
Minutes

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

May 14, 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

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

Dan Brown, 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

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hilary Franz called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 – April 2, 2024 - *Action*

MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to approve the minutes as presented.

SECOND: Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Chair Franz adjusted the agenda moving Timber Sales to follow Public Comments.

1 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2 **Jim Oliver** remarked that healing is not linear as trees are dense between earth and sky.
3 Many grieve for those trees with names. The Ridge Ender timber sale is a clearcut as the
4 ridge on the map is very clear as to what DNR is planning to cut. He has visited the area at
5 least six times because of emails he received encouraging him to hike the area to identify old
6 growth Douglas firs and impressive hemlocks. Along the ridge, sites were recently clearcut
7 with almost nothing remaining. The few remaining trees are in the proposed timber sale. The
8 plan is to eliminate the ridge and its forest cover and stability. Other units of the sale have
9 slopes over 40 degrees with some sheer cliffs. Rocks and sediment will end up at the bottom
10 of the hill if the forest is clearcut. The name of Ridge Ender is a cruel joke. The hike up to
11 the site is gradual and the unit is biodiverse and structurally complex with most of the trees 75
12 years old according to DNR data. Others have recorded Douglas firs, hemlocks, and cedars
13 between 100 and 150 years old. The timber unit is the type of mature forest that thousands of
14 people across Washington are calling for explicit policies to protect, and is the type of forest
15 DNR has lost lawsuits on for months. The proposal is classic irresponsible forestry. The
16 Board should not approve the Ridge Ender timber sale.

17
18 **Matt Comisky, American Forest Resource Council**, said he attended a variety of meetings
19 and discussions with many beneficiaries of state trust lands. Rural Washington is continuing
20 to hurt and anything the agency and the Board does to slow the distribution of revenue,
21 including authorizing and selling timber sales, will have significant real world impacts to
22 places such as Forks Hospital District 1, Clallam County Fire District 5, and Pacific County
23 beneficiaries. It is a common theme he is hearing everywhere. Many of those living in urban
24 areas are blessed because the reality within urban centers is not replicated in rural
25 Washington. While many believe Washington State tax dollars are defending timber sales,
26 those who are litigating timber sales are taking money from beneficiaries because DNR must
27 pay for litigation. The reality is continued harm to junior taxing districts, regular taxing
28 districts, and hard working people that provide society with wood products that are needed
29 every day.

30
31 **Joshua Wright** cited six proposed timber sales containing structurally complex forests. The
32 sales include the Farm View timber sale which would log 100-year old trees on steep slopes
33 above the Stillaguamish River. The sales package includes the Bologna timber sale in
34 violation of Forest Practices Regulations that would clearcut the channel migration zone of
35 the Pilchuck River including mature trees. The Richmond Fire Salvage timber sale would log
36 a mature forest that experienced low intensity wildfire and has regenerated to a more
37 structurally complex forest. Ridge Ender timber sale is a massive logging plan clearcutting all
38 mature forests on a ridge near Wallace Falls State Park in Snohomish County. The Salt and
39 Pepper timber sale in Clallam County would remove trees that are 120 years old and five feet
40 in diameter. DNR's decision to offer the sales is not in the best interests of the public,
41 beneficiaries, or regional mills. When a judge ruled against the Board's approval of the Last
42 Crocker Sorts timber sale in Jefferson County, the ruling required DNR to cancel contracts
43 with 11 purchasers. The disruption only happened because DNR continues to target the last
44 remaining mature forests for liquidation despite the reality that the sales are in violation of
45 DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). If the Board approves the proposed timber sales,
46 the action will allow DNR to continue pretending that its actions are not in violation of its

1 own policies. Approval of the sales could result in future litigation, a degradation of the
2 relationship between purchasers and DNR, and continued lost of public trust in the agency.
3 The Board should deny all timber sales.
4

5 **Heath Heikkila** noted that purchasers support the Board approving the timber sales unlike the
6 previous comments indicated. It is also important to understand who pays for litigation
7 against the agency. Taxpayers are not paying. He commended DNR for the fact sheets
8 accompanying each timber sale. The information depicts the stands, ages, structural
9 complexity, and provides information the Board should view as a factual resource as opposed
10 to other claims the Board might hear. He recently participated in a tour of Capitol State
11 Forest and the Cabbage Patch proposed timber sale with members of the media. The tour was
12 informative. The stand was not structurally complex. The Thurston County Board of County
13 Commissioners is now considering the impacts of its decisions including \$2.9 million to the
14 Olympia School District, \$1.5 million to the Rochester School District, and \$2.6 million to the
15 Tumwater School District. Those school districts are not rural but they are losing significant
16 revenue because of the decision by County Commissioners to stop harvesting any mature
17 trees in Capitol State Forest. There are similar estimates for impacts to junior taxing districts.
18 Half of all DNR state trust lands in Western Washington are set-aside under a thoughtful HCP
19 by federal and state biologists. A new EPA report clearly articulates carbon sequestration in
20 forests, which is not sequestering more carbon but less as they age.
21

22 **Lee First** displayed a photo of the Cross Pollinate Sorts after it was logged. DNR refers to
23 the timber sale as variable retention harvest. However, green trees, snags, downed wood, and
24 other structural features are supposed to be retained between rotations to enrich the diversity
25 of new stands. Adjacent to the Cross Pollinate timber sale are other timber sale areas of
26 exceptionally diverse forests and remaining old growth in the Willapa headwaters. Targeting
27 those rare forests for commercial logging defies the objectives of the state trust lands HCP.
28 Ms. First said she educates high school students in rural schools in southwest Washington.
29 Most of the students have never visited an old growth forest. Within the Oakville School
30 District, the Misty timber sale is the closet place they could travel to view a mature stand of
31 trees. DNR plans to log 30% of Willapa's remaining legacy forests by 2028. If left standing,
32 the forests could become fully functional old growth forests by mid-century. Logging is
33 creating a crisis. All legacy forests units cited by Mr. Oliver and Mr. Wright should be saved.
34

