



CLARK COUNTY  
STAFF REPORT

**DEPARTMENT/DIVISION:** Environmental Services / Resource Enhancement & Permitting / Sustainable Forestry

**DATE:** July 18, 2014

**REQUEST:** Authorize the Environmental Services Director to implement the Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Planning process including certifying the forest stewardship plan and signing contracts for prescribed thinning on the property.

**CHECK ONE:**  Consent  Hearing  Chief Administrative Officer

**BACKGROUND:** Late in 2013 as part of the budget re-adopt process, Environmental Services requested additional budget capacity to expand the County's Sustainable Forestry Program and support forest stewardship planning activities on county lands other than Camp Bonneville. On February 19, 2014, Environmental Services held a work session with the Board of County Commissioners to present an overview of the sustainable forestry program, propose the plan for expansion of the program onto additional county properties starting with Green Mountain, and return to the BOCC for implementation of a forest stewardship plan for Green Mountain later in 2014.

The Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Planning process is currently underway. The County Forester has been working with the Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG), who will assist with the development of a comprehensive forest management plan that complies with American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification systems. Through the planning process, the County Forester has developed a thinning proforma (Attachment 1) that will serve as the basis for the forest management plan.

Next steps in the forest stewardship planning process include drafting and finalizing the Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan, applying for certification under the Forest Stewardship Council and the American Tree Farm Systems Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and applying for a forest practices application from the Department of Natural Resources. The forest stewardship plan will include components of prescribed thinning and structure-based forest management to promote habitat conservation and enhancement, improved ecosystem functions, and the production of a diversity of forest types.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** As described above, Environmental Services has presented the expansion of the Sustainable Forestry Program onto Green Mountain as part of the 2013 Budget Re-adopt Public Hearing, and as part of a work session with the BOCC in February of this year. Primary stakeholders for forest management of Green Mountain include the adjoining neighbors and non- industrial forest land owners. The County Forester has been in consultation with the Forest Stewardship Council, and will be working directly with Northwest Natural Resource Group, to ensure the necessary outreach will be met with implementation of the Forest Stewardship Plan.

**BUDGET AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:** Funding for staff time and professional services is included in the 2013-2014 approved Environmental Services Budget. In addition, funding for staff time and professional services will be part of the 2015-2016 budget proposal. Forestry operations implemented as part of this Forest Stewardship Plan will be financially self-sustaining, returning revenues from resultant timber sales to the General Fund. Net operating revenue from forestry operations and maintenance at Green Mountain will be directed to the General Fund. The Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan will be consistent with the Clark County Sustainability Policy, Environmental Services' Business Plan goals, and other multiple uses of the Green Mountain properties that may be considered in the future.

*map  
OK  
4/12*

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**


Yes (see Fiscal Impacts Attachment)     No

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Authorize the Environmental Services Director to implement the Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Planning Process including certifying the forest stewardship plan, applying for dual certification with the Forest Stewardship Council and American Tree Farmers, signing contracts for prescribed thinning on the property, disposing of surplus timber through sale to responsive bidders, and reinvestment of net operating revenue into the General Fund at the discretion of the County Administrator.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Please return original copies of the signed agreement and the approved staff report to Environmental Services Administration.

*APPROVED BY PHONE*

Kevin Tyler  
Division Manager



Don Benton  
Environmental Services Director

KT/KT/kt

c: Susan Rice, Jim Vandling, Kevin Tyler

Attachments: Green Mountain Proforma, Sustainable Forestry White Paper, February 19, 2014 Work Session Memorialization

APPROVED: *Aug-12, 2014*  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



*SR 181-14*

# FISCAL IMPACT ATTACHMENT

## Part I: Narrative Explanation

I.A - Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information.

In the 2014 Budget Re-adopt and a work session held on February 19, 2014, the Clark County Board of Commissioners gave approval to proceed with expanding the Sustainable Forestry Program and begin development of the Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan. The Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Planning process is currently underway. The plan envisions using selective thinning and other techniques to create a healthy forest ecosystem that supports a diversity of plants and animals while generating a modest income from wood products. This request is for the authority for the Environmental Services Director implement the Green Mountain Forest Stewardship Planning Process including certifying the forest stewardship plan, applying for dual certification with the Forest Stewardship Council and American Tree Farmers, signing contracts for prescribed thinning on the property, disposing of surplus timber through sale to responsive bidders, and reinvestment of net operating revenue into the General Fund at the discretion of the County Administrator. The expenses will be off-set by sale of timber from the selective thinning activities prescribed in the Forest Stewardship Plan.

## Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
0001 / General Fund	\$142,921.00	\$142,921.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$1,101,482.00		
Total:	\$142,921.00	\$142,921.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

II.A - Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

Revenues will come exclusively in the form of gross revenues received from the sale of timber deemed surplus to the county's needs as part of the selective thinning prescribed in the Forest Stewardship Plan. Revenues depicted here have been set to match estimated expenses. However, thinning operations have historically exceeded estimates expenses providing net operation revenue. If log prices at the mill remain relatively constant this could result in estimated net operating revenue exceeding \$500,000.

