeast Region.  
43

44 Superintendent Reykdal noted that the price decline in August affected only two sales, which  
45 were quite lower than July prices. He asked whether the complexity of the sales or the market  
46 affected sales prices. Mr. Sly reported that there are multiple factors. The market is

1 experiencing an adjustment however; many factors within individual sales are not reflected in  
2 the information in addition to the stumpage value. Both Olympic Region sales had sizable  
3 road requirements as well as for the harvesting operations and considerations for species  
4 composition, which all contributed to the lack of a sale.  
5

6 Mr. Sly reviewed the status of FY 2025 planned timber volume. The graphic depicted the  
7 current plan for auction volume, forecasted volume for the remainder of the year, and sold  
8 volume. He reviewed the average number of bidders per sale during July and August 2024.  
9 July sales averaged 1.6 bids per sale with an average of 34% overbid. August sales averaged  
10 one bid per sale resulting in an 8% overbid.  
11

12 Proposed sales for October 2024 include six timber sales totaling 28.7 mmbf with a minimum  
13 appraised delivered value of \$7 million. The expected delivered price minimum is \$245 per  
14 mbf based on the appraisal. Five of the sales are located in Western Washington totaling  
15 1,288 gross acres reviewed for harvest. Following field inspections by agency specialists,  
16 approximately 34% of the acreage was conserved to protect potential unstable slopes, cultural  
17 resources, riparian areas, and a minimum of eight leave trees per acre. The total conserved  
18 acreage is 438 acres leaving a net harvest area of 850 acres.  
19

20 Mr. Sly shared a pie chart of the estimated percentage of revenue by trust generated from the  
21 timber sales.  
22

23 Mr. Sly reviewed details of several timber sales. The Ellens Rock timber sale is located 13  
24 miles northwest of the City of Forks. The sale includes four VRH units in the Coast District  
25 of the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF). Staff evaluated 392 acres for harvest.  
26 After identifying areas of conservation, staff identified 244 acres for harvest leaving 148 acres  
27 in long-term forest cover or 38% of the original evaluated acres. Mr. Sly shared a photograph  
28 of Unit 3 from the boundary line adjacent to the nearest weighted old growth habitat index  
29 point (WOGHI). The unit is a 40 to 50 year-old stand. During the layout of the sale, seven  
30 moderate and one high WOGHI points were evaluated in proximity to the sale area. In  
31 multiple locations, a 520-foot evaluation zone around each WOGHI point overlapped into the  
32 timber sale area triggering an old growth assessment. The assessment determined that large  
33 old trees or stand characteristics indicative of old growth were observed within the sale  
34 boundaries. A photograph of Unit 4 depicted a typical stand structure.  
35

36 The Barred Entry timber sale is located 26 miles southeast of the City of Forks. The sale  
37 includes seven VRH units in the Coast District of the OESF HCP Planning Unit. Staff  
38 evaluated 376 acres for harvest and identified 245 acres for harvest leaving 131 acres in long-  
39 term forest cover. The road plan for the timber sale requires 680.63 stations or 13 miles of  
40 road maintenance on publicly used forest roads in Jefferson County. Maintenance is  
41 performed using DNR's standards for forest access road maintenance specifications. The  
42 timber sale identified approximately 2,000 individually marked or bounded clumps of trees  
43 scattered across the area outside of riparian areas.  
44

45 Commissioner Janicki inquired about the flag designating a Class 4 Special area. Mr. Sly said  
46 that during the field assessment, a landform was identified requiring additional identification

1 and protections. The areas are non-entry zones. The site encompasses a larger area than just  
2 the identified landform to include the area contributing to the landform in terms of subsurface  
3 flow of water. All those areas are mapped and included in no entry zones.  
4

5 It was noted that anytime a Class 4 Special area is identified in a timber sale, the site is  
6 reviewed by a state lands geologist, a qualified expert under Forest Practices Rules. The  
7 geologist produces a report evaluating the feature, which is reviewed by a Forest Practices  
8 geologist who either approves or denies the plan.  
9