35 **Christine Popowich** advocated for high ecologically functioning, valuable structurally
36 complex state forests or the last remaining oldest naturally regenerated mature forests. If left
37 standing, those forests would become old growth. Legacy forests should be protected from
38 logging and left intact. Her ancestors owned a tree farm and her great-great grandfather was a
39 pioneer logger in an era when they cut all trees. Underlying that mentality was the intent of
40 making money, growing towns and businesses, and getting rich. The original native forests
41 were everywhere and everyone believed they were endless and not appreciated for the rich,
42 complex diversity of life forests provide. They did not know better as to what was being lost,
43 but today, everyone knows how much legacy forests contribute to the health of communities.
44 Between her ancestors and her lifetime, there has been a paradigm shift in terms of board feet,
45 ownership, and revenue and what are now considered sacred places. Growing up around
46 lakes and rivers has changed her life. She feels sorry for men and women who do not feel

1 something special when they visit forests. Instead of clearcutting fragments of old forests and
2 selling trees it would be more valuable to leave legacy forests intact for children and families
3 to experience and to learn about the benefits of forests. The lesson is to remember that
4 everyone will leave a legacy and everyone will be judged by their children and their children
5 some day.
6

7 **Ed Bowen, resident of Clallam County**, criticized the lack of the Sustainable Harvest
8 Calculation (SHC) on the agenda. Based on the Board's meeting schedule, the current SHC
9 will expire before the Board addresses the new SHC. He is also irritated that the public
10 process for the Trust Land Transfer Program is lacking. The public has until May 15, 2024 to
11 provide public comment through an email address that is not well advertised. In lieu of that
12 difficulty he is providing his comments directly to the Board. The South Ozette Lake parcel
13 in Clallam is located in his neighborhood. He does not believe the Superintendent of Public
14 Instruction is correct that children do not want trees cut. If children do not want trees cut then
15 they can pay the increase in property taxes by the school district. He supports some aspect of
16 those trees in the parcel but does not favor the application.
17

18 **Lynn Fitz-Hugh** said she believed that the courts were able to attract the Department's
19 attention that as a societal whole, the right direction was finally proceeding when DNR pulled
20 six timber sales from consideration. The court ruled DNR was not appropriately completing
21 the SEPA process and needed to consider the climate impact of the carbon released for each
22 parcel and not against the balance of DNR's holdings as previously calculated. Somehow, a
23 month later, the Board is presented with another series of legacy parcels on the docket. Salt
24 and Pepper with a stand origin of 1899 has trees up to 58 inches DBH and documented
25 endangered marbled murrelet nests. Q Rufus Sorts has a stand age of 1903. Ridge Ender's
26 stand age is 1919, Bologna's stand age is 1925, and Dew Dog's stand age is post 1930. The
27 clearcut logging of Bologna threatens to reverse or undermine millions of dollars of work to
28 restore riparian habitat along the Pilchuck River. Three different tribes have weighed in on
29 four sales before the Board. Ridge Ender is appropriately named because the timber sale will
30 decimate the ridge. The parcel is located on the ridge of the steep north valley slope visible
31 from Wallace Falls State Park. This month, the proposed sales represent degradation of a
32 river, a mountain ridge, a popular tourist destination, massive release of carbon, further
33 endangerment of endangered species, and disrespect of tribes. The Board could vote for
34 cutting plantation forests. For two years, the public has urged the Board not to cut legacy
35 forests.
36

37 **Sheryl Ahlblad** said she owns properties in three counties with timber sales planned in each
38 county of more than 1,000 acres to be clearcut and sprayed within the next five months. A
39 majority of Americans oppose logging older legacy forests. Public lands are part of the
40 largest temperate rainforest in the world and are critical for climate change and wildlife.
41 DNR's policies require the agency to save 10% to 15% per unit. Yet, with only 8% of older
42 forests surviving, the agency has fallen vastly short of its commitments. Board policy dictates
43 that structurally complex forests may be considered for harvest only after the 10% to 15%
44 target has been achieved. Thousands of citizens are signing petitions, calling, and emailing
45 the Board to preserve older biodiverse forests. Log the plantation forests instead. Many
46 county commissioners representing their constituents favor preserving older forests. She

1 asked why the Board does not listen to county commissioners. Washington Supreme Court
2 ruled that there is no constitutional duty to generate revenue from timber harvest for the
3 federal grant trusts. Only 2% of the public school budget is from timber revenue. She has
4 walked through timber sales with large trees not marked that likely would be cut down. The
5 public has been led to believe DNR is managing old legacy forests correctly. If logging
6 continues, irreplaceable old forests will be gone in five to ten years. The Board has the power
7 to stop some timber sales.

8
9 **Robert Mitchell** questioned the lack of the no-bid auction in this month's sales results. He
10 asked whether no bid auctions are affiliated with the Trust Land Transfer Program. There
11 also have been notices of mills closing in Canada. It is likely the industry should consider
12 diversifying. In terms of recreation and quoting John Muir, thousands of tired nerve shaken
13 over-civilized people are beginning to find out that visiting the mountains is going home and
14 that wildness is a necessity. Mountains, parks, and reservations are useful for not only timber
15 and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life. Increased public need for recreation is not new
16 and he is hopeful the government as stewards of the areas will seek out creative policies and
17 not simply rely more on law enforcement and gates. Even if the industry is right on its talking
18 points, his request is not cutting trees but eliminating the economic excuse of cutting trees by
19 bringing the conversation down a level.

