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# Minutes

## Board of Natural Resources Meeting

December 2, 2014

Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

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

The Honorable F. Lee Grose, Commissioner, Lewis County

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

The Honorable Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

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

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1 **CALL TO ORDER**

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

4  
5 **SAFETY REVIEW**

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

8  
9 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

10 Chair Goldmark called for approval of the minutes for the November 4, 2014 Regular Board of  
11 Natural Resources Meeting.

12  
13 **MOTION:** Director DeLuca moved to approve the minutes.

14  
15 **SECOND:** Commissioner Grose seconded the motion.

16  
17 **ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously.

18  
19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR TIMBER SALE ACTION ITEMS**

20 No comments.

21

22

1 **TIMBER SALES (Action Item)**

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

3 Tom Shay, Product Sales & Leasing Division

4  
5 Mr. Shay presented the results of the November auctions to the Board. The Department offered  
6 13 sales totaling 46.8 MMBF in November. Of those, 11 sales sold and one sale is pending. The  
7 sale pending is a delivered log sale where one sort will be re-offered December 5. The 11 sold  
8 sales plus the sold sorts of the pending sale totaled \$18.2 million, for an average of \$402 per  
9 MBF.

10  
11 Mr. Shay noted that there was good interest from potential purchasers which in turn produced  
12 good prices.

13  
14 Chair Goldmark asked about the sale that did not receive any bids. Mr. Shay answered that the  
15 sale is a region sale and is being re-evaluated to be reoffered as there is interest from the  
16 purchasing community.

17  
18 The proposed January sales were then presented to the Board.

19  
20 Mr. Shay asked for approval of the proposed January sales.

21  
22 **MOTION:** Commissioner Grose moved to approve the proposed January 2015 sales.

23  
24 **SECOND:** Director DeLuca seconded the motion.

25  
26 **ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously.

27  
28 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE HARVEST CALCULATION (SHC)**

29 Kevin Schmelzlen, with the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project, stated that he was frustrated that  
30 the long term conservation strategy had fallen behind schedule and wanted to hear about the  
31 biological considerations of the marbled murrelets and possible alternatives for the strategy. The  
32 marbled murrelet survival project believes that for DNR to fulfil its commitment, the long term  
33 conservation strategy must come first. Mr. Schmelzlen urged the Board to encourage DNR to  
34 prioritize the long term conservation strategy ahead of the sustainable harvest calculation.

35  
36 Melinda Craig, Evergreen State College student, stated that she supports the use of methods  
37 developed by the marbled murrelet Science Team. Ms. Craig urged the Board to prioritize the  
38 long term conservation strategy before the sustainable harvest calculation.

39  
40 Maria Ruth, member of the Black Hills Audubon Society and author of a non-fiction Marbled  
41 Murrelet book, stated she is concerned about the buffers and emphasized the importance of being  
42 generous with the buffers when the analytical framework is being used to evaluate the  
43 alternatives for the long term conservation strategy. She believes that if the habitat buffers are  
44 not protected the birds will not have a chance for survival. Ms. Ruth asked the Board to evaluate  
45 the impact of predation on the marbled murrelet nest sites, and to calculate that into the  
46 evaluation of buffer width.

1 Patty Wood, Kelso School Board of Directors, stated that the Board has a fiduciary responsibility  
2 of managing public forest lands that are entrusted to our public school students. Ms. Wood urged  
3 the Board to maximize the sustainable harvest calculation while balancing the sustainability plan.  
4

5 Carolyn Bowie, with the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project, stated she supports the efforts to  
6 preserve marbled murrelet habitat and the survival of the species. Ms. Bowie expressed that  
7 marbled murrelets demand urgent attention due to the huge decline.  
8

9 Graham Taylor, Conservation Organizer with the Sierra Club, thanked DNR for prioritizing the  
10 long term conservation strategy. He expressed his support for the \$6 million encumbrance lands  
11 budget request to the legislators. Mr. Taylor added that the program is a way to meet fiduciary  
12 obligations, while having encumbered lands be protected for the species.  
13