10 The Broke timber sale is located eight miles east of Malone. The sale includes five VRH  
11 units in the Black Hills District of the South Coast Planning Unit. Staff evaluated 281 acres  
12 for harvest and identified 86 acres in long-term forest cover or 31% of the entire site. The  
13 road maintenance plan for the timber sale requires maintenance of over 20 miles or 1,074.79  
14 stations of ungated forest roads in Capitol State Forest linking a major recreation area  
15 between Olympia and Malone. Staff prepared and mitigated for potential impacts to  
16 recreational opportunities on the large trail east and west of the Twin Peaks trail systems. The  
17 purchasers will be required to repair any damage resulting from harvest and return all trail  
18 areas back to preharvest conditions. Trail closures will be posted for five days prior to closing  
19 trails and user groups will be notified by the Department.  
20

21 The Action Item timber sale is located approximately four miles west of Doty. The sale  
22 includes three VRH units in the Lewis District of the South Coast Planning Unit. Staff  
23 evaluated 170 acres for harvest and identified 68 acres for long-term forest cover or 40% of  
24 the original evaluated area. The oldest components of Units 1 and 3 have stand origins of  
25 post 1910 and most of the sale area was previously thinned in the mid-90s. The release of  
26 understory accelerated the stand's appearance of Maturation 2; however, individual trees were  
27 keyed lower and carry an average age of 100 years. Staff retained trees with the structural  
28 complexity and properly painted and tagged any remnant trees as leave areas. In the event a  
29 large tree was missed during the layout process, staff added a harvest restriction provision to  
30 the timber sale contract. During stand development, the stage assessment indicated Units 1  
31 and the western half of Unit 2 keyed out to Maturation 2 comprising approximately 55 acres  
32 in the eastern half of Unit 2. During the field review, staff identified five remnant trees with  
33 four of those trees alive with measures added for protection. The old growth assessment  
34 determined the stand does not meet the definition of old growth for age.  
35

36 The Stearn Look timber sale is located five miles northwest of Adna and includes three VRH  
37 units in the Lewis District in the South Coast Planning Unit. Staff evaluated 74 acres for  
38 harvest and identified 5 acres in long-term forest cover. The unit assessment identified  
39 Maturation 1 across all units. The sale carries an exceptional stumpage evaluation due to an  
40 efficient road job engineered by region staff. The site is entirely ground-based harvestable  
41 and consists exclusively of Doug fir and Red Cedar, carrying the highest value in log prices.  
42 The sale proposal resulted in an appraisal evaluation of \$434 per mbf. Field staff worked in  
43 collaboration with the Chehalis Tribe to complete red cedar bark stripping throughout the  
44 timber sale area. The sale area will be replanted with 330 Doug firs, 10 western red cedar,  
45 and 20 grand firs per acre.  
46

1 With no further questions from the Board, Mr. Sly requested approved of the proposed timber  
2 sales as presented

3  
4 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the October timber sales as proposed.

5  
6 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

7  
8 ACTION: Motion carried unanimously.

9  
10 *Chair Franz recessed the meeting at 10:48 a.m. for a break.*

11 *Chair Franz reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. A meeting quorum was confirmed.*

12  
13 **LAND TRANSACTIONS – Action**

14 **Crab Creek Homesite Direct Transfer: #02-100569, Resolution 1636**

15 **Tanner Williams, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic Planning**  
16 **Office**

17 Mr. Williams reported the Crab Creek Home Site parcel is 9.75 acres and is located  
18 approximately 10 miles west of the City of Sprague and 45 miles southeast of the City of  
19 Spokane in Lincoln County. The property is zoned agriculture.

20  
21 In July, the Board moved the property to the land bank. The Crab Creek homesite is accessed  
22 by a gravel driveway extending easterly one and a half miles to Stromberger Road. The  
23 homesite sits in the center of a large dryland property, with the remainder of the property  
24 leased to an agricultural tenant. With the proposed sale, DNR would reserve a road utility  
25 easement over the direct transfer parcel to provide continued access for management activities  
26 on the greater section and adjacent lands.

