

Resolution Supporting the Repeal of Statutory Drivers of Deforestation on State Trust Forestlands

WHEREAS multiple provisions of law facilitate logging activities on state forestlands that are economically inefficient, harm vulnerable communities, accelerate climate change and drive deforestation by converting structurally complex older forests to tree plantations or logging roads.¹

WHEREAS these include a provision exempting Department of Natural Resources (DNR) logging decisions from requirements of the HEAL Act - Washington's signature law promoting environmental justice,² despite the fact that floods³, wildfires⁴, heat waves⁵ and other adverse impacts from deforestation fall disproportionately on BIPOC and low-income communities.

WHEREAS these include a provision exempting Board of Natural Resources (BNR) logging decisions from the Administrative Procedures Act⁶, which ensures that agency decisions are not unconstitutional, outside agency authority, unlawful, in violation of agency procedures, based on erroneous interpretation of law, unsupported by evidence, arbitrary or capricious.⁷

WHEREAS these include a provision requiring DNR to financially compensate timber interests for allocation of forestlands to recreation, hunting, fishing, maintenance of wildlife habitat, maintenance of scenery, protection of public watersheds and other non-timber uses despite the fact that these alternative uses are more valuable to Washington's economy than state timber sales.⁸

¹ Sustainable Harvest Calculation FEIS at 3-7: https://dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/amp_sepa_nonpro_shc_feis_ch3.pdf.

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.02.060>.

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143622821001089>.

⁴ <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adh4615>.

⁵ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212095522003108>.

⁶ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05.010>.

⁷ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=34.05.570>.

⁸ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=79.10.120>.

WHEREAS these include House Bill 2528 and a companion bill, Senate Bill 6355, which declare that all wood products are climate solutions⁹ and allow DNR to assert that logging naturally generated 100+ year old structurally complex older forests is an example of climate smart forestry when in fact such practices maximize climate harms.¹⁰

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we call on Washington state legislators to pass legislation that repeals: (a) RCW 70A.02.060(9), thereby removing DNR's exemption for environmental justice assessment requirements all other agencies have to follow; (b) RCW 34.05.010(3)(c), removing the timber sale leasing exemption from the Administrative Procedures Act; (c) RCW 79.10.120, final paragraph, removing financial penalties for allocating state forestlands to non-timber uses, and (d) RCW 70A.45.090 and .100, which declare that wood products and logging roads are part of Washington's climate agenda and should be promoted as such by state agencies.

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Organizational endorsements

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Please send requests to be added to info@sustainable-economy.org, with “Endorsing Repeal of Deforestation Drivers” in subject line. Please provide organizational name, address, phone, website and point of contact.

⁹ <https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/deep-cut/>.

¹⁰ Tuckered Out timber sale environmental checklist at B-5: https://dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/amp_sepa_sps_2424196tuckerred_check.pdf.