Expenses shown below were derived from existing salaries and benefits as estimated for the effort required to manage forest stewardship plan implementation. Contractual and Supplies expenses are as depicted in the proposed 2015-2016 budget.

## Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III.A - Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE's	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
0001 / General fund		\$142,921.00	\$142,921.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$1,101,482.00		
Total:		\$142,921.00	\$142,921.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

III.B = Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits	\$22,921.00	\$22,921.00	\$53,482.00	\$53,482.00		
Contractual	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$848,000.00	\$848,000.00		
Supplies	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00		
Travel						
Other controllables						
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
Total:	\$142,921.00	\$142,921.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$1,101,482.00	\$0.00	\$0.00



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

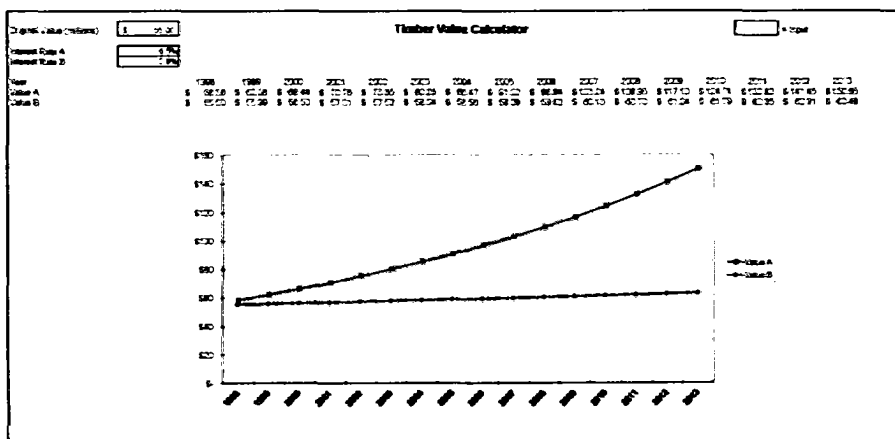
**Clark County Environmental Services: Sustainable Forestry Program**

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Sustainable Forestry Program started with Camp Bonneville back in late 2011/early 2012.
- DES has obtained dual certification under the American Tree Farmer’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council on 1,833 acres of Camp Bonneville.
- Thinning operations have been completed or are underway on at least 382 acres, and net operating revenue generated by these activities that can be reinvested in Camp Bonneville totals \$1.5 million to date.
- Investments to date include replacement of 3 bridges on the property, improved road infrastructure, controlling noxious weeds, and purchasing a tractor for on-going maintenance activities.
- Thinning operations in 2013 have also resulted in \$750,000 for our local economy and the creation of an average of 5 family wage jobs in Clark County. Employees working for private contractors on the camp ranged from 1 to 30 during the last year.

**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY DEFINED:**

- Structure-based management, or thinning operations on a rotational basis in various units when it is needed most to improve stand health.
- Sustainable Forestry is not clear-cutting.
- Improves forest health, timber productivity, and wildlife habitat.
- Provides a sustained yield of forest products and modest income in perpetuity if managed correctly.
- Maximizes growth rate of both the forest and timber value.



Timber Value Calculator: Shows the difference between no actions (0.9% growth) to manage a forest and the increased growth rate (6.5%) realized with sustainable forestry operations.



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## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **EXPANSION OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PROGRAM:**

- Clark County owns several forested properties that could benefit from the Sustainable Forestry Program.
- Properties include Camp Hope, Green Mountain, and will soon include Spud Mountain.
- Several of these properties, including portions of Camp Bonneville, were obtained by the county through the Washington Department of Natural Resource's Trust Land Transfer program.
- Camp Hope has already been certified under the Washington Tree Farmers Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- DES will pursue certification soon on Green Mountain, and will work on Spud Mountain in 2015-2016.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Hire consultant to assist with development of a Forest Stewardship Plan for Green Mountain and prepare application materials for dual certification (Spring/Summer 2014).
- Perform hazard tree removal and minor thinning operations on Camp Hope (Spring/Summer 2014).
- Schedule Public Hearing for the board to designate surplus timber on Green Mountain and authorize the Director of Environmental Services to sign contracts for sale of timber to mills and for logging operations.
- Perform first entry thinning operations on Green Mountain depending on certification process and timber market (Fall/Winter 2014). This schedule is tentative. Actual timber harvest may be delayed pushing net operating revenues into 2015.
- Develop 2015-2016 Budget to adequately support the program on Camp Bonneville, Camp Hope, Green Mountain, and Spud Mountain.

## February 19, 2014, BOCC Work Session Memorialization Sustainable Forestry Program

Commissioners Tom Mielke and David Madore were in attendance. Staff participating in the presentation included Don Benton, Kevin Tyler and Jim Vandling. A PowerPoint presentation was used to facilitate the presentation.

Don Benton articulated the purpose of the work session was to

- present an overview of the sustainable forestry program;
- respond to any questions or comments commissioners may have;
- update BOCC on activities at Camp Bonneville to date and propose the plan for expansion of the program onto additional county properties; and
- return to the BOCC for adoption of a forest stewardship plan for Green Mountain later in 2014.