27  
28 The property contains a home site with all building improvements owned by the lessee  
29 including the house, outbuildings, pond, well, and septic system. The lessee's family has  
30 leased the property since the 1920s and desires to purchase the land underneath the  
31 improvements. The lessee fulfilled payment of the survey required for the sale. The direct  
32 sale has an aggregate value of \$70,000 of bare land value. Funds received from the property  
33 sale would be placed into the Real Property Replacement Account for acquiring replacement  
34 Common School Trust property in future transactions as approved by the Board.

35  
36 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve Resolution 1636, Crab Creek  
37 Homesite Direct Transfer: #02-100569 as presented.

38  
39 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

40 ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

41  
42 **Upper Dry Gulch Trust Land Transfer: #02-104168, Resolution 1637**

43 **Tanner Williams, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic Planning**  
44 **Office**

45 Mr. Williams reported the Upper Dry Gulch Trust Land Transfer properties are located in  
46 Chelan County approximately 20 miles southeast of Wenatchee. The entire site design was

1 approved by the Washington Natural Heritage Advisory Council based on review of the  
2 conservation targets, boundary design, and long-term site viability. The proposed parcels for  
3 transfer are all located within the approved boundary of the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area  
4 Preserve (NAP).  
5

6 The proposed transfer would continue to be managed by the DNR Natural Areas Program as a  
7 natural area preserve, with the express intent of protecting significant ecological features,  
8 especially the rare endemic plant species “Whited’s milkvetch.” Essentially, the entire global  
9 extent of the rare endemic plant species occurs within the boundary of the Upper Dry Gulch  
10 property.  
11

12 The property has a variety of ecological values, and landscapes provide natural habitat to rare  
13 endemic plant species. It was originally approved by the Washington Natural Heritage  
14 Advisory Council and later approved by the Commissioner of Public Lands. Natural Areas  
15 Program staff manage invasive species on the existing NAP with good success with assistance  
16 from volunteers and partnerships.  
17

18 Prior to transfer into NAP status, state trust beneficiaries need full compensation for the  
19 market value of their property assets. The legislature provided Trust Land Transfer (TLT)  
20 funds together with Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) competitive grant funding for  
21 the full payment for the Upper Dry Gulch state trust parcels. The properties would be  
22 transferred into the Upper Dry Gulch NAP.  
23

24 The Common School trust would benefit from being reimbursed for properties with rare and  
25 high-quality plant and wildlife habitat characteristics. Whited’s milkvetch is designated  
26 Priority 1 (highest) in the State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan.  
27

28 The TLT transfer includes a total of 2,680.39 acres with a value of \$2,814,000. The funds  
29 received would be deposited in the Real Property Replacement Account for acquiring  
30 replacement Common School trust property.  
31

32 The Department requests approval of Resolution 1637 as presented.  
33

34 Superintendent Reykdal asked whether grazing species feed on the rare plant species. Bob  
35 Winslow responded that the rare species is a local weed that can cause issues if an animal  
36 ingests too much. The property does not house any grazer species at this time. Historically,  
37 the property was used for horse grazing. Chelan PUD recently purchased several thousand  
38 acres to the west of the site. The area has much activity.  
39

40 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution 1637, Upper Dry Gulch  
41 Trust Land Transfer: #02-1014168 as presented.  
42

43 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal seconded the motion.  
44

45 ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.  
46



1 **Bellingham 40's Direct Transfer; #02-104536, Resolution 1638**  
2 **Martin McElliott, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic Planning**  
3 **Office**

4 Mr. McElliott reported the proposal is located two miles east of Interstate 5 within the city  
5 limits of Bellingham northwest of Lake Whatcom. The proposal would transfer 116.07 acres  
6 of Common School Trust to the City of Bellingham to connect the Bay to Baker Trail and the  
7 Squalicum Creek Trail System along Squalicum Creek managed by the City's Parks  
8 Department.

9  
10 Current property encumbrances include wetlands, several gas pipelines, railroad crossing the  
11 lower 40-acre parcel, slopes, sewer line, and homeless encampments and dumping along the  
12 properties. Mr. McElliott shared an aerial map depicting the location of wetlands, sewer, and  
13 gas pipelines.