20
21 **Dave Switzer, Washington Hardwoods Commission**, said the Commission was established
22 by the Legislature in 1991 to promote the hardwoods industry. Over the past three decades,
23 hardwood logs supplied by DNR managed lands have decreased 50%. Over half the mills
24 have closed resulting in lower forest segment employment, reduced indirect jobs, and greater
25 danger from catastrophe wildfires. The forest products industry can be a panacea for many
26 problems in the state, not only providing jobs and curtailing wildfires, but also storing carbon
27 in the growing stock and wood products providing lumber for homes, establishing a vibrant
28 young biodiverse forest, avoiding the increased use of climate unfriendly concrete and steel,
29 and keeping working forests working and not converting to malls and commercial
30 construction. He thanked DNR field staff for keeping their eyes on hardwood sales and
31 production. The Legislature funded a specialist for hardwood sales and cedar salvage, which
32 remains unfilled for nearly a year. The position was proven to provide many benefits to the
33 industry including increased economic return to stakeholders. The Commission urges DNR to
34 fill the position as soon as possible to experience an increased volume of hardwood harvest.
35 It is wonderful to see another month of timber sales presented to the Board for approval.
36 Many providing testimony do not care to understand the steadfast efforts and due diligence
37 staff exhibit to develop the timber sale packages for the Board each month. It does not go
38 unnoticed. The forest products DNR provides support healthy forests, healthy families, and
39 healthy communities. The Board should approve the entire timber sales package because the
40 sales are essential for supporting western forest products businesses and customers. Green
41 energy projects require both renewable infrastructure components, such as crossarms for
42 wires on poles. The industry needs sustainable and certified timbers DNR offers to produce
43 crossarms. There is no environmentally friendly crossarm other than those sourced from
44 Washington DNR forests. Steel is not the answer nor is outsourcing. The answer is creating
45 carbon-friendly products needed in Washington under the nation's best habitat conservation
46 plan.

1
2 **Ed Martin, Western Forest Products**, thanked DNR staff for their continuous hard work. It
3 is wonderful to see another month of timber sales coming to the board for approval. Most do
4 not care of the effort and due diligence DNR staff exhibit to develop the timber sale packages
5 before the board each month assuring staff the efforts do not go unnoticed. As you well know
6 the forest products made available support healthy forest, healthy families, and healthy
7 communities. Take pride in those facts and thank you very much. He asked the board to
8 approve in its entirety the timber sale package before them today. These sales are essential for
9 supporting Western Forest Products business and customers. Not only do we have in excess of
10 250 employees here in Washington, but we have much of our customer base here in the state
11 as well. The green energy projects this state embraces require renewable infrastructure
12 components such as crossarms, the wooden piece, the wires hanging on poles to be used in the
13 projects. We need the sustainable and certified timber that the DNR offers to make these
14 crossarms. Please board realize the holistic nature of green energy and support it with
15 consistently approving the monthly DNR timber sales package. There is no more
16 environmentally friendly cross arm than one that is sourced from Washington DNR forests.
17 Steel is not the answer. Nor is outsourcing our sustainable desires to other parts of the world.
18 The answer is creating the carbon friendly products we need in Washington under the nation's
19 best habitat conservation plan. When it comes time to vote on the timber sale package today,
20 please don't look down at your lap, raise your head, and your voice, and be clear in what you
21 know has earned and deserves your full support. Thank you for the opportunity to provide
22 comments today.

23
24 **Brian Karnes** reported he is a forester for the Cascade Hardwood Group. The company
25 employs 205 employees at two facilities in Washington and supports other indirect jobs.
26 Hardwood logs from timber sales comprise approximately 20% of volume cut annually. Raw
27 materials needs, prior planning, scheduling, and consistent flow are necessary to remain
28 efficient and competitive. He thanked staff for developing fact sheets for timber sales. The
29 information is appreciated and shows whom and what is funded by each sale as well as a
30 description of the stands and how many acres are set-aside. He asked about the timing of
31 addressing the current arrearage. He acknowledged staff and the Board for moving forward
32 with timber sales. Washington has some of the strictest forest practice regulations and
33 requirements in the country and DNR's HCP goes beyond Forest Practice Regulations.

34
35 **Jim McEntire** shared that he is a former member of the Clallam County Board of
36 Commissioners and former member of the Board of Natural Resources. He lives in Clallam
37 County and is speaking on behalf of the Port Angeles Business Association. He referred to a
38 letter sent to DNR from the Association objecting to the trust land transfer request from the
39 City of Port Angeles for approximately 3,000 acres along the Elwha River lower watershed.
40 He acknowledged the City of Port Angeles needs a source of water supply; however, the
41 transfer of acreage into City ownership is not supported by any science or any analysis in
42 terms of maintaining an adequate quantity of river water for the city's drinking water needs.
43 Based on numbers from a DNR presentation to the Board of County Commissioners last
44 November, approximately 66% of the state-owned forested lands in Clallam County currently
45 are off limits for harvest for the rest of our lifetime. Any further diminution delay of the
46 remaining 34% of harvestable land would be to the detriment of the forest products industry

1 and taxing districts in Clallam County.
2

3 **Sally Keely** commented on the climate emergency and how forests are the best natural
4 climate defense that must be protected. All remaining older carbon dense, structurally
5 complex mature forests must be protected with a moratorium on logging. Each month, it
6 appears that DNR is determined to target rare and irreplaceable forests despite its policies
7 requiring the Department to protect the oldest remaining legacy forests of Western
8 Washington. The Department's responsibility includes protecting some unique forests this
9 month. Listen to the tribes and cancel the sales. The Richmond Fire Salvage timber sale
10 contains an 80-acre legacy forest that experienced a small understory fire in 2023. Low
11 intensity fires are an important part of forest ecology, naturally improves forest health, and
12 accelerates the development of old growth characteristics. Instead of clearcutting, allow
13 Richmond to return to an old growth state. Dew Dog timber sale in Tahoma State Forest
14 would clearcut 80 acres of structurally complex, naturally regenerated 100-year old forests.
15 The sale is part of a rare, lowland legacy forest extending across the Nisqually River
16 floodplain of forested wetlands, side channels, and marshlands. She purchased her first home
17 among tall trees in Ashford, not far from Tahoma State Forest and the Elbe Hills, which
18 provided wild recreational adventures. Everyone deserves that opportunity, which is why
19 everyone lives in Washington. Dew Dog is a truly magnificent forest and must be protected
20 for human health, wildlife habitat preservation, and carbon sequestration. The Board should
21 rethink the sales before it is too late as once they are cut they are gone forever.
22

