



Resolution No. 504

A resolution regarding sustainable timber harvests from  
DNR Trust Lands

WHEREAS, The City of Forks (City) has vigorously advocated that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a duty to manage its approximately 2.2 million acres of forested trust lands in such a manner as to ensure sustainable timber harvests that produce revenue for the beneficiaries, which include schools, counties, ports, libraries, hospitals, fire departments, park and recreation districts, as well as the state;

WHEREAS, the City has supported, and helped litigate, the position that DNR has a duty to manage the state's forested trust lands under a trust mandate that requires DNR's undivided loyalty to the current and future generations of beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the DNR's trust obligations and duties arise from the federal Enabling Act, the Washington State Constitution, subsequent federal and state laws, and numerous federal and state court decisions (e.g., *Skamania v. Washington*);

WHEREAS, DNR's management of the state's forested trust lands annually generates over \$200 million in gross revenue that provides money to the beneficiaries, and pays for DNR's management costs, while providing public access to, and recreational opportunities in, the great outdoors;

WHEREAS, the harvest of timber from DNR managed state forested trust lands is a significant economic contributor of year-round employment that creates within the state 100,000 direct and indirect jobs with a combined annual payroll of ~\$4.9 billion, primarily in the State's rural communities;

WHEREAS, sustainable timber harvests create wood products that are renewable, climate-friendly carbon storing products that require less energy and produce less carbon emissions than other alternatives such as steel, concrete, and glass;

WHEREAS, our state's forest products industry is one of the largest lumber producing sectors in the nation operating from the harvest of sustainably managed forests under some of the most stringent environmental standards in the world;

WHEREAS, DNR entered into a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with the federal government to address the federally mandated needs of federally protected species resulting in half of the state's forested trust lands being deferred from sustainable timber harvests;

WHEREAS, DNR and the Board of Natural Resources, acting on behalf of the state, adopted policies and supplemental environmental conservation efforts such as the 2019 Long Term Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy (murrelet strategy) that also changed the availability of lands for sustainable timber management and harvests;

WHEREAS, while adopting the HCP and the murrelet strategy, the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Board of Natural Resources, and the DNR repeatedly assured the beneficiaries, timber purchasers, and the community as a whole that such actions, agreements, policies, and strategies would provide certainty and predictability for the management, sale, harvest, and revenue associated with the remaining half of the state forested trust lands;

WHEREAS, DNR manages the state's forested timber lands in western Washington in accordance with a statutorily mandated decadal sustainable harvest calculation that has continually dropped both in total volume each decade, as well as in annual harvest during the current decade, resulting in very measurable financial impacts upon the beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, within the forested lands managed by DNR, there are over 600,000 acres of 'state forest lands,' commonly called 'county trust lands,' which the counties obtained from private timber land owners defaulting on their taxes during the 1930s that were then entrusted to the State of Washington to be managed for the benefit of local beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the local beneficiaries, commonly called 'junior taxing districts,' rely upon the revenue generated by DNR's management of state forest lands within their political subdivision's jurisdictional boundaries;

WHEREAS, within the City of Forks, these junior taxing districts include essential public services necessary for, and relied upon by, the community to include:

- Clallam County Operating Fund, Roads, and Human Services;
- Port of Port Angeles;
- North Olympic Library;
- Quillayute Valley School District 402;
- Clallam County Public Hospital District No. 1 ('Forks Community Hospital');
- Fire District No. 1;
- Quillayute Valley Park and Recreation District; and,
- County Veterans Relief.

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Board of Natural Resources, and the DNR are being pressured to undertake additional conservation measures beyond those associated with the state's HCP obligations for purely political reasons with no basis in law, policy, science, or consideration of the full extent of such additional conservation measures;

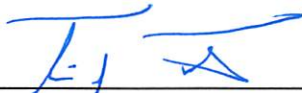
WHEREAS, these political demands for additional conservation efforts clearly seek to mitigate the massive, detrimental, and sustained carbon emissions caused by the unprecedented half-century of economic growth in Washington's urban centers upon the backs of rural and state managed forested trust lands;

WHEREAS, the Board of Natural Resources determines and oversees the policies by which the DNR is to manage the state's forested trust lands, and can be the voice by which the past promises of certainty and predictability are assured by directing the Commissioner of Public Lands and the DNR to make no further reductions in the state's sustainable timber harvests and the post-2019 murrelet strategy operable acres of state forested trust lands;

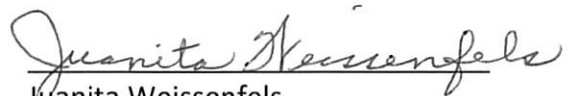
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORKS THAT THE CITY DOES:

1. Support maintaining and increasing the acres of DNR managed state forested trust lands;
2. Support these available lands being utilized for sustainable timber harvests that create revenue for the current and future generations of beneficiaries;
3. Support DNR being required to fulfill its decadal harvest calculation obligations thereby ensuring the continuation of the second largest lumber and forest products sector in the nation;
4. Support DNR's active, sustainable, environmentally conscious management of the state's forested trust lands to ensure healthy, fire and disease resistant forests;
5. Oppose proposals that politically remove additional acres from DNR's active management, undermining not only the promises of certainty and predictability of essential revenue, but the very revenue itself;
6. Oppose proposals that utilize rural Washington as the "mitigation bank" for the unchecked growth, physical and economic expansion of the state's urban core resulting in urban sprawl, traffic-snarled roadways, and detrimental expansion resulting in continual massive carbon emissions.
7. Authorize the Mayor and staff to continue existing efforts and support new efforts that would help address the issues noted above.
8. Request that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Board of Natural Resources and members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2022




Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Juanita Weissenfels



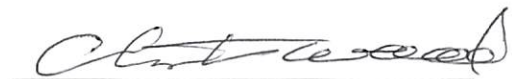
Joe Soha



Mike Gilstrap




Jeff Gingell



Clint Wood

Authenticated and Attested to:



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to Form:



William R. Fleck, Attorney/Planner