

WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384
360-778-5901 Fax



Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Forestry Advisory Committee **Meeting**

LOCATION

**Hybrid Meeting: Zoom (details below) and
Northwest Annex Conference Room
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226**

Date: May 7, 2023

Time: 4:00-6:00 P.M. Pacific Time PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Whatcom County PDS is inviting you to a scheduled in person or Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87106867064?pwd=b0NLTIZnTTZqOHBGQk1mY2FQbWFkQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0686 7064

Passcode: 722152

One tap mobile

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+12532158782,,87106867064#,,,,*722152# US (Tacoma)



Forestry Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

May 7, 2024

4:00-6:00 P.M.

1. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
2. Agenda Review & Approval
3. Approval of 4/2/24 meeting summary
4. Open Public Session
5. Guest Speaker(s)
 - Chris Hankey, Baker District Manager, "Planned Timber Sales for Fiscal Year 2025"
6. Administration
 - ACTION ITEM: Consider making recommendation to vacate/fill Harvester position
7. Reports (20 minutes)
 - DNR/BNR (McDonald)
 - FPB (Gold)
 - Legislative Update (Dawson)
 - Forest Resilience Task Force (McDonald/Petroske)
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - Review of 3rd section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile (Aubrey Stargell, 30 minutes)
10. Announcements
 - National Park Service's decision on grizzly reintroduction to Cascade National Park. Press release here: <https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/agencies-announce-decision-to-restore-grizzly-bears-to-north-cascades.htm>
11. Adjournment

Attachments:

- Draft 4/2/24 meeting summary
- DNR 2024 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the meetings are asked to contact us at least 96 hours in advance. The staff contact at Whatcom County Planning and Development Services is Cliff Strong, cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us, 360-778-5942.

Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)
DRAFT Meeting Summary
April 2, 2024

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Start Time: | 4:00 p.m. |
| Location: | Northwest Annex Central Conference Room/Zoom |

| Attendees – Members | Affiliation | Present | Absent (Excused?) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| David New | Small forest landowner | | √ (Y) |
| Holly Koon | Small forest landowner | √ | |
| John Gold | Commercial forest landowner | √ | |
| David Janicki | Commercial forest landowner | √ | |
| Matt McGee | Harvester | | √ (Y) |
| Quentin Dills | Harvester | | √ (N) |
| Jed Dawson | Citizen w/ forestry expertise | | √ (Y) |
| Tracy Petroske | Citizen w/ forestry expertise | √ | |
| Aubrey Stargell | Forest product manufacturer | √ | |
| Susan David | Forest product manufacturer | √ | |
| Cory McDonald | DNR | | √ (Y) |
| Quorum Present | | | |
| Electeds | | | |
| Staff | | | |
| Cliff Strong | W/C PDS | √ | |
| Chris Elder | W/C PW | √ | |
| Public | | | |
| Alex Harris | ReSources | √ | |
| Alan Chapman | AAC | √ | |
| Jessica Espy | | √ | |

Meeting Summary

Chair Gold opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Agenda Review & Approval

The agenda was approved with Chair Gold adding a discussion of attendance, and Vice-Chair David adding a discussion of forming a CompPlan subcommittee.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting summary of 3/5/24 was approved.

Open Public Session

Alex Harris introduced himself. Josh Kursky, the new Whatcom Conservation District Forestry Stewardship Specialist, introduced himself. Josh’s contact info is jkursky@whatcomcd.org or 360.526.2381 x124.

Administration

N/A

Guest Speaker(s)

Dan Rankin, Mayor of Darrington, and Taylor Luneau, the Wilderness Society, spoke about the [Darrington Collaborative](#), an organization set up in 2015 to help implement the Northwest Forest Plan on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. It is comprised of diverse stakeholders including forestry industry and conservation representatives. Their goal is to help the USFS achieve its goals under the NWFP, specifically increasing acres treated with ecologically sustainable timber harvests, creating rural jobs, and restoring the health of forests and watersheds. The Collaborative also has youth education goals as part of its mission. The Collaborative helps develop and fund projects in the MBSNF to promote these objectives. They have started small, and have had to build a lot of trust amongst themselves and the USFS staff, but have shown to be successful and are being asked to expand the geographic range of their projects, including into Whatcom County. So they are looking to expand their Board from the current 8 members to 12 and are looking for likely candidates from Whatcom County.

