
Minutes

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

January 5, 2016

Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

The Honorable Bill Peach, Commissioner, Clallam County

The Honorable Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction – *via conference call*

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

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

Ron C. Mittelhammer, Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences,

Washington State University – *via conference call*

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 Chair Goldmark called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

3
4 All Board members introduced themselves. Chair Goldmark noted there was a quorum for the
5 meeting with Dean Mittelhammer participating via phone.

6
7 Chair Goldmark welcomed Commissioner Peach to the Board.

8 9 SAFETY REVIEW

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

12 13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

14 Chair Goldmark called for approval of the minutes for the December 1, 2015 Regular Board of
15 Natural Resources Meeting.

16
17 MOTION: Director DeLuca moved to approve the minutes.

18
19 SECOND: Ms. Austin seconded the motion.

20
21 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

22 23 PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

1 Lee Levanen, citizen, spoke about his concerns with the BPA I-5 reinforcement. Mr. Levanen
2 asked the Board to consider his appeal.

3
4 Ann Forest Burns, Vice President of the American Forest Resource Council, spoke about her
5 concerns over the availability of timber from DNR managed lands. Ms. Burns urged the Board
6 to be mindful of the costs to forest health, to the beneficiaries dependent on the revenue from
7 trust lands, and to the businesses that depend on DNR timber.

8
9 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR TIMBER SALE ACTION ITEMS**

10 Steve Courtney, Timber Procurement Manager representing Interfor US, provided the Board
11 with a mid-year update on the FY 2016 timber sales program. Mr. Courtney stated his concerns
12 about the DNR not being able to provide the expected volume.

13
14 Wyatt Golding, with the Washington Forest Law Center, representing the Olympic Forest
15 Coalition, the Sierra Club, and Seattle Audubon, spoke about the Cougar Fire Salvage FIT
16 timber sale and urged the Board to disapprove the sale.

17
18 Matt Comisky, Washington Manager for AFRC, spoke about the Cougar Fire Salvage timber
19 sale and urged the Board to approve the sales.

20
21 Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, Chair of the Washington State School Directors' Association Trust Land
22 Task Force, spoke in favor of the salvage sales.

23
24 Superintendent Dorn joined via phone at 9:15 AM.

25
26 **TIMBER SALES (Action Item)**

27 **Proposed Timber Sales for January & February 2016 3 handouts, including the**
28 **presentation**

29 Darin Cramer, Product Sales & Leasing Division

30
31 The results of the December 2015 auction were presented to the Board by Mr. Cramer. The
32 Department offered 12 sales totaling 33.2 mmbf in December. All sales sold, totaling \$9.3
33 million for an average of \$279 per mbf.

34
35 Mr. Cramer remarked that bidder interest was slightly down, but remained good.

36
37 Mr. Cramer asked for questions regarding December 2015 results.

38
39 Director DeLuca asked for an update about volume for the fiscal year. Mr. Cramer noted that the
40 department was currently at 170 mmbf which is a bit behind schedule, but the plan is to catch up
41 by the end of the year.

42
43 Director DeLuca asked why the department was behind schedule. Mr. Cramer remarked that the
44 bad fire season kept people from their timber sale duties for months, and that there have been
45 some challenging sales to finalize.

1 Commissioner Peach asked where the department will be volume wise in 6 months. Mr. Cramer
2 said the department is still aiming for 520 mmbf and there is never an even flow of volume. The
3 department aims for a bell-shaped curve by attempting to sell more volume in the winter months
4 when log prices are typically higher. Commissioner Peach followed up by asking if the
5 department will be at 100% of their planned sales and if the department has the resources
6 necessary to do so. Mr. Cramer answered that the department has been hampered by a lack of
7 resources, but steps have been taken to ensure the resources will be able to complete the work.
8

9 Commissioner Peach also asked if the department has thought about aiming for more than 100%
10 of planned fiscal year volume. Mr. Cramer responded that although the department could do
11 that, they would prefer to have sales ready for the future and move forward in the schedule if a
12 planned sale has issues.
13