23 **Bill Turner, Sierra Pacific Industries**, reported the company owns four sawmills in the state
24 with over 950 employees. The Board is constantly bombarded with a vocal minority
25 indicating that the laws in place are not being followed by staff and that the claims by
26 management are incorrect. DNR is certified by both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
27 and Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Both are third party audits and both approve DNR's
28 management. Certification includes a review of forest health and productivity, sustainable
29 forestry, protection and maintenance of water resources, conservation and biological diversity,
30 aesthetics and recreation, protection of special sites, recognized and respect of indigenous
31 peoples rights, and climate smart forestry. The FSC standard speaks to environmentally
32 appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable. Next month, the Board is scheduled
33 to visit Central Washington for its annual field tour. One aspect not viewed during the tour is
34 a thriving industry. The forest industry collapsed when the U.S. Forest Service stopped
35 timber sales. DNR has a minor portion of the wood basket, which could occur in Western
36 Washington if the timber sales program is jeopardized. There are no sawmills in the central
37 part of the state, as well as no biomass facilities and no plywood or veneer. Logs sold by
38 DNR supply both eastern and western Washington. The Nature Conservancy is attempting to
39 attract more industry in Central Washington.
40

41 **Laura Wilkeson, Hampton Lumber**, said the fourth-generation family-owned company has
42 timberlands across Western Washington and sawmills in Morton, Darrington, and Randall.
43 She thanked field staff for their time, effort, and dedication to the timber sales program. The
44 work by staff has been a subject of immense and unjustified scrutiny. Reducing timber
45 supply from DNR lands because of pressure from unreasonable special interest groups would
46 do nothing to bolster real economies, address housing crisis, or lessen the impacts of climate

1 change. The economic activity generated from DNR timber sales is the lifeblood of many
2 rural communities. Direct revenue for DNR and beneficiaries is important, but the multiplier
3 affecting timber sale activities for communities and working families cannot be ignored.
4 Timber supply is constrained across the Pacific Northwest. Too many mills have closed since
5 the beginning of the year. Reducing or eliminating DNR timber sales will acerbate the
6 problem and will put more strain on the wood basket. DNR must continue to offer timber
7 sales and generate revenue for beneficiaries and rural communities. With the end of the
8 westside planning decade nearing without an updated SHC, it would be helpful if staff could
9 report on the decadal status of the timber sales program. The Board and stakeholders need to
10 know if the program is falling short and if volume needs to be accounted for in the future.
11 Staff should also advertise the remainder of FY 2024 timber sales. The Board should approve
12 those sales as presented.

13
14 **Paul Butler, resident of Thurston County**, said that the entire process of distributing
15 revenue from state trust lands is broken. It is clear legislative action is needed to both
16 adequately fund beneficiaries and to serve all people when managing state lands as opined in
17 the unanimous Washington State Supreme Court decision of 2022. He commended
18 Superintendent Reykdal for his attempt to tackle one part of the problem regarding school
19 construction trust revenue. Unfortunately, the glacial pings of state government will not solve
20 the problem quickly to slow DNR's rampant disregard for a balanced approach to forest
21 management of state lands. Unitary trusts would be a great place to start. The volume of
22 mature timber listed for sale this month clearly shows that DNR has no intention of working
23 with counties to protect older stands. Despite the halting of several sales because of legal
24 action, DNR appears to be liquidating as much older forests as possible before a new
25 Commissioner is elected in the fall. He urged the Board to refuse to approve any additional
26 older forests timber sales until current litigation is settled. In the face of climate chaos,
27 mature forests are too valuable to be turned into plywood and 2x4s. Trying to fund the trust
28 by cutting a disproportionate amount of older forests is a fool's errand. The trust will need
29 more revenue as the population increases, which cannot be supported by finite resources.

30
31 **Kyle Krakow** said he has spent some time in several of the timber sales proposed for
32 consideration. Cutting down forests is outrageous. One could explore for months scrambling
33 up mossy outcrops and marveling at the Western red cedars and large hemlocks all around.
34 Richmond Fire Salvage with its charred Douglas firs and lush northeastern half is a living
35 demonstration of fire resilience. Bologna is home to massive snags, spruce, and old growth
36 logs thicker than he is tall. It is also one of DNR's ill-conceived timber sales. Contrary to the
37 geology report, two units of Bologna overlap the Pilchuck River as channel migration zones.
38 He has documented obvious signs of bank failure north of unit 2. Farm View might be an
39 even bigger disaster in the making with neighbors concerned since the timber sale is literally
40 in their backyards and just downstream from the Oso landslide that killed 43 people. When
41 experiencing legacy forests, beyond so-called fact sheets, it speaks to realizing how much is
42 on the line and how rare and how life sustaining those places are and how grossly out of touch
43 DNR has become. Should the Board continue signing off clearcutting of mature structurally
44 complex forests; the Board will forever bear blame for the consequences. He urged the Board
45 to reject the proposed timber sales.