### 14 **SUSTAINABLE HARVEST CALCULATION (SHC)**

15 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands  
16

17 Mr. Blum introduced a staff proposal of the purpose and need statement for scoping the  
18 Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC). The Board was not asked to take action on the  
19 information presented to them during this meeting, as the Department is providing an  
20 opportunity for the Board to review the information and provide comment. It is also an  
21 opportunity to hear public comment on the draft purpose and need document.  
22

23 Mr. Blum explained the three major project phases for the SHC under the State Environmental  
24 Policy Act (SEPA). The phases are to conduct scoping, issue a draft environmental impact  
25 statement (EIS) for review and public comment, and publish a final EIS.  
26

27 Mr. Blum presented a quote from the SEPA Handbook which defines scoping as narrowing the  
28 focus of the EIS to significant environmental issues to eliminate insignificant impacts from  
29 detailed study, and to identify alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS.  
30

31 Mr. Blum stated the proposal for the scoping the SHC is to establish a sustainable harvest level  
32 for the 2015 to 2024 planning decade for forested state trust lands in western Washington.  
33

34 Mr. Blum described the need for the proposal as: DNR needs to calculate a new sustainable  
35 harvest level and determine the best course of action regarding the arrearage consistent with state  
36 law and DNR policy. The need statement also outlines the RCW's, DNR policies and applicable  
37 state and federal regulations that the final selected alternative for the 2015 to 2024 sustainable  
38 harvest level is expected to meet.  
39

40 Mr. Blum stated that the need statement has deliberate language about wanting to comply with  
41 the 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests and 1997 State Trust Lands HCP as opposed to revisiting  
42 decisions that were made in those policies. He stated that one major undertaking to complete  
43 with the Sustainable Harvest Calculation is the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation  
44 Strategy (MMLTCS). As directed by the Board, these two processes will be run in parallel.  
45

46 The purpose statement outlines that the Department will analyze the sustainable harvest level  
47 associated with the MMLTS and the arrearage from the 2004 to 2014 planning decade, and will

1 incorporate new information into an updated model to calculate the decadal sustainable timber  
2 harvest level.

3  
4 Director DeLuca asked if we wanted to make a minor change to the Policy for Sustainable  
5 Forests would that change need to go through the State Environmental Policy Act. Mr. Blum  
6 responded by stating that changes to the policy would require an environmental review under  
7 SEPA.

8  
9 Commissioner Grose remarked that he is interested in the riparian areas. He stated that he  
10 believes the riparian assumptions need to be updated in the calculation, and recommended  
11 considering a yearly report showing the Department's performance in riparian areas.

12  
13 JT Austin asked for clarification on how the MMLTCS and SHC will be analyzed in parallel.  
14 Mr. Blum responded by saying that we originally evaluated the idea of completing the projects in  
15 one environmental analysis. One of the reasons we separated the projects into two environmental  
16 analyses is because the MMLTCS is also going through the National Environmental Policy Act  
17 (NEPA) due to the partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This is an additional layer  
18 of analysis that the SHC is not subject to. With direction from the Board, the Department chose  
19 to run the projects in parallel so the Board can make decisions on the MMLTCS with an  
20 understanding of the implications those decisions have on the Sustainable Harvest Calculation.

21  
22 JT Austin asked a question in regards to the Board needing to choose a MMLTCS before  
23 proceeding with development of alternatives for the SHC. Mr. Blum responded by stating that  
24 we are pursuing drafts to be issued at the same time, and alternatives analyzed in the MMLTCS  
25 will be reflected in the SHC EIS.

26  
27 JT Austin asked if logging the arrearage would cause the logging to be concentrated into a  
28 shorter period of time, potentially in the first couple years of the new SHC. Mr. Blum responded  
29 by stating it depends on how the Board chooses to address the arrearage in the SHC assumptions.

