

**NINE STEP PLANNER
BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS WORK SESSIONS**

This form needs to be reviewed and approved by the board before a work session is scheduled.

REQUESTED BY: Department of Environmental Services

1. **TOPIC:** Clark County Sustainable Forestry Program

2. **WORK SESSION:**

Don Benton, Kevin Tyler, Jim Vandling

3. **TIME FRAME:**

LENGTH OF TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

DESIRED DATE: March/April 2016

SCHEDULED DATE OF WORK SESSION: _____

4. **TIMING CONSIDERATIONS:** The Sustainable Forestry Program is starting its 5th year since inception. To date, Environmental Services has certified 1,833 acres of the Camp Bonneville properties, 360 acres of the Green Mountain properties, and 107 acres of Camp Hope. Thinning operations have commenced to a certain extent on all three properties. Environmental Services has also worked with the Department of Natural Resources to acquire the 160-acre Spud Mountain property through the trust land transfer program. The last work session with the BOCC was in March of 2014 and Environmental Services feels it is time for an update on the program.

5. **DESIRED RESULTS:** Environmental Services is seeking continued support for the program from the BOCC through adoption of a Sustainable Forestry Programmatic Plan and resolution outlining the key elements of the program. A draft programmatic plan will be provided to the BOCC.

6. **IMPACTS (COMMUNITY/FINANCIAL/STAFF/OTHER):** Clark County's forest land certification is significant because 1) we were the first public agency in Washington to obtain these dual certifications, 2) we will be managing our forest land in a way that promotes both long-term sustained yield timber harvest and environmental stewardship, 3) we will be managing our land in the same manner that we advocate to private forest landowners, and 4) ultimately, we have demonstrated on numerous occasions that revenue generated from forest harvest activities can be reinvested in the general fund, these forest properties, and future development of Camp Bonneville.

7. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:** By adopting a management plan for the Sustainable Forestry Program and passing a resolution in support of the program, the BOCC can formalize the policy that Environmental Services has been pursuing, which is to lead our county by example and manage our forest lands for both environmental stewardship and a long-term sustained yield timber harvest.

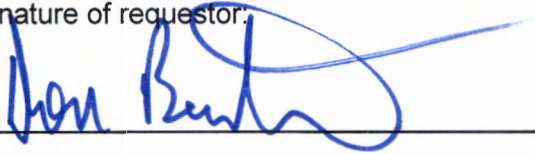
8. **ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED:** Perception: many may hear 'bits and pieces' about this program and assume that Environmental Services is harvesting timber purely to make money, this is not the case. Some level of forest thinning, both commercial and pre-commercial, is necessary to meet the long term forest health goals prescribed in the forest stewardship plans for each site. These plans also prescribe reforestation efforts,

improvements for fish and wildlife habitat, and support recreation by county citizens.

9. **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Environmental Services request to finalize the programmatic plan and budget for the sustainable forestry program and schedule a public hearing for adoption of this document and authorize DES to establish a revolving sustainable forestry account that maintains an average operating balance of \$150,000.

APPROVED FOR SCHEDULING:

Signature of requestor:



DATE: 2-22-16