14  
15 The proposed transactions enable the City of Bellingham to provide land for park and open  
16 space use, facilitates repositioning a trust asset to lands better suited for long-term revenue  
17 production, divests an encumbered property, and enables proceeds to be used to purchase  
18 replacement land for the Common School Trust.

19  
20 The properties were appraised at \$2,190,000. The properties appraised higher because the  
21 parcels are located within the city limits and are zoned residential mixed use and rural  
22 residential.

23  
24 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve Resolution 1638, Bellingham 40's  
25 Direct Transfer: #02-104536 as presented.

26  
27 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

28  
29 ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

30  
31 **Deep Four Purchase: #08-107357, Resolution 1639**  
32 **Alex Penhallegon, Project Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic Planning**  
33 **Office**

34 Mr. Penhallegon reported the proposed Deep Four purchase located in Wahkiakum County is  
35 comprised of three sections totaling 1,787 acres. The property was a portion of the Deep  
36 River Woods acquisition DNR completed last year; however, the three parcels were not  
37 included in the purchase at that time. DNR subsequently entered into an option agreement  
38 with the Conservation Fund to purchase Deep Four and the other seven parcels of the original  
39 Deep River Woods package. DNR is exercising its first right of refusal option with the seller  
40 to purchase Deep Four.

41  
42 DNR proposed the purchase of state adjacent land with University Trust receiving 1,253 acres  
43 or 64.6% and Common School Trust receiving 534 acres or 35.4%. Deep Four is a highly  
44 productive site class profile consisting of approximately 75% of Site Class I and II, and 25%  
45 of Site Class III.

1 Harvestable acres total approximately 1,147 of which University Trust will receive 754 acres  
2 and Common School will receive 393 acres primarily comprised of Doug-Fir with a mix of  
3 Western hemlock and Red alder for a negotiated value of \$9,279,058 of which \$6 million is  
4 allocated to University Trust and \$3,279,058 allocated to the Common School Trust. All  
5 funds will be from prior TLT funds from the Real Property Replacement Account.

6  
7 Benefits to the state include the addition of productive forestland to the trust land base in  
8 Wahkiakum County. Deep Four abuts existing state forestland in prime timber country  
9 creating a more contiguous DNR landscape with greater ease of access. The transaction  
10 improves trust revenue potential.

11  
12 Staff requests approval of Resolution 1639 as presented.

13  
14 Chair Franz noted that the Deep River Woods was a major land transaction in partnership  
15 with the Conservation Fund of approximately \$121 million with DNR contributing \$55  
16 million and the Conservation Fund purchasing the remaining amount. The purchase was for  
17 working forestland of over 20,000 acres with the goal for the Conservation Fund to sell  
18 components of the purchase over time as funds became available. An enormous amount of  
19 work by staff was completed for the acquisition with an important partnership recognized  
20 nationally. The transaction was the 2023 timberland purchase of the year. The proposal is the  
21 first DNR purchase of the next phase of DNR's commitment.

22  
23 MOTION: Superintendent Reykdal moved to approve Resolution 1639, Deep Four  
24 Purchase: #08-107357 as presented.

25  
26 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

27  
28 ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

29  
30 *Chair Franz temporarily left the meeting from 11:28 a.m. and returned at 11:35 a.m.*

31  
32 **Trust Land Transfer Project List for FY2025-2027, Resolution 1640**  
33 **Robin Hammill, Assistant Division Manager, Acquisitions & Divestures, Strategic**  
34 **Planning Office**

35 Ms. Hammill presented the FY2025-2027 ranked list of Trust Land Transfer Program  
36 properties the agency plans to submit to the Legislature for funding in the 2025-2027  
37 biennium.

38  
39 The Trust Land Transfer Program is designed to replace economically underperforming DNR-  
40 managed lands that provide other public benefits. The program has conserved more than  
41 125,000 acres since its creation, primarily within State Parks, local parks, and DNR Natural  
42 Areas. The Legislature began funding appropriations in 1989 and codified the program  
43 during the 2023 session.

