

Resolution Supporting the Adoption of a Compensatory Mitigation Program to Ensure No Net Loss of Carbon Sequestration Capacity on Washington Forestlands

WHEREAS forestlands in Washington State are being lost to development, transportation, agriculture and infrastructure at a rate of over 30,000 acres per year.¹

WHEREAS this loss results in a steady reduction of the state's carbon sequestration capacity, timber production, and other ecosystem services worth at least \$481 per acre per year.²

WHEREAS the national compensatory wetlands mitigation program administered by the Army Corps of Engineers provides a model that can be applied to forestlands to meet the goal of no net loss.³

WHEREAS such a program can be implemented in a manner to ensure that carbon sequestration capacity of Washington forestlands remains constant or increases over time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we call on Washington state legislators to pass legislation directing the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to design and implement a No-Net-Loss of forestlands compensatory mitigation program that (a) requires applicants for forestland conversion to permanently protect or restore a functionally equivalent amount of forestlands to replace the carbon sequestration capacity of lands proposed for conversion; (b) permits in lieu payments to forest mitigation banks to achieve the same purpose, (c) authorizes the establishment and certification of forest mitigation banks, (d) permits DNR to function as a forest mitigation bank and accept in lieu payments in exchange for permanently protecting state forestlands from logging and road building, and (e) authorizes DNR to allocate revenues earned from in lieu payments to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for any reduction in revenues that result from such protection.

¹ https://dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/rp_conversion_risk_report.pdf.

² https://dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/em_trustassessment_nonmarket.pdf.

³ <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/background-about-compensatory-mitigation-requirements-under-cwa-section-404>.

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Organizational endorsements

- Center for Sustainable Economy, Port Townsend
- This Land, Portland
- 350 Seattle, Seattle
- (Your organization will appear here)

Please send requests to be added to info@sustainable-economy.org, with “Endorsing No Net Loss” in subject line. Please provide organizational name, address, phone, website and point of contact.