**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**

**Polly Dyer Seattle Broadband Meeting Minutes**

April 10, 2025, 7pm on Zoom

**Members Present:**

Joetta Fort, Barbara Phalen, Cathy Gorrell, Margaret Rands, Wendy Roedell, Natalie Taylor, Genia Moncada, Peggy Lovellford, Kelle Hollowood, Janka Hobbs, Pati An, Susan Kostick, Kate Bradley, Penelope Peterson. Dave Cook, Mary Miller, Esther McIlroy. and Rebecca Wolfe.

Also present was Kate Dean, Deputy Director of Policy, Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Penelope called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.  She then introduced the speaker for the evening, Kate Dean, Deputy Director of Policy, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**Kate Dean from DNR**told us about the goals and challenges facing the DNR and the new Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove:

* DNR manages 2 million acres of land across the state.
* DNR have to balance the specific community needs with their conservation and ecological concerns. e.g. Many in some Washington communities depend on timber industries for their livelihood and many communities depend on the revenue from timber tax for their school budgets.
* What we've been calling "legacy forests" or "mature forests," DNR calls "structurally complex forests" or "maturation 2"
* The first act of Commissioner Upthegrove was to pause sales of timber, because DNR is anticipating new technology for mapping the forests and granular insight-- RS-FRIS. This technology is coming on line soon. [Later Janka asked if there would be any "ground truthing" when this new technology was employed. Janka pointed out that, although RS-FRIS may be extremely accurate in mapping trees and determining how tall they are, the technology will not ascertain what plants are in the understory and what endangered plant and animal species are there.]
* Trustlands are for the beneficiaries. The creation of state land was as follows: some was given (claimed) for the state at the state's creation (1889) and the system was developed in different counties at that time; some was given to the state (via counties) in the Great Depression (~1930) when the owners couldn't keep up with the property taxes. There may be other ways that the state acquired land.
* There are 7 trusts, including state universities and county trustlands, that also benefit "junior taxing districts, e.g. libraries, fire districts and schools.
* DNR has to find a balance between conservation and harvest.
* Commissioner Upthegrove's current pause allows for more input from the beneficiaries, including tribes and environmental groups. It's unclear what the outcome will be. DNR is required by the federal government to maintain 10%-15% of the holdings as mature forests. This is to meet DNR’s obligation with US Fish and Wildlife called the Habitat Conservation Plan, an agreement to ensure that DNR is protecting habitat and biodiversity. To date, DNR has not known how much mature forest they have in each unit, so that is one of the fact-finding missions being undertaken during this pause on harvest of structurally complex forests.
* Clallam County will have a -$5mil impact from the pause.
* Commissioner Upthegrove's priorities are the following:

1. to have a sustainable environment

2. to improve wild fire prevention and control

3. to expand access to public lands and recreation

* All of this is underlaid by a commitment to tribal sovereignty and environmental justice.
* All of this complicated by the state's budget crunch and the federal chaos, confusion, and cuts.

Kate’s presentation was followed by several questions, to which Kate added the following information:

* Presidential Executive Orders do not apply to state lands.
* DNR”s concerns include the federal threat of cutting money for fire-fighting and the state cutting money, too.
* DNR does have management responsibilities of some Federal lands. It's part of a "good neighbor" agreement that has to do with nearness to the forests. Now DNR manages 25,000 acres of United States Forest Service land.
* Federal idea of +25% harvest with reduced staff is impossible to achieve as things are done now. DNR fears that there will be less regulation going foreward..
* DNR is looking for alternative sources of revenue, but people have sued DNR saying DNR does not have authority to buy and sell ecosystem services, e.g. carbon sequestering and carbon credits.)
* DNR continues to look for new ways to generate revenue.
* Washington legislative bill HB1508 would expand revenue generation and economic opportunities from natural climate solutions and ecosystem services.

**Center for Responsible Forestry (CRF)-- Peggy reported on the status of our field survey work in Legacy Forests.**

The two CRF people with whom we were working have lost their jobs. Jim is no longer working for CRF and Olive's contract ends at the end of this month. We still have Broads interested in doing the work, but it's on pause until we can develop new contacts to whom we can give the data that we collect.

**Legacy Forest Defense Coalition (LFDC)--Genia reported that she is in contact with Josh Wright from CRF and LFDC**.

LFDC has 34 lawsuits that they were hoping would produce settlements so that the logging in Legacy Forest would be paused permanently and the scheduled timber auctions would not go forward.

**Washington State Working Group is a committee of the Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance to which our Broadband belongs.**

Genia reported that she will now be part of this working group..

**NW Forest Plan Amendment**

Penelope reported on some conversations that have been occurring among members of the Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance which suggest that members would like to see the NW Forest Plan Amendments be put on permanent hold since the four alternatives would all lead to greater logging if adopted. Apparently, the logging interests would also like to see the NW Forest Plan Amendments put on permanent hold so that may be what will happen.

**Earth Day**

Penelope said hopes that we will be able to table at a Community Fair sponsored by with Earth Corps in Tukwila on Saturday, April 26 from 10 am to 2 pm. She asked for volunteers to table with her, and Genia, Barbara Phalen, Cathy, and Esther agreed to table with her.

**Other activities**

Many from our Broadband participated in the "Hands Off" demonstrations in Enumclaw, Tacoma, Seattle, and Edmonds. Genia attended Pramilla Jayapal's online training to resist called, “The Resistance Lab.” At the Seattle Rally, Jayapal reported that 20,000 people had completed the training.

**Upcoming Broadband Events**

* **Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 1 pm in person**–next Broadband meeting at Alice Cunninham's house, 1528 Madrona Dr., Seattle 98122.
* **June 16-18 (two nights) Our Broadband Campout at Rasar State Park.**

We have a group site for tents, car camping, campers and RVs.  We also have reserved the cabins nearby in the park. The cost for staying in a cabin will be $118 a person for the two nights with two people per cabin.  Cost for tent and RV’s and campers will be $60 for two nights.  We will have a potluck the first night and provide burgers for the second night.  BYB breakfast and lunches. Please email Penelope and send her a check if you want to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Kostick, April 13, 2025