44  
45 The program opened for applications on August 1, 2023 and closed September 30, 2023. The  
46 proposals were evaluated to determine whether they meet statutory requirements and are in

1 the best interests of the trusts. All applications required approval from the receiving agency  
2 to demonstrate capability to manage parcels in future. The applications were presented to a  
3 12-member volunteer Trust Land Transfer Advisory Committee for review. The committee  
4 evaluated applications in the summer using criteria approved by the Board at its July meeting.  
5 Proposals are ranked on priority basis based on ecological values, tribal support, public  
6 benefit, community support, and economic values. The proposed ranked list, if approved,  
7 would be submitted as a decision package to the Legislature during the 2025 session for  
8 funding.

9  
10 Proposals are ranked on a 0-to-5 scale, and criteria are weighted with multipliers to reach a  
11 final score to generate a ranked list to provide to the Board for consideration. Each committee  
12 member scored the applications on his or her own and submitted the scorings to DNR to  
13 compile. Ms. Hammill reviewed the criteria.

14  
15 Ms. Hammill shared a map outlining the location of all proposals.

16  
17 Ms. Hammill reviewed the Trust Land Transfer Program ranked list of applications:

- 18  
19 1. Beckler 6, 676 Acres, King County
  - 20 • Applicant: Alpine Lakes Protection Society
  - 21 • Recipient: Tulalip Tribes
  - 22 • Trust Breakdown: Scientific School Trust, 676 acres
  - 23 • Estimated value: \$4 million
- 24  
25 2. Okanogan G, 42 Acres, Okanogan County
  - 26 • Applicant: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
  - 27 • Trust Breakdown: Common School Trust, 42 acres
  - 28 • Estimated value: \$450,000
- 29  
30 3. Tract C East, 2,965 Acres, Yakima County
  - 31 • Applicant: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
  - 32 • Trust Breakdown: Common School Trust, 2,965 acres
  - 33 • Estimated value: \$4.4 million
- 34  
35 4. Tract C North, 4,566 Acres, Yakima County
  - 36 • Applicant: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
  - 37 • Trust Breakdown: Common School Trust, 4,566 acres
  - 38 • Estimated value: \$6.8 million
- 39  
40 5. Tract C South, 2,405 Acres, Yakima County
  - 41 • Applicant: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
  - 42 • Trust Breakdown: Common School Trust, 2,405 acres
  - 43 • Estimated value: \$3.7 million
- 44  
45 6. Babcock Bench, 1,071 Acres, Grant Count

- Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Trust Breakdown: Common School Trust, 1,071 acres
- Estimated value: \$850,000

7. South Lake Ozette, 372 Acres, Clallam County

- Applicant: Quileute Tribe
- Trust Breakdown: Common School Trust, 372 acres
- Estimated value: \$8.9 million

8. Middle Fork Snoqualmie, 95 Acres, King County

- Applicant: DNR Natural Areas Program
- Trust Breakdown: King County Water Pollution Control Division Trust, 61 acres; State Forest Transfer Trust, 34 acres
- Estimated value: \$900,000

Staff requests approval of Resolution No. 1640 adopting the ranked list of applications to submit to the Legislature for funding in the FY 2025-27 Biennium.

Commissioner Janicki noted that during public comment, a statement reflected that transfer to the tribes was not appropriate because it could be folded within tribal trust land. She asked staff to explain if that situation could apply. Ms. Hammill explained that DNR's Trust Land Transfer Program includes specific deed restrictions that limit the use of the land based on information within the application; however, DNR has an overarching requirement for reservation of minerals based on the RCW. The requirement is included on all deeds with the exception to transfers to the federal government. Tribes seeking to add land to tribal trust status must own any underlying minerals, which would not enable the tribe to add any Trust Land Transfer Program lands to tribal trust ownership because the tribe lacks mineral rights.

For the benefit of the Board, Chair Franz read the title and sections within Resolution 1640.

Ms. Hammill described the future steps by the Board to consider and approve the proposed projects after thorough vetting by staff.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Janicki moved to approve Resolution 1640, adopting the ranked list of applications to submit to the Legislature for funding in the FY 2025-27 Biennium.

**MOTION:** Superintendent Reykdal seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2024


  
Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

Abstain  
Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

  
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

  
Clare Ryan, Acting Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences,  
University of Washington

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

  
Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services, [psmsolv@earthlink.net](mailto:psmsolv@earthlink.net)