

Port of Port Angeles

Port Angeles, Washington

Commissioner's Resolution No.

22-1251

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT OF PORT ANGELES COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE TIMBER HARVESTS AND REVENUES FROM DNR STATE TRUST LANDS

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages approximately 2.2 million acres of forested state trust lands for sustainable timber production to generate revenue for schools and other public services through a proven model that dates back to Washington's statehood when the federal government granted lands to provide ongoing revenue to support key public institutions; and

WHEREAS, DNR state trust lands are managed under a trust mandate that requires undivided loyalty to current and future generations of defined beneficiaries, rooted in both federal and state law, the Washington Constitution, and numerous federal and state court decisions, including the Washington Supreme Court's *Skamania vs. Washington* decision; and

WHEREAS, counties, local school districts, fire districts, ports, hospitals and other public entities rely on timber revenues from DNR's management of over 600,000 acres of state forest lands, which counties entrusted to the State of Washington to manage for their benefit after these once private lands reverted to public ownership following the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, in Clallam County, the following junior taxing districts receive revenues generated by DNR State Trust Lands:

- Fire District 1 - Forks Area;
- Fire District 2 - Port Angeles Area;
- Fire District 3 and EMS - Sequim Area;
- Fire District 4 - Joyce Area;
- Fire District 5 - Clallam Bay Area;
- Fire District 6 - Three Rivers Area;
- Port Angeles School District 121;
- Crescent School District 313;
- Sequim School District 323;
- Cape Flattery School District 401;
- Quillayute Valley School District 402;
- Clallam County Public Hospital Dist. 1 (dba Forks Community Hosp.);
- Clallam County Public Hospital Dist. 2 (dba Olympic Medical Center);
- Sequim/Dungeness Parks;
- Quillayute Valley Park and Recreation;
- William Shore Memorial Pool District;
- Clallam County Operating Fund, County Roads and Human Services;
- North Olympic Library;
- Veterans Relief;
- Camp David Jr;
- Tax Refund Fund; and
- Port of Port Angeles.

WHEREAS, sustainable timber harvests from DNR state trust lands

generate over \$200 million annually for trust beneficiaries and agency management costs while also providing opportunities for public access and recreation; and

WHEREAS, timber harvests from DNR state trust lands create year-round employment in communities across the state, contributing to over 105,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$4.9 billion in wages generated by Washington's forest products industry, which is the second largest lumber producer in the nation; and

WHEREAS, wood products are a renewable, climate-friendly building material that store carbon and require less energy and emissions to produce than other alternatives, Washington state provides an ideal climate for sustainably growing forests and producing wood products under some of the strictest environmental standards in the world, and wood products not produced in Washington state will be imported from countries across the globe to meet domestic demand, including those countries with inferior environmental standards; and

WHEREAS, half of DNR state trust lands in western Washington are no longer available for sustainable timber harvests under policies adopted by the Board of Natural Resources and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) agreement with the federal government, which was promised to provide certainty and predictability for beneficiaries related to the management of the remaining lands available for harvest; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Board of Natural Resources approved an amendment to the HCP relating to Marbled Murrelet conservation, which set aside additional state trust lands from timber harvests but also released thousands of acres for harvest that had been withheld from management pending the adoption of the amendment after years of delay; and

WHEREAS, the annual sustainable harvest level set by DNR for state trust lands in western Washington decreased from 550 million board feet in 2005, to 465 million board feet in 2019, and is forecasted to drop further to 419 million board feet in 2025 due to the implementation of the HCP, murrelet amendment, the removal of lands from trust status, and other Board of Natural Resources policy decisions, which will result in reduced revenues for trust land beneficiaries, lost jobs in the forest products sector, and less wood products produced in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Natural Resources and DNR are being pressured to permanently end timber harvests on some or all of the remaining state trust lands available for harvest -- including areas released for harvest under the murrelet amendment -- with no basis in law, policy, science, or consideration of the impacts to the environment or carbon emissions of importing wood products from across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Natural Resources oversees policy and trust management duties performed by DNR, includes representatives of the beneficiaries of state trust lands -- including counties, universities, and K-12 public schools -- as well as the Commissioner of Public Lands and a representative of the Governor, and can provide DNR guidance about the

