



February 17th, 2026

Sent by electronic mail to Smart Comment and to cpl@dnr.wa.gov

Dave Upthegrove, Chair
Board of Natural Resources
Commissioner of Public Lands
Olympia, WA

Cc/ Board of Natural Resources
Kate Brouns, Climate and Energy Policy Advisor to Governor Ferguson

RE: Request for suspension of high-climate-impact timber sales pending compliance with Appeals Court decision

Dear Commissioner Upthegrove and Members of the Board of Natural Resources:

By now you have no doubt been notified about the Division One Court of Appeals opinion in our favor with respect to the Wishbone timber sale and requirements to consider climate smart alternatives in the context of SEPA review of timber sales. The Court disagreed with us on climate impacts analysis, but the finding on alternatives is important. For your convenience, the published opinion is attached.

There are now three court decisions that have affirmed DNR's duty to consider alternatives to reduce climate impacts during State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review of logging proposals. To obviate the need for further litigation, we are writing to request a suspension of any further work on several high-climate-impact timber sales we have flagged via SEPA comments over the past few months in order to work out a rational system for complying with the three court decisions. The list of sales include:

Sale Name	Region	Volume (mbf)	Acres	Age of older trees
Fishhook	Olympic	6,423	240	95 - 141
Maple Grounds	Olympic	8,821	510	84 - 97
Ghost	S. Puget Sound	6,841	142	86 - 106
Lost Glove	S. Puget Sound	4,560	155	86 - 106
Snowflake	Pacific Cascade	9,785	217	62 - 66
Synergize	Pacific Cascade	4,111	86	80 - 94
Chai	S. Puget Sound	7,046	183	96 - 141
Bayou Stomp	S. Puget Sound	4,359	155	86 - 106
Only Ferns	Pacific Cascade	9,486	251	82 - 87
Corn Chowder	S. Puget Sound	1,530	81	86 - 96
Oh Well	Olympic	1,318	71	93 - 129

In each case, these timber sales propose logging in mature, naturally regenerated 'legacy' forests and construction of new logging roads without any consideration of alternatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, loss of carbon sequestration capacity, or loss of climate resiliency.

We are confident that working together, we can take this matter out of the courts and come up with a streamlined way of keeping track of climate impacts and evaluating climate smart alternatives in a manner consistent with SEPA. As we have consistently requested, and as the Appeals Court has affirmed, DNR must consider ways to reduce climate impacts through mitigation measures and alternative sale designs, such as those that remove legacy forest components as forest carbon reserves, limit logging to variable density thinning in plantations, build no new roads, and allow third parties or DNR to earn carbon revenues under both avoided deforestation and improved forest management standards. In exchange for suspending these sales, CSE will agree not to file any additional litigation on this issue while good faith negotiations are taking place.

Please let us know as soon as possible when a team from CSE and its partners can meet with you to discuss the best way to move forward. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to engage constructively with us to ensure that a rigorous analysis of climate change impacts and consideration of ways to reduce those impacts become standard operating procedures at DNR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Talberth", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

John Talberth, Ph.D.
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