Kevin Tyler used the PowerPoint presentation to give a background on Sustainable Forestry activities at Camp Bonneville to date and give an overview on what sustainable forestry really means.

Commissioners heard about the process for obtaining sustainable forestry certifications and Environmental Services' plan for expanding the program onto additional county lands including Green Mountain and Spud Mountain.

During the presentation, commissioners had the following questions/comments:

Commissioners wanted clarification on who has been doing the work at Camp Bonneville. Don Benton clarified that all jobs have been for local companies and local mills in Clark County or in Southwest Washington. Commissioners also requested clarification on revenues from Camp Bonneville thinning. Don Benton and Kevin Tyler clarified that all net operating revenue, which is currently \$1.5 million, has been used to fund logging operations, other improvements on the camp, or is currently being held in the Camp Bonneville Fund.

Commissioners asked how Clark County, being such a populous county, has been able to lead the state in Sustainable Forestry and obtaining dual certifications with so many other forested counties in the state. Kevin Tyler and Don Benton explained that other counties are now following suit, but also we are lucky enough to have an outstanding forester in Jim Vandling on staff. Don also explained there are many ways to cut timber, but we are in the business of promoting forest health not maximizing revenue.

Jim Vandling discussed the difference between even-aged management of forests and our method of sustainable forestry. Even-aged management is the more traditional method, including clear-cutting timber stands and replanting with a single tree species. This method of management has traditionally returned revenue on a faster cycle. Our sustainable forestry program focuses on uneven-aged management, utilizing selective thinning on a rotational basis, and replanting with a suite of tree species. Jim speculates that uneven-aged management can yield equal net operating revenue as even-aged management.

Commissioners also asked why we should obtain dual certification on our forests. Jim explained that our national and international certifications demonstrate that we are leaders in forest land management showing we have achieved the highest level of sustainable forest management. The certification also allows marketing of our timber to special forest products markets. The template developed for Camp Bonneville can be used on other county lands or by other municipalities in the state or region.

Commissioner Mielke asked about the Woodland Campground that is now in county ownership, and whether or not we have targeted this property for sustainable forestry. We have not inventoried this property, but will put it on the list for review.

Commissioner Madore asked for clarification about the Livingston Mountain area mining overlay. Jim explained that the mining overlay has been revised to no longer include portions of Camp Bonneville and does not include any of our proposed properties for forest management.

Kevin Tyler explained the potential challenges we face with obtaining the dual certifications in time to start thinning operations this year. Depending on how long this process takes, we may face some expenses in 2014 without revenue coming in until 2015. Commissioner Mielke expressed his concern about a tight general fund budget and a desire to see thinning operations commence on other county properties before the end of this year. Jim Vandling explained this is our goal for 2014.

Revenue / Cost Function Worksheet

Species	Grade	Vol. Net Mbf	Tons	Delivered \$ per Mbf	Delivered \$ per Ton	Gross Revenue		Operating Cost Per / Mbf	Net Operating Revenue per MBF	Operating Cost Per / Ton	Net Operating Revenue by Scale	Net Operating Revenue Wgt&Scale
						by log scale	by weight scale					
<b>Doug Fir</b>	#3 Peeler			\$		\$		290.00		\$		
	SP Mill			\$		\$		290.00		\$		
	#2 Sawmill	240		\$ 560		\$ 134,400		290.00	270.00	\$ 64,800		
	#3 Sawmill	1590		\$ 560		\$ 890,400		290.00	270.00	\$ 429,300		
	#4 Sawmill	1442	24	\$ 560	\$ 24	\$ 807,520		290.00	270.00	\$ 389,340	\$	
<b>Sub Tot.</b>		<b>3272</b>				<b>\$ 1,832,320</b>		<b>\$ 948,880</b>		<b>\$ 883,440</b>		
<b>PS Fir</b>	#2 Sawmill			\$ 500		\$		290.00		\$		
	#3 Sawmill			\$ 450		\$		290.00		\$		
<b>Sub Tot.</b>		<b>0</b>										
<b>WR Cedar</b>	#2 Sawmill			\$ 900		\$		290.00		\$		
	#3 Sawmill			\$ 850		\$		290.00		\$		
	#4 Sawmill			\$ 850		\$		290.00		\$		
<b>Sub Tot.</b>		<b>0</b>										
<b>R. Alder</b>	#2 Sawmill			\$ 525		\$		290.00		\$		
	#3 Sawmill			\$ 475	\$ 52	\$				\$		
	#4 Sawmill			\$ 25	\$ 25	\$				\$		
<b>Sub Tot.</b>		<b>0</b>										
<b>BL Maple</b>	#2 Sawmill			n/a								
	#3 Sawmill			n/a								
	#4 Sawmill			n/a								
<b>Sub Tot.</b>		<b>0</b>										
<b>Operating Costs</b>	P/Mbf											
Falling & Bucking	67.00											
Yarding	101.00											
Loading	32.00											
Hauling	70.00											
Excise Tax	-											
G/A	9.00											
Rd. Maintenance	1.00											
Stand Improvmt	10.00											
	290.00											