



## Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2

Commissioner Art Frank  
Board Chair

Commissioner Melody Bacchus  
Commissioner Marcia Kelbon

P.O. Box 433, Quilcene, WA 98376 ■ 360-765-3333

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June 20, 2022

*Via First Class Mail and via e-mail to JeffBoCC@co.jefferson.wa.us*

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 1220  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Re: Requests to WA DNR for Deferral of Penny Wise Timber Sale  
and Beaver Valley Sorts Timber Sale

Dear Commissioners Dean, Brotherton, and Eisenhour,

We write to request that the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) rescind its recent request to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to defer its planned Penny Wise timber sale (#102261), which action detrimentally impacts Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2 (Quilcene Fire Rescue) as well as our greater Quilcene Community. Because of the evident start of a broader course of action that is hurting our community at large and threatens to limit mutual aid response capabilities, we also request that the BOCC rescind its April 4, 2022 request to DNR to defer its planned Beaver Valley Sorts timber sale.

The BOCC letter to DNR of April 4, 2022, signed by all three County Commissioners, states that “funding school, libraries, emergency services and other essential services with industrial forest practices is outdated and needs to be reconsidered.” Yet this is the specific fiduciary duty imposed on DNR by RCW Chapter 79.22 in management of state forest transfer trust lands such as the Penny Wise and Beaver Valley Sorts timber lands. By asking the DNR to not perform this critical function without providing alternative and equal funding to the impacted junior taxing districts, the BOCC is harming our community, perhaps to a greater extent than the BOCC realized.

The Penny Wise timber sale is projected to yield \$1.2M to county beneficiaries, including \$163K to Quilcene Fire Rescue (combined Fire and EMS distributions). To put that amount in perspective, Quilcene Fire Rescue has only four salaried career response personnel, and the funds to be lost equate to the fully burdened costs of 1.5 salaried firefighters. Loss of these funds can only hurt the ability of Quilcene Fire Rescue to keep our community safe.

As a further example, Quilcene school district, which is facing a significant shortfall in operations funding, would receive \$348K, in addition to the \$310K towards state school funds. The library system would receive \$44K from the Penny Wise sale. These cumulative losses from not permitting the Penny Wise sale to go forward hurt our community.

Deferral of the Beaver Valley Sorts similarly hurts the surrounding community, including a loss of \$252K to Port Ludlow Fire Rescue, \$348K for local school, and \$57K for the library system; a loss in revenue of \$1.35M in total.

We appreciate the desire to create further old-growth forest in Jefferson County, and this will certainly result from various conservation land transfers and restrictions that are occurring throughout the county. But to do so with this trust land now in the hope that revenue can be made up through a carbon sequestration credit is not responsible without that credit being assured, without dollar-equivalency (which is doubtful) between potential carbon credits and the revenue lost from timber sales, and without certainty that any carbon credits would be passed through to the impacted junior taxing districts.

We request that the BOCC reconsider and rescind its request to defer the noted timber sales, and future trust land timber sales, and let DNR carry out its fiduciary duties until such time that an alternate, assured funding mechanism to provide at least equal funding to our junior taxing districts, including Quilcene Fire Rescue, is secured and committed.

Thank you for considering this request.

Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2 Board of Fire Commissioners



Art Frank, Board Chair  
Commissioner



Melody Bacchus  
Commissioner



Marcia Kelbon  
Commissioner