30  
31 JT Austin asked how climate impacts would be taken into account. Mr. Blum responded by  
32 stating the draft purpose and need for the SHC would need to be revised to incorporate that  
33 information.

34  
35 JT Austin asked if there is evidence that marbled murrelets live in riparian buffers. Mr. Blum  
36 responded by stating there are known nest sites in riparian areas.

37  
38 Commissioner Grose asked if we would go back into riparian areas that were harvested in the  
39 previous decade or if the arrearage would come from new harvest areas. He stated that the cost to  
40 go back could be tremendous. Mr. Blum stated that we would go back into areas that were  
41 assumed to be harvested in the previous decade. He also stated that the cost and other factors to  
42 do that will be part of the discussion for decisions to be made on the arrearage.

43  
44 JT Austin stated that she doesn't see any downside in developing an alternative that reflects the  
45 *Recommendations and Supporting Analysis of Conservation Opportunities for the Marbled*  
46 *Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy* (2008 Science Team Report).

1 Mr. Blum stated that at an upcoming presentation we can make a determination to move forward  
2 with language on the SHC Need and Purpose to be approved by the Board.

3  
4 JT Austin stated that she very much appreciates the effort the Department is making with the  
5 limited resources to move these projects forward. She understands it is a huge workload to  
6 ensure the projects are done right.

7  
8 Commissioner Grose stated that he also feels that staff have done an outstanding job preparing  
9 presentations for the Board.

10  
11 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST**

12 Micah Riegner, Evergreen State College student, stated that he supports the long term  
13 conservation strategy being prioritized over the sustainable harvest calculation.

14  
15 Matt Comisky, Washington Manager for American Forest Resources Council (AFRC), thanked  
16 the Board and DNR for the efforts on both the long term conservation strategy and the  
17 sustainable harvest calculation. Mr. Comisky stated that the Board has not only a fiduciary  
18 obligation to the trust beneficiaries, but also to the infrastructure in industrial jobs and forest  
19 health issues.

20  
21 Art Wang, President of Tahoma Audubon Society, encouraged the Board to follow up and  
22 continue to prioritize the long term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelets. He added  
23 that climate change will have an enormous impact on the birds, and that the marbled murrelet is  
24 of region significance and goes beyond the borders of Washington State.

25  
26 Chair Goldmark thanked Commissioner Grose for his membership on the Board and his  
27 consistent attendance, involvement, and commitment. Chair Goldmark stated that we are  
28 appreciative for the service you have provided to both the County and to the State of  
29 Washington. You have done an admirable job fulfilling your duty.

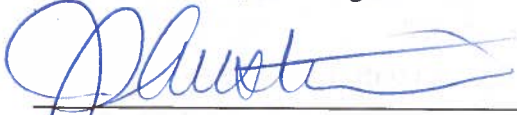
30  
31 Commissioner Grose stated that serving on the Board has been a learning experience that he has  
32 really enjoyed. He added that he hopes his predecessor can help the County, while keeping the  
33 fiduciary obligation in the forefront.

34  
35 Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015



Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands



JT Austin, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

absent

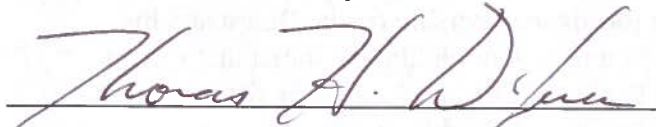
Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction



Jim McEntire, Commissioner, Clallam County

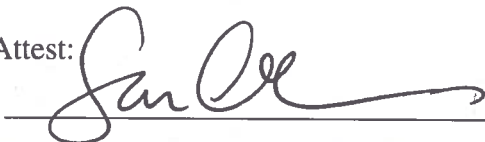
absent

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



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

Attest:



Sarah Vansot, Board Coordinator