1 **Rod Fleck, City of Forks**, encouraged the Board to reject any efforts to pause all mature
2 timber sales as it violates all the arguments within the HCP and not for ecological obligations
3 or requirements where DNR exceeded some of the standards on private industry within the
4 HCP. The Board continues to hear more about legacy mature naturally seeded stands with
5 origins in the 1950s and 60s. DNR has an obligation to bring forth timber sales. In his area,
6 any pause creates problems for junior taxing districts. Based on calls in Olympia and
7 elsewhere, there apparently is a lack of understanding, knowledge, or concern about the fact
8 that rural communities are receiving substantially less from timber income. In Forks, it
9 represents approximately 65% of the county's budget. The jobs are needed as well as
10 required services, such as hospitals, library, and fire departments. There is also a social equity
11 issue asked of the Board to deal with mitigation and carbon on the back of rural communities
12 and not addressing issues of impacts to jobs, families, and the entire rural system.
13

14 **Julie Ratner, resident of City of Olympia**, said nature is everyone's home and not just a
15 place a visit. As trees grow and age, carbon stocks increase continuously. With larger and
16 denser wood composition, older trees are able to store increasing amounts of carbon thereby
17 contributing significantly to carbon sequestration and storage capabilities. When trees are
18 removed, the environment loses decades of stored carbon. Stop cherry picking, as there are
19 plenty of other forests to harvest. She questioned why the Board does not listen to over 100
20 conservation groups and Biden's federal rules to protect legacy forests from logging. It is
21 egregious that the Board continues to ignore Thurston County officials and behaves as if
22 lawsuits were not pending. The Department is ignoring statutory obligations to protect and
23 restore legacy forests on state forestland. DNR policies require the protection of the oldest
24 remaining legacy forests in Western Washington. A group of citizens testify month after
25 month for years to illustrate that they stand united to save legacy forests. Last month the
26 Board paused six legacy parcels and now many parcels are on the proposed list. Listen to the
27 public and take action by not allowing the sale of legacy forests this month and in the future.
28

29 **Nina Sarmiento, resident of City of Port Angeles**, echoed the call to reject the six timber
30 sales, as the forests are complex and mature. Those forests are the carbon workhorses on the
31 chopping block. Salt and Pepper is the closest forest to her located in the Salt Creek
32 watershed, a salmon bearing river. The timber sale would clearcut nearly 51 acres of
33 biodiverse structurally complex lowland forests 95 to 125 years old. Older forests store and
34 sequester more carbon than any other forest type on earth. This is because a majority of
35 carbon is sequestered in the soil. The intent is not taking money from the pockets of
36 beneficiaries but rather the intent is to protect the ecosystem so that future generations will
37 still have clean air and water. Shame on prior speakers for villainizing speakers who care
38 about what happens during their short insignificant lives and for caring about what will be left
39 for their children. Climate change is real and escalating droughts, flooding, landslides, and
40 wildfires. Communities can expect those impacts if the Board approves timber sales
41 removing the last remaining mature forests and converting them to monocrop plantations.
42 DNR has convened a work group to study the carbon impacts of conserving legacy forests. It
43 makes no sense for DNR to be modeling mature forests for conservation while concurrently
44 logging them. The Board should not approve any legacy forest timber sales while the work
45 group is in session.
46

1 **Elliott Lytle** advocated for both a pause on all logging of legacy forests and withdrawal of
2 sales as other tree plantations are available to log. Legacy forests are unique places of life.
3 Rain forests generate their own rain, which reduces wildfire and creates more water in the
4 ecosystem. Without water, there is no life. Those places are life-giving ecosystems. As a
5 science educator, one of the basic things taught in biology classes is the interconnection of all
6 life. Multiple layers of an ecosystem are necessary for life to survive. Cutting the layers
7 causes a collapse of the system creating dead zones, which often occurs when industry takes
8 too much. It is silly to teach students the principles and then fund the destruction of
9 ecosystems. Clearcutting near rivers sends silt to the riverbed killing salmon, which in turn
10 kills eagles, bears, and orcas. The system is connected and people are affected as biological
11 beings.

12
13 **Marianne Edain** said she is speaking on behalf of Whidbey Environmental Action Network
14 and others who have done great work and research on the issue. She supports that work and
15 asked the Board not to move forward with timber auctions, as every tree is needed. The
16 timber industry is a dying industry that should be acknowledged. There are ways to harvest
17 timber and conducting the auctions is not the right way. She asked the Board to listen to the
18 voices and not approve the timber sales.

19
20 **Bryan Pelach** congratulated DNR on the favorable ruling in *Lewis v. DNR* in Thurston
21 County Superior Court on April 5, 2024. On April 22, 2023, DNR announced the carbon
22 project that would move 10, 0000 acres of forested trust lands into conservation status. Those
23 forested trust lands would generate revenue through the sale of carbon credits while
24 continuing to provide critical non-monetary benefits derived from healthy forests ecosystems.
25 The lawsuit alleged DNR did not have the authority to lease the lands for carbon credits rather
26 than logging and that DNR had not completed adequate environmental review. Although
27 DNR was not required to pause the carbon project during the lawsuit, the Department elected
28 to do so. The judge agreed with DNR and the nonprofit defendants that DNR has statutory
29 authority to manage and harvest timber from forestland or take other actions, such as lease of
30 lands to generate revenue for trust beneficiaries. The judge's decision affirmed DNR has the
31 authority to lease forests for carbon credits in lieu of logging. The Board is urged to restart
32 the visionary 10,000-acre carbon project immediately as it could use natural climate solutions
33 to reduce the impact of accelerated climate change while continuing to provide benefits for all
34 people of Washington.

35
36 **Sarah Gardam, resident of Whatcom County**, said she speaks for the forests rather than
37 any group or organization. The six timber sales for consideration confirm everyone's
38 suspicion that DNR's pulling of six sales last month was not a moment of sanity by the
39 agency but that it is clear that DNR stills believes it is entitled to destroy the last mature
40 forests in the lowlands of Western Washington. The consequences are heat islands of soil that
41 do not hold rain nor cool the air as temperatures rise. DNR has opted to destroy the Pilchuck
42 River channel migration zones, destabilizing deposits, and increasing bank erosion and
43 channel migration. One timber sale is near the site of the Oso Landslide. She reminded the
44 Board that it is not entitled to destroy forests that cool and clean the water and air everyone
45 relies on. The Board has no right to authorize the logging of majestic trees in the six sales
46 some of which are over 180 feet tall and 58 inches in diameter. The Board should stop hiding

1 behind an archaic and misinterpreted mandate in 2024 to justify the logging of the last few
2 remaining legacy forests. The Board should pause or cancel the six timber sales.

