

Whatcom Democrats Resolution Opposing Logging Bessie Timber Sale in Lake Whatcom Watershed

WHEREAS, the Bessie Unit 2 timber sale contains trees over 100 years old and this age sequesters carbon effectively and efficiently and combats climate change in situ; and

WHEREAS, the Bessie timber sale is in the Lake Whatcom Watershed and could adversely impact water quality for the drinking water supply for over 100,000 residents of the Bellingham area; and

WHEREAS, the Bessie timber sale resides within Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, the Bessie timber sale does not constitute a significant impact to Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or DNR Trust land beneficiaries financially; and

WHEREAS, the DNR has had revenue over expenses for multiple recent years, according to their own financial documents; and

WHEREAS, Anderson Creek is downstream of the Bessie timber sale and has native cutthroat trout that have experienced negative impacts from siltation from logging, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife;

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED that the Whatcom Democrats, in assembly March 27, 2022, do hereby oppose the Bessie timber sale, in any amount, due to the potential negative impacts to combating climate change, fragile ecosystems, and a watershed supplying drinking water for the Bellingham area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom Democrats do hereby call on the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Honorable Hilary Franz, to stop the Bessie timber sale;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom Democrats do hereby call on our 40th and 42nd LD State Legislators, the City Council and Mayor of Bellingham, and the Whatcom County Council and County Executive to oppose the entire Bessie timber sale by DNR and to contact the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) to register their opposition to the entire Bessie timber sale;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom Democrats ask our State Senators and Representatives and elected Council Members and Executives register their opposition with the BNR as soon as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom Democrats ask our elected representatives to make public their opposition to the Bessie timber sale in order to maximize the public impact to ceasing this potentially environmentally detrimental action by the DNR.

Adopted by the Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee at its March 27 meeting by a vote of 33 to 9.