Timber & Land Sales Efficiencies

HB 2348 | SB 6216

Reducing waste and improving efficiencies in timber & land sales.

- Encourages bidder participation
- Eliminates outdated statutory language
- Removes requirement for wasteful printing
- Brings DNR into modern advertising standards

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MODERNIZING THE ADVERTIZING AND SALE OF LAND AND VALUABLE MATERIALS, REDUCES COSTS, SAVES RESOURCES, AND LEADS TO HIGHER BIDS

Originally proposed as SB 5201 in 2021-22 legislative biennium, this bill garnered unanimous support in the Senate and in the House Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources committee, but stalled at the finish line in the House Rules Committee both years. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reintroducing this proposal to eliminate outdated statutory language, correct language that was miscodified in 2003, and modernize advertising requirements to **bring DNR practices in-line with the 21st century**.

Figure 1 three images provide examples of timber, biomass, and seedling sales.

Current law requires DNR to print pamphlets of land and valuable material sales to be kept at DNR's main headquarters and county assessor's offices. Despite printing these materials monthly, DNR staff have not had a request for those materials in years. DNR staff diligently produced those materials even through the COVID pandemic.

This good governance bill modernizes language to include advertising on DNR's website, allows for public auctions to take place in more advantageous locations to garner better bidder participation, and allows DNR to re-offer sales that receive no-bids more quickly.

CLEAN-UP OF OUTDATED & MISSING STATUTORY LANGUAGE

When Chapter 79.11 RCW was recodified in 2003 to separate DNR's land sale advertising requirements and its valuable materials advertising requirements, one subsection was left orphaned. It refers to a definition that doesn't exist for a process that doesn't exist, though staff still comply with the intent, if not the actual language, of the statute.

This bill fixes that recodification error and places the requirement to advertise low-value sales in the appropriate section within existing statute.