3
4 **ELECT VICE CHAIR – Action**

5 Chair Franz acknowledged the absence of Dr. Brown over the next six months and conveyed
6 appreciation for his service as Vice Chair. She invited a motion to appoint a new Vice Chair.

7
8 MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to appoint Commissioner Janicki to serve as Vice Chair.

9
10 SECOND: Dean Powers seconded the motion.

11
12 ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

13
14 **TIMBER SALES - Action**

15 **Auction Results for April 2024, FY2024 Update, & Proposed Timber Sales for June**
16 **2024**

17 **Padraic Callahan, Acting Division Manager, Product Sales and Leasing Division**

18 Chair Franz prefaced the briefing by sharing information on the timber sale fact sheets
19 prepared by staff for each timber sale. An amazing amount of work in the field is completed
20 by DNR foresters. That work occurs over a course of many years that is now documented in
21 timber sales fact sheets for the benefit of the public and the Board.

22
23 Duane Emmons, Assistant Deputy Supervisor, State Uplands, shared additional information
24 on the format of the new timber sales packet. The information serves to help address
25 questions from the Board and the public by providing a complete picture of each timber unit.
26 He introduced several staff members involved in the preparation of timber sales.

27
28 Mr. Callahan presented the results of April timber sales. Eight sales were offered totaling
29 28.8 mmbf for \$10.4 million for an average of \$360 per mbf with an average of 3.3 bidders
30 per sale.

31
32 Commissioner Janicki inquired about the status of the timber sale that did not sell. Mr.
33 Callahan replied that two sorts did not sell. One of the sorts was reoffered with plans to
34 reoffer the sale again within the next several weeks. The second sort did not sell as well. All
35 sorts not selling will be reappraised and reoffered for sale. Based on changes in legislation,
36 the Board no longer is required to approve any difference in minimum bid. In terms of the
37 reference to a “no bid sale,” the sort is one of many individual sorts in one package. Two of
38 the ten sorts did not sell at the original auction and one subsequent reoffering.

39
40 Dr. Brown requested confirmation that the Board receives proposals for Board sales of a
41 certain size while region sales are offered separately. Mr. Callahan affirmed that region sales
42 are below an appraisal threshold of \$250,000; however, all sales are released for bid
43 regardless of the appraised value.

44
45 Mr. Callahan provided a fiscal year update and presented proposed timber sales for June 2024
46 totaling 11 sales of approximately 48.7 mmbf at an appraised minimum value of \$16.3 million

1 or \$334 per mbf.
2

3 Of the ten westside sales, field staff reviewed 1,839 proposed acres. Following delineation of
4 riparian and wetland management zones, 1,288 acres remained for proposed harvest
5 representing 70% of the acreage with 551 acres assigned to conservation status.
6

7 The Dew Dog timber sale located in South Puget Sound Region in the Tahoma State Forest
8 comprised of two units with both units located in Lewis County for a harvest of
9 approximately 5 mmbf. Leave requirements include retention of the largest trees. Two of the
10 eight leave trees per acre are the largest trees of the current stand structure. The sale is
11 certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Standard and the Forest
12 Stewardship Council.
13

14 Mr. Callahan described some of the pictures included in the sales packets. Trees within the
15 stand are in competition for resources with very little understory. Trees are packed in the
16 stand and are often referred to as the 'bull zone' representing the early stages of maturation I.
17 More complexity is represented in another photograph of 20 acres categorized as maturation
18 II. While there some structural complexity exists in the unit, the remaining area is not
19 considered structurally complex forest by the agency and was deemed as not suitable for
20 meeting any older forest targets.
21

22 Dr. Brown noted that within the photograph of unit 1, polygons on the map are depicted as
23 non-tradable leave tree areas. He asked what those areas represent. Staff explained that non-
24 tradable leave tree areas are protecting identified features such as unstable areas or other
25 landform features rather than trees.
26

27 Mr. Callahan reviewed the Richmond Fire Salvage timber sale located in the Pacific Cascade
28 Region in Lewis County. The timber unit is a proposed harvest of 73 acres originally planned
29 as a 2030 sale but because of the fire was moved up to capture the value for trust beneficiaries
30 before degradation occurs. Approximately 25 acres were burned in the Chandler fire last year
31 beginning in August and contained by September 4, 2023. Lighting was responsible for
32 starting the fire. Approximately eight acres of the harvest unit was categorized as maturation
33 II, a botanically diverse classification. The bull zone is greatly diminished because of shade
34 tolerance in the mid canopy. The burn area was classified as maturation I. The eight acres
35 were not identified as suitable to meet the older forests target by 2100.
36

37 Chair Franz commented on the fire season with 127 fires so far. The proposed harvest area
38 tends to experience significant stand replacement cycles. DNR is leveraging initial impacts
39 on many areas experiencing fires because many homes and populations are at risk near the
40 fires, as well as because many of the forests are struggling. The proposed timber sale
41 represents the manual work the fire would have completed by mimicking the stand
42 replacement portion of the disturbance without the associated release of carbon wildfires
43 produce. Instead, the manual work will try to mimic to achieve a healthier and restored forest
44 while also reducing carbon emissions by converting timber to wood products storing carbon.
45

46 Mr. Emmons noted that in Western Washington, the large catastrophic fires consuming

1 thousands of acres speaks to the benefits of variable retention harvests and how the technique
2 is designed to address natural disturbances.

3
4 Mr. Callahan reviewed the Salt and Pepper timber sale of 53 acres of maturation II forest.
5 The original proposed area was 101 acres and was reduced to 66 harvested acres with 35 acres
6 protected in long-term conservation. Field staff worked to delineate areas by excluding 26
7 acres of old growth timber meeting DNR's old growth policy definition. A 60-inch diameter
8 limit is imposed within the harvest area. A qualified expert evaluated risks of unstable slopes.
9 The assessment identified and excluded areas from harvest, as well as including contract
10 language surrounding the management of impacts to the Olympic Adventure Trail during and
11 after harvesting. Unit 1 of the sale is essentially blow over by a nature disturbance event,
12 which was categorized as maturation I prior to the event.