14 Proposed sales were then presented to the Board by Mr. Cramer.
15

16 Mr. Cramer specifically addressed the Cougar Fire Salvage FIT sale (there was public comment
17 regarding this sale). Mr. Cramer noted that the 900 acre sale was spread across 6 units and
18 would be retaining roughly 30% of the live trees on site, including 6 snags per acre and all trees
19 greater than 30 inches in diameter. Mr. Cramer also detailed the mitigation tools at the agency's
20 disposal to address environmental concerns such as erosion.
21

22 Mr. Cramer also addressed the use of FIT dollars for fire salvage by stating that the FIT program
23 allows the agency to utilize the contract harvesting program which provides the agency the
24 ability to hire a harvester and to oversee work. This is beneficial when special harvesting
25 requirements or sensitive areas are involved.
26

27 Mr. Cramer asked the Board for questions regarding the proposed timber sales.
28

29 Director DeLuca asked how the Cougar Fire Salvage sale would have differed if it were a "green
30 tree" sale (non-fire salvage). Mr. Cramer responded that a majority of eastern Washington sales
31 are uneven-aged management sales, and Cougar Fire Salvage is similar to those sales in that the
32 fire salvage will have more trees per acre left after harvest activities.
33

34 Director DeLuca asked if there was a "cap" on harvesting large trees from the Cougar Fire
35 Salvage sale, to which Mr. Cramer noted that the harvest prescription does not allow harvest of
36 trees larger than 30 inches in diameter.
37

38 Director DeLuca then asked when harvesting is scheduled and if operations will take place on
39 frozen soils. Mr. Cramer responded that harvesting will take place in early February on snow
40 and frozen soils. Mr. Cramer also remarked that seasonal restrictions in the contract will limit
41 potential impacts as well. Chair Goldmark noted that frozen soils tend to thaw by early spring.
42 Dean De Luca followed up by stating that harvesting on thawed ground can result in negative
43 impacts. Chair Goldmark added that snow quality (i.e. powdery or coarse) will also affect
44 harvest capabilities. Mr. Shay also noted that the contract term for the Cougar Fire Salvage
45 allows the agency to shut down operations until a time with more favorable weather/harvesting
46 conditions.
47

1 Director DeLuca asked about the revenue loss of the Carlton Fire Salvage as brought up in public
2 comments. Mr. Cramer answered that an element of the FIT program is that it is used on sales
3 that will break even with Capitol funds used to cover costs; Carlton Fire Salvage covered costs
4 while turning a small profit.
5

6 Director DeLuca also asked about post-harvest plans for the Cougar Fire Salvage area. Mr.
7 Cramer answered that the agency may take a wait-and-see approach since there is a 3-year
8 window for replanting based on forest practices rules. With more than 30% of the residual stand
9 remaining after harvest, there should be a good amount of natural regeneration with additional
10 planting done by the agency. Mr. Cramer also noted that new roads will be removed following
11 harvest operations.
12

13 Ms. Austin asked if science has been settled regarding harvest operations on frozen soils, to
14 which Mr. Cramer responded that it depends on management objectives. The agency always
15 plans on taking care during harvests to ensure future harvest can occur as well as provide habitat.
16

17 Ms. Austin asked if the Cougar Fire Salvage sale will be profitable. Mr. Cramer remarked the
18 sale is currently slated to be \$130,000 in the black after costs.
19

20 Commissioner Peach noted there are high logging costs associated with the Carlton Fire Salvage
21 project and that if one product were left on site the project would have been more profitable.
22

23 Commissioner Peach asked if the agency looks at costs and the leaving of low value products on
24 site prior to auction. Mr. Cramer remarked that these salvage sales are unplanned, but that all
25 costs are looked at prior to moving forward. Mr. Cramer noted that of the roughly 50,000 acres
26 of DNR land burned, only about 5,000 acres will be salvaged due to the overall costs of doing
27 more.
28

29 MOTION: Director DeLuca moved to approve the sales proposed in January 2016.
30

31 SECOND: Commissioner Peach seconded the motion.
32

33 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.
34

35 PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR LAND TRANSACTION ACTION ITEMS

36 Commissioner Bob Hamlin, representing Skamania County, spoke in support of the Skamania 3
37 State Forest Trust Land Transfer. Commissioner Hamlin thanked the Board and DNR staff for
38 the work on their behalf, and applauded the Board for keeping their county substantial and
39 sustainable.
40