Dan's contact info is dan.rankin@darringtonwa.us or 360.436.1131 or 425.210.6572 and Taylor's is taylor_luneau@tws.org or 802.274.0864 (cell) or 206.705.7696 (office).

Subcommittee Reports

Forest Practice Board Update

Chair Gold reported that the FPB received a petition for rulemaking regarding the Western Grey Squirrel, and decided to create an advisory committee. Petitioners have initiated litigation against WDNR for the failure to designate critical habitat. This doesn't directly affect Whatcom County, as the squirrel is located more to the southwest of Washington, but it may have ramifications on how rulemaking is done in the future. WDNR anticipates that Water Typing (Type F) rulemaking will come before the FPB (CR-102) in August, 2024, and for final decision in November or February, 2025. WDNR anticipates that Type Np buffer rulemaking (one alternative) will come before the FPB (CR-102) in November, 2024, if a SEPA Determination of Non-significance is signed in October; otherwise an EIS will be required, adding 12-24 months to the process. The public comment period will likely be October-November. Draft rule language was released February 14 for each.

Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee

Will talk about under New Business.

Legislative Update

John Gold provided an update on the capital budget: \$15M for the Deep Woods acquisition; \$10M to DNR for burn area restoration; \$11M for 9 trust land transfers; \$25M for the Quinault transfer; \$10M for wildfire mitigation; and \$5.8M to two community forests. If the Climate Commitment Act is repealed by voters this fall, all but the \$10M to DNR for burn area restoration is in jeopardy.

Forest Resilience Task Force

Tracy reported that it hasn't met yet. In process of hiring a facilitator. Looks like May or June before they meet. Chris Elder reported that they received two proposals, interviewed them and chose one, and a contract will be taken to Council soon.

Stewart Mountain Community Forest

Chris Elder provided a brief update. Received an "almost final" grant agreement from the Department of Ecology for the streamflow restoration grant, hoping to get it to Council in April/May. Will also provide Council with a project update at that time. The core planning teams have been discussing ownership and governance framework. Whatcom Land Trust is working on the roads and land inventories.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Review of 2nd section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile

Susan David reviewed her draft portion of the Whatcom Forestry Profile regarding the timber industry in Whatcom County. It was well received by the FAC, though some suggestions for additional information were proffered. She will continue to work on it, addressing the suggestions, and bring it back later in the year. Aubrey is up next month to present his section.

Comprehensive Plan Review

Vice-Chair Gold inquired as to whether anyone wanted to be on a CompPlan Review subcommittee. Holly Koon volunteered so long as there wasn't any independent writing required. Cliff Strong suggested that there shouldn't be, that the committee would be tasked with suggesting specific policy edits/additions and helping him extend the background info up to present date. Susan will set up a meeting via email.

Attendance

Chair Gold raised the issue that there are members of the FAC who haven't been participating fully, missing several meetings. The FAC agreed that participation is important, and that if they can't keep that commitment should be replaced. John said he would try to contact any members who might be affected and discuss it further at the next meeting.

Announcements

Susan re-announced the Woods Tour coming up on Friday June 7th and that all spots are taken already. Interested parties should still sign up for the tour as there is good potential that people will be taken off the waitlist.

Adjournment

Chair Gold adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM. Next meeting is on May 7, 2024, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



SUCCESSFUL DNR BILLS

HIGHLIGHTS

***THANK YOU TO
DNR STAFF AND
AGENCY PARTNERS
WHO WORKED
HARD TO MAKE
THE 2024 SESSION
SUCCESSFUL.***

CONTACT

Brian Considine

Legislative Director

Cell: (360) 764-0013

Brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov

Olgy Diaz

Deputy Legislative Director

Cell: (360) 918-3555

Olgy.diaz@dnr.wa.gov



www.dnr.wa.gov/about/legislative

HB 2091 | **Fallen Firefighter Memorial**

The bill establishes a fallen firefighter memorial on the Capitol Campus in Olympia to honor, commemorate, and remember the lives lost in the line of duty. The Capital Budget provided \$371,000 for DNR to work with the State Capital Committee, Department of Enterprise Services, and several nonprofit and firefighter groups on the design, establishment, and maintenance of the memorial.