13
14 Commissioner Janicki noted the fact sheet speaks to the presence of root rot. She asked how
15 the harvesting plan addresses those conditions. Mr. Callahan explained that often root rot is
16 species specific with harvesting targeting a host or a group of hosts. Root rot is typically
17 addressed through the regeneration portion of the plan with planting prescriptions of different
18 tree species that are not of the same host range experiencing root rot. Another way is through
19 a planting design with instructions of not planting a specific species within existing tree
20 stumps of a specific species because of the ability of root rot to spread through the ground
21 after harvesting has been completed.

22
23 Mr. Callahan reported the Bologna timber sale was originally proposed as a 120-acre harvest
24 with a final harvest area of 92 acres with conservation of 28 acres or 23% of the proposed
25 area. The timber unit is located in the Northwest Region. The geologist reviewed unstable
26 slopes and delineated the channel migration zone of the Pilchuck River. Two geologists
27 worked on the site and produced the report.

28
29 Dr. Brown noted that some of the public testimony disagreed with the proposed delineation of
30 the channel migration zone. Mr. Callahan affirmed some differences of opinion as well as in
31 a letter that claimed they delineated the channel migration zone and disagree with DNR's
32 delineation. Two licensed engineering geologists reviewed the delineation and determined
33 the channel migration zone in conjunction with the Tulalip Tribe's geologist in training. The
34 three professionals delineated the channel migration zone and agreed in the field as to the
35 location. A Forest Practices qualified expert reviewed and approved the application.

36
37 Mr. Cahill said that the comment regarded the salmon recovery projects and logjams and
38 although he is appreciative that the Tulalip Tribe's geologist in training was a member of the
39 review team, the letter was only recently received. He asked whether those logjam projects
40 mentioned in the letter were part of the analysis and potential impacts to channel migration
41 zones. Mr. Callahan advised of DNR's participation with the Tulalip Tribe on projects. The
42 SEPA for the timber sale included five acres of blow down that will be used by the Tulalip
43 Tribe within its logjam projects. The project footprint scoped for SEPA is contributing to the
44 logjam restoration project.

45
46 Chair Franz added that staff works closely with the Tulalip Tribe on the restoration of the

1 entire watershed including utilizing blow down trees and creating larger buffers.
2

3 Mr. Callahan described the categorization of the timber unit. The unit is on track to meet the
4 older forest target by 2070.
5

6 Dr. Brown said the Board receives many comments about the older forest target dates. Many
7 of the dates are different with respect to each region attaining the target. He questioned
8 whether the discussion reflects actual targets or outcomes of the HCP and asked staff to
9 comment on the work completed to date to clarify the HCP and internal guidance to achieve
10 the targets.
11

12 Mr. Emmons explained that the HCP speaks to an expected outcome of implementing the
13 HCP that would result in DNR achieving 10% to 15% of old forests through the life of the
14 agency HCP. Federal services provided a letter confirming that it is an expected outcome and
15 not a requirement of the HCP. The Board has defined structural complexity as botanically
16 diverse with more complex structures, such as maturation II as referenced in the Van Pelt
17 guide and by others. Older forests speak to the definition by the science team that developed
18 the old growth policy and definition (Dr. Jerry Franklin and others) of 1850 pre-European
19 settlement and pre-harvesting of significant amounts of material from forests. The science
20 team did not consider harvesting and regrowth as old growth; however, older forests are
21 difficult to discern that were logged in 1852 that have developed structure. The older forest
22 target is the goal for developing stands with old growth characteristics.
23

24 Cameron Crump, Forest Resources Division Manager, reported staff recently updated the
25 analysis by constraining the analysis to known conserved areas or 100% VRH variable
26 retention harvest deferred areas to provide a conservative estimate of when older forest targets
27 could be achieved and in areas that would be free from any future harvest.
28

29 Chair Franz recommended scheduling a presentation on the details of the analysis at a future
30 meeting.
31

32 Ms. Crump briefly reviewed how staff used remote sensing inventory and queried elements
33 that are generally indicative of more mature stand development stages. Staff queried all data
34 in conjunction with the GIS Lidar layer and identified locations of where older forest
35 structures were occurring on the landscape in conservation areas where older forests exist
36 versus structurally complex. When staff includes the date of meeting the expected amount of
37 old growth in any planning unit, the estimate is based on the recent analysis and is mapped
38 where the older forest structures are located.
39

40 Mr. Callahan noted that as staff evaluates proposed sale areas, foresters, engineers, and
41 specialists are identifying new proposed conservation areas, which are in addition to the
42 analysis updated by staff.
43

44 Chair Franz reported that an enormous amount of land was set-aside to meet the requirements
45 in the HCP and marbled murrelet. Additionally, other policy requirements exist for old
46 growth, riparian, and others that set more land aside for conservation on top of the amount

1 identified in the recent analysis.
2

3 Mr. Cahill recommended scheduling the briefing to the Board sooner rather than later, such as
4 the next meeting. He asked whether the new analysis is posted on the DNR website and
5 available for public review. Mr. Emmons said the information is included in all SEPA
6 documents. Staff is exploring other options for publicizing the information on the website.
7

8 Chair Franz emphasized how each timber sale has undergone a SEPA review with a
9 substantial amount of documentation that includes all the information for each specific timber
10 sale. However, staff can provide additional pages on the website containing the information.
11

