



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of State Lands

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The State Land Board met in special session on July 22, 2011, at the North Bend Public Library, 1800 Sherman Avenue, North Bend Oregon.

State Land Board

Present were:

John A. Kitzhaber, MD

Governor

John A Kitzhaber, M.D.

Governor

Kate Brown

Secretary of State

Kate Brown

Ted Wheeler

State Treasurer

Secretary of State

Land Board Assistants

Richard Whitman

Governor's Office

Ted Wheeler

Barry Pack

Secretary of State's Office

State Treasurer

Michael Selvaggio

State Treasurer's Office

Staff

Louise Solliday

Jim Paul

Julie Curtis

Lorna Stafford

Governor Kitzhaber called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The topics discussed and the results of those discussions are listed below. Further details of the discussions may be obtained in the transcript of the meeting available at the Department of State Lands, 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100, Salem, Oregon 97301-1279 or by calling 503-986-5224.

Director Solliday recognized State Representative Arnie Roblan and Coos County Commissioner Bob Main, who attended the meeting.

Action Agenda

1. Request for approval to initiate rulemaking to amend the rules for the granting of easements on Trust and Non-Trust lands.

Director Solliday noted that rulemaking was needed in order to comply with SB 600, which was enacted during the 2011 legislative session. She said the rulemaking will include the rules for granting easements; as well as the waterway leasing rules (Division 122), which are already open for rulemaking; and the removal-fill rules, which do not require Land Board approval. Public hearings and request for public comment will be held after the first of the year. A rules advisory committee will be established and draft rules prepared before the end of the year.

Treasurer Wheeler moved to approve the initiation of rulemaking. Secretary Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Informational Agenda & Public Comment

2. Presentation by the Oregon Department of Forestry on the Draft Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Forest.

Jim Young, Coos District Forester provided the Board with information on the Draft Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Forest. His presentation included a comparison between the draft plan and current forest management under the 1995 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

Treasurer Wheeler asked what the advantage was of moving to a structural-based habitat definition from an age-based definition.

Mr. Young explained that forest structure was more appropriate in determining suitable habitat for threatened or endangered species rather than by the age of the trees.

Treasurer Wheeler asked if the Annual Net Revenue was derived completely from timber sales or if there were other factors involved.

Mr. Young responded that it was solely from timber sales.

Treasurer Wheeler asked for the list of assumptions that were used in establishing the projected Annual Net Revenue.

Mr. Young said he would provide that information to the Board.

Treasurer Wheeler asked what the advantage was of using a horizontal slope measurement versus direct slope in aquatic and riparian protections.

Mr. Young replied that the result would be a wider buffer to the stream, which provides for more tree retention.

Treasurer Wheeler asked staff to send him the formal definitions for "reserve areas" and "conservation areas" with an explanation of the differences between the two.

Secretary Brown asked Mr. Young to describe the major differences between the draft plan and the current plan from an environmental perspective.

Mr. Young explained that the change from an age-based to a structural-based habitat definition is one major difference. In addition, the 1995 plan had long rotation basins, while the draft plan uses conservation areas, which will open up more of the forest for harvest. He added that conservation areas, particularly for murrelets, are expected to increase.

Governor Kitzhaber asked if there were any areas in the forest that will be set aside.

Mr. Young said that the conservation areas will not be harvested as long as there are listed species known to be present in those areas. In addition, riparian areas and old growth will not be harvested.

After the presentation, the meeting was opened up to public comment. Eleven people provided input to the Board: Eric Farm, National Forest Products Corporation; Tim Slater, Executive Director, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Bob Main, Chair, Coos County Board of Commissioners; James Neilson, Policy and Legislative Chair, Coos Chapter – Oregon Society of American Foresters; Tim Swenson, citizen; Emmalyn Garrett, citizen; Jonathan Batchelor, Portland State University Student Coalition; Shannon Wilson, Eco Advocates NW; Katie Weidman, citizen; Philip McKay, citizen; and Grace Warner, citizen.

Based on the public comment, Treasurer Wheeler asked whether or not there was timber in the Elliott that had never been cut and whether or not it was old growth.

Mr. Young explained that there are some trees that have not been harvested. However, this timber is not old growth, but mature forest of about 130 years of age and some of these areas were thinned in the 70s. A fire in 1868 burned most of the original old growth in the forest.

Treasurer Wheeler asked why logs from the Elliott could not be exported, but exporting from other state forests was allowed.

Mr. Young responded that export from state forests was not allowed at all.

Secretary Brown discussed the increase in the harvest level under the new plan and asked Ms. Garrett if she was opposed to the new harvest level or if the previous harvest level was also unacceptable to her.

Ms. Garrett said that the reasoning behind the increase was not clear to her and that if the previous harvest level satisfied the mandate for funding schools, she did not see a need for the increase.

Mr. Young explained that the forest is growing faster than the current harvest level, so the new harvest level is well within a sustainable level. He added that the decision to increase the harvest level was a management decision made by the Land Board in order to increase revenue to the Common School Fund.

Governor Kitzhaber asked Mr. Swenson back up to provide the Board with his definition of “native forest.”

Mr. Swenson explained that a “native forest” contains nutrients that have accumulated over a long period of time. When mature trees are harvested, these nutrients are removed with them, which he believes greatly impacts the growth of the forest. He

added that there have not been studies over a long enough period of time to understand the true impact this has on the forest.

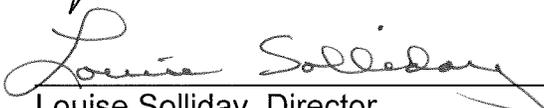
Governor Kitzhaber stated that he would visit the Elliott before making any decision on the draft plan.

Director Solliday announced that public comment could still be submitted to the Department of Forestry until August 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



John A. Kitzhaber, Governor



Louise Solliday, Director