41 Dean Mittelhammer had to leave the meeting at 9:48 AM.
42

43 Matt Comisky, Washington Manager for AFRC, asked the Board for a bigger picture look and an
44 analysis on these projects moving forward. Mr. Comisky expressed that this may be a long-term
45 planning issue.
46

47 LAND TRANSACTION (Action Items)

1 **Skamania 3 State Forest Trust Transfer, File No. 02-093010; Resolution 1476**

2 Julie Armbruster, Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions Division

3
4 Ms. Armbruster presented the State Forest Transfer Trust property located in Skamania County,
5 called Skamania 3. The State Forest Trust properties are transferred to Natural Resource
6 Conservation Area status due to federal Endangered Species Act encumbrances, timber value is
7 distributed as if harvested, and land value is held to buy replacement property. The footprint of
8 the property equals 89.96 acres, the land value is \$1500/ac, and the timber value is 2,934 mbf
9 with 25% going to the Forest Development Account and 75% going to Skamania County.

10
11 Ms. Armbruster asked the Board for approval of Resolution 1476.

12
13 MOTION: Director DeLuca moved to approve Resolution 1476.

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15 SECOND: Ms. Austin seconded the motion.

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17 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

18
19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR CHAIR REPORT**

20 Kevin Schmelzlen, with the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project, urged the Board to read the 2008
21 Science Report and requested that the Board invite the authors of the 2008 science team to
22 present their findings of the report to better understand the different alternatives.

23
24 **CHAIR REPORT**

25 Chair Goldmark presented to the Board a report of the 2015 fire season, providing general
26 statics.

27
28 **Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy Update**

29 Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

30
31 Mr. Blum provided an update to the Board on the progress of the marbled murrelet long-term
32 conservation strategy (MMLTCS). He stated that DNR and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are
33 currently working on an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the long-term conservation
34 strategy. He also informed the Board that the timeline for the project is stable.

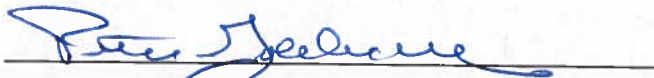
35
36 Mr. Blum's presentation provided more detail on areas of long-term forest cover (LTFC). He
37 stated that when you look at the maps that have been distributed, depending on the reason for
38 LTFC, we have more or less certainty about where it will be on the landscape. For example, we
39 have a lot of certainty where Natural Areas are on the landscape. Natural Areas have defined
40 boundaries and have been surveyed, and maps reflect exactly where it will be on the ground.
41 However, in some cases riparian areas and unstable slopes depicted by a model may require
42 updates from field verification.

43
44 Ms. Austin asked for more detail around the timeline. Mr. Blum stated that the project has been
45 working on finalizing the large data overlay for data outputs and working with contractors for
46 developing some sections of the EIS.

1 Meeting Adjourned 10:46 AM.

2

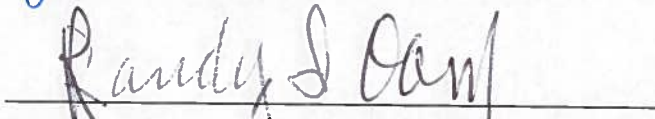
Approved this 2nd day of February, 2016



Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands



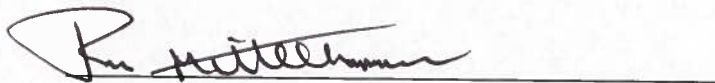
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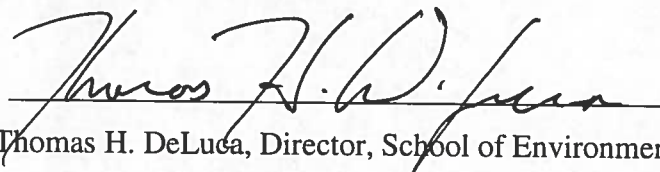
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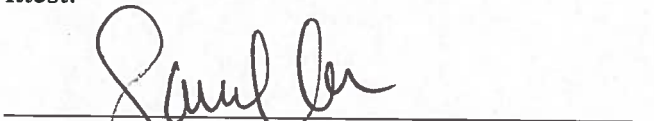


Ron Mittelhammer, Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences,
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Thomas H. DeLuca, Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences,
University of Washington

Attest:



Sarah Vansot, Board Coordinator