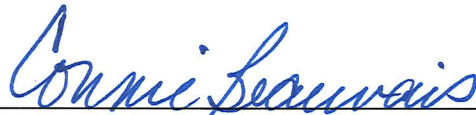
importance of not further reducing sustainable timber harvests from state trust lands consistent with past promises of certainty and stability from the HCP and murrelet amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PORT OF PORT ANGELES COMMISSION:

Does hereby express its support for maintaining and increasing the DNR state trust lands available for timber harvests, beneficiary revenue generation, and the production of climate-friendly wood products, well-managed, healthy forests resilient to forest fire, disease, and climate change; is further resolved in its opposition to further voluntary removals of acres from management, which only further undermines the certainty and stability assured by DNR and the Board of Natural Resources under the HCP and murrelet amendment; and copies of this resolution be provided to the members of the Board of Natural Resources, the Governor of the State of Washington, the Clallam County Commission, and its delegates in the Washington State Legislature.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of MARCH 2022.

PORT OF PORT ANGELES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Connie L. Beauvais, President



Colleen M. McAleer, Vice President



Steven Burke, Secretary

Supporting Documentation for Resolution 22-1251

A Resolution of the Port of Port Angeles Commission in support of maintaining sustainable timber harvests and revenues from DNR State Trust Lands

The annual sustainable harvest level set by DNR for state trust lands in western Washington decreased:

1. ... from 550 million board feet in 2005 to 465 million board feet in 2019
2. ... and is forecasted to drop further to 419 million board feet in 2025

Source Data

- a) Board of Natural Resources Resolution 1134 establishing the Sustainable Harvest Calculation volume for 2005-2014 planning decade at 597 million board feet
- b) Board of Natural Resources Resolution 1239 adjusting the Sustainable Harvest Calculation volume for 2005-2014 planning decade from 597 million board feet to 550 million board feet
- c) 2019 Final Environmental Impact Statement, Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level, Appendix G
 - i. The decadal harvest for 2015-24 is 4,654 MMBF, therefore the average annual harvest during the 10-year period is 465 MMBF
 - ii. The decadal harvest for 2025-34 is 4,194 MMBF, therefore the average annual harvest during that 10-year period is 419 MMBF

Table G.13. Alternative 6 Annual Decadal Harvest Level, Including Arrearage Volume in Decade 1, in Millions of Board Feet (MMBF) for Decades 1 Through 10

Sustainable harvest unit	2015-24 2025-34		Decade							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Capitol	529	402	342	291	258	297	342	393	452	520
Clallam	210	157	133	113	106	122	141	162	138	117
Clark	48	55	51	59	68	78	90	104	95	81
Cowlitz	23	21	24	27	31	36	41	40	34	39
Federal	1,876	1,867	1,587	1,349	1,194	1,373	1,579	1,816	2,088	2,126
Grays Harbor	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Jefferson	65	55	47	40	36	41	48	55	49	41
King	80	63	54	46	39	45	50	52	60	69
Kitsap	12	14	16	18	21	20	23	19	22	25
Lewis	191	162	138	117	100	107	123	141	162	187
Mason	95	81	69	58	61	70	81	93	93	107
OESF	739	619	712	606	515	438	503	579	656	558
Pacific	41	31	30	26	30	34	40	45	52	60
Pierce	29	33	38	35	29	25	29	31	29	33
Skagit	259	250	213	181	161	185	213	245	225	258
Skamania	101	94	80	68	58	54	62	71	81	71
Snohomish	203	172	146	124	132	151	174	181	178	205
Thurston	23	20	17	19	16	19	22	22	26	29
Wahkiakum	59	36	30	26	22	25	29	33	37	42
Whatcom	67	57	48	49	56	64	74	84	72	61
Total	4,654	4,194	3,779	3,254	2,936	3,187	3,663	4,168	4,550	4,631

Values may not sum to decadal harvest levels due to rounding.