



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Zero-Cost Changes to Increase Nontax Revenue

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources generates more than \$220 million in nontax revenue for school construction and other public services annually, and manages a portfolio of assets worth billions of dollars. That economic activity sustains thousands of direct and indirect jobs in every county across the state, and is especially important to rural areas.

To increase efficiency in state trust land management – to ensure that the schools and critical services these lands fund receive as much revenue as possible – DNR is proposing a slate of agency request bills for this legislative session. **None of these requests require any budgetary funding from the Legislature.**

Commercial Real Estate: DNR lease lengths for commercial properties are currently constrained to a maximum of 55 years. By increasing the maximum lease term to 99 years, the industry standard, commercial properties managed by DNR will become more competitive for prospective lessees. That minimizes the time properties sit vacant or undeveloped and maximizes prospective lease revenue.

Timber Sale Process Improvements: Updates to RCWs will streamline the process of taking timber sales to auction, allowing DNR to respond more quickly to market demands. That will increase the value of the timber, and increase returns to beneficiaries like schools, universities, and county governments.

Improving Road Access: RCW 79.36.350 currently requires DNR to grant access to haul timber, even in cases where DNR does not control the roads in question. Amending this law will address this unnecessary inefficiency.

Professional Realtor Access: State law currently requires a public auction to fail before DNR can use a professional real estate service or auctioneer to sell properties no longer best suited to generate revenue. Changing this law would allow DNR to use these services, with the approval of the Board of Natural Resources, to receive better value from these properties and to more quickly acquire lands suited to produce revenue.

Survey Monument Preservation: This request will remove costly survey recording fees and replace them with a nominal \$10 fee for all recordings to provide funding to meet the legislated mandate and mission of the Public Land Survey Office managed by DNR.



Removing barriers to sustained revenue growth will spur investment in state lands and stimulate rural job creation.

For more information about these proposals contact:

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