HB 2003 | **Leasehold Excise Tax Exemption**

The bill created an exemption to the leasehold excise tax for qualified affordable housing built on public lands. The exemption applies when the lessee commits to renting or leasing 100 percent of the housing units to low- and moderate-income households and the lease term is at least 20 years. The bill also makes affordable housing for low-income households a priority for DNR and any lessee when receiving this exemption.

HB 2165 | **Recreational Use Fees**

The bill gives DNR the authority to charge fees for use of the property without losing their recreational immunity, in the same way that current law applies to other public agencies like the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Any fee structure would go through the rulemaking process that includes public review and receive approval by the Board of Natural Resources.



**3 Agency Request
Bills Passed the
Legislature**



**\$44.7M in new
operating budget
investments**



**\$67.6M in new
capital budget
investments**



**\$72.6M in new
Climate
Commitment Act
Investments**

TOP LINE BUDGET ITEM



Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience (HB 1168) Funding

The Legislature provided transfer of \$19M of GF-S funding for HB 1168 resilience work, and an additional \$10 million of Climate Commitment Act funding for forest health treatments. This provides full funding to DNR allowing the agency to continue the critical forest health and wildfire resilience work for the 2024, and into 2025 wildfire seasons.

TOP BUDGET SUCCESSES



Wildfire Reforestation and Grants

\$10 million from Climate Commitment Act (CCA)

\$7.5 million of the funding is for post-wildfire reforestation of forestlands managed by DNR with expenditures for the benefit of state trust lands. \$2.5 million of the funding is for DNR to administer grants for post-wildfire reforestation on lands owned by tribes, nonprofit organizations, industrial and nonindustrial private forest landowners, local governments, and other state agencies.

Trust Land Transfer

\$10.8 million from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Funding for nine parcels to continue trust land transfers of economically under-performing state lands to other purposes and acquire replacement properties for the trust and trust beneficiaries.

Encumbered Lands

\$15 million from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Funding for DNR to acquire working forestlands for increased carbon sequestration and carbon storage through sustainable timber harvests. The Legislature intends that the lands serve as replacement lands for designated conservation and existing encumbered state forestlands.

Quinault Forest Legacy Acquisition

\$25 million from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Pass through funding to help the Quinault Tribe acquire over 11,000 acres of privately owned forestlands within the boundaries of the Quinault Reservation to manage lands by balancing cultural and economic benefits, while also addressing climate change.

Recreational Target Shooting

\$1.32 million from General Fund-State (GF-S) & Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA)

\$900,000 in State Building Construction Act (SBCA) & Firearms Range Act (FRA)

Funding to address the increasing public safety and environmental hazard challenges from recreational target shooting on DNR-managed public lands. Capital funding will allow DNR to launch two pilot programs—NE Region and Olympic Region—to address immediate concerns in these communities. Pilot sites will provide a blueprint to utilize operation funding for an outreach and designation process for other, more densely populated areas of the state, where target shooting management is highly needed.

Kelp & Eelgrass

\$593,000 from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Funding for DNR to conduct remote sensing, stressor studies, and imagery and survey work of kelp forests and eelgrass meadows pursuant to the state health and conservation plan in RCW 79.135.440.

YMCA Camp Colman

\$3.7 million from State Building Construction Act (SBCA)

Pass through funding to help YMCA mitigate disruptions after DNR's removes a tidal gate at Whiteman Cove and return the area to an estuary. This important change will impact the Camp's infrastructure, facilities, and programming. However, there is an opportunity for the Camp to showcase this new estuary as a centerpiece of their environmental learning program with an emphasis on underserved youth.



2024 DNR Related Bills

- Geothermal Energy Resources (SB 6039)
- Forestland Compensating Tax (HB 1818)
- Forest Riparian Easements (SB 5667)
- Wildland Urban Interface (SB 6120)
- Agriculture & Forestry Biomass (SB 6121)
- Solid Waste Dumping (HB 2207)