12 Mr. Callahan reviewed the Ridge Ender timber sale located in the Northwest Region in
13 Snohomish County. The initial evaluation was for 220 acres with a final harvest of 146 acres
14 with 74 acres proposed for conservation or 34% of the proposal area. Considerations included
15 a qualified expert in the field for evaluation and reporting for mitigating for rural identified
16 landforms, and identification of a bald, a cave, and two cliffs protected from the harvest area
17 during the fieldwork for the sale. Experts completed mapping of the area as they evaluated
18 the proposal area. Within unit 4, staff noticed a different cohort in the middle of the unit, as
19 well as some remnants across the landscape. Staff conducted an extensive coring exercise to
20 pinpoint conditions and identified approximately two acres of an older cohort in the middle of
21 the unit, which has been protected with a non-tradeable leave tree area.
22

23 With no further questions from members, Mr. Callahan requested approval of the proposed
24 June timber sales.
25

26 Commissioner Janicki commented positively on the helpfulness of the fact sheets and
27 acknowledged the tremendous amount of work to develop fact sheets for each timber sale.
28

29 Dr. Brown conveyed similar sentiments and noted the additional information on timber sales
30 was very helpful as there have been many concerns surrounding the sales and the interaction
31 on specific questions by staff helped to inform the Board.
32

33 MOTION: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the June timber sales as presented.
34

35 MOTION: Dr. Brown seconded the motion.
36

37 Chair Franz thanked staff for their efforts as preparing the information requires time and
38 effort to prepare, as well as the framing of the information. Staff is sharing and explaining all
39 the details to develop a proposed timber sale while also presenting the information in a
40 presentable format helpful for the public and the Board.
41

42 ACTION: Motion carried unanimously.
43

44 Chair Franz recognized and honored Caleb Maki for his work as the Executive Secretary for
45 the Committee on Geographic Names. He committed to one year, which eventually became
46 18 years. It is a testament to his commitment and passion. The work by him and others on

1 the team have been noticeable and appreciated.

2
3 *Chair Franz departed the meeting at 11:02 a.m.*

4
5 **COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES - Action**

6 **Elizabeth Creek**

7 **Mary Pamela Falls**

8 **Prune Hill Creek**

9 **Wild Plum Creek**

10 **Caleb Maki, Staff to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names**

11 Mr. Maki reported the Committee on Geographic Names approved four names in April.

12
13 Prune Hill Creek is located in Clark County and is named as the creek flows from Prune Hill,
14 a name established in 1900 when Clark County was the prune capital of the world.

15
16 The proposed name of Elizabeth Creek for an unnamed creek to commemorates Elizabeth
17 Widel who authored a newspaper column exploring Okanogan beginning in 1957. She
18 authored over 3,000 weekly columns with geographic features often the subject of the
19 columns. The proposal received local community support with a petition of over 75
20 signatures submitted to the committee.

21
22 The naming proposal of Mary Pamela Falls for an unnamed creek commemorates Mary
23 Pamela Awad, who after learning about the "mystery falls," researched the remote location
24 and visited the feature with her family. Many years later, the family successfully made the
25 trip back to the falls and proposed the name in honor of their mother and her adventures and
26 exploration in the Pacific Northwest. The falls is located on DNR land within the Northwest
27 Region.

28
29 The proposed name of Wild Plum Creek is located in Stevens County and references the large
30 amount of wild plums growing along the creek. The proponents harvest the plums along the
31 creek each year.

32
33 Vice Chair Janicki asked whether the ownership of the creek by the U.S. Forest Service would
34 create any problems if renamed as Elizabeth Creek. Mr. Maki confirmed that the creek is
35 located on U.S. Forest Service land. The committee contacts all landowners and often the
36 committee does not receive comments. All names approved by the Board are forwarded to
37 the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, which includes a member from the U.S. Forest Service.
38 The committee did not receive any opposition of the proposed name from the Forest Service.

39
40 Dr. Brown asked about the extent of tribal consultation during the naming process. Mr. Maki
41 said all tribes are contacted. He works closely with DNR's Communications Department to
42 communicate with tribes. The two-step process of initial consideration and final
43 consideration includes outreach to all tribes.

44
45 Vice Chair Janicki observed the handwritten application that initiated the name of Elizabeth
46 Creek. She asked staff to describe how the public could initiate a naming process. Mr. Maki

1 said the application can be submitted at no charge. The community and the Board rely on the
2 public to initiate naming suggestions. The committee typically receives approximately 15
3 naming applications each year.
4

5 MOTION: Dr. Brown moved to approve the naming proposals of Elizabeth Creek, Mary
6 Pamela Falls, Prune Hill Creek, and Wild Plum Creek as presented.
7

8 MOTION: Dean Powers seconded the motion.
9

10 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.
11

12 **BNR RETREAT UPDATE**

13 **Brett Walker, Assistant Region Manager, Northeast Region.**

14 Mr. Walker briefed members on the upcoming Board meeting and tour of the Northeast
15 Region. The agenda includes several tours during the first day following the Board meeting
16 and a full day of tours in the Loomis area during the second day.
17

18 The tours will include the history of the Loomis Forest, Loomis Landscape Plan, shaded fuel
19 breaks, fuels reduction work, prescribed fires, and a review of challenges, successes, and
20 opportunities focusing on the Western gray squirrel, pre-commercial thinning (PCT)
21 treatments, and lynx habitat. The briefings will be in-depth as the region is on the cutting
22 edge of PCT and Lynx habitat work in conjunction with Washington State University. Staff
23 will review several programs involving silviculture, tree planting challenges, changing
24 climate, and potential failures caused by heat domes. Forest road issues will be reviewed as
25 well as tours of some campgrounds and the Loomis Natural Resource Conservation Area.
26 The region's law enforcement officer will brief members on issues.
27

28 Vice Chair Janicki indicated she is looking forward to the tours and acknowledged the time
29 required to coordinate the planning of tours for the Board.
30

31 **ADJOURNMENT**

32 Vice Chair Janicki adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.
33

Approved this 4th day of June, 2024

Absent
Hilary S. Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

Jim Cahill
Jim Cahill, Designee for Governor Jay Inslee

Approved via Webinar
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Lisa Janicki
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner, Skagit County

Wendy Powers
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
Tami Kellogg, Board Coordinator