

# **42nd Legislative District Democrats Opposition to Logging Bessie Timber Sale in Lake Whatcom Watershed**

(adopted 3/12/2022)

WHEREAS, the Bessie Unit 2 timber sale contains timber over 100 years old and this age of timber 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 impact water quality for the drinking water supply for over 100,000 residents of the Bellingham area; 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 42nd Legislative District Democrats 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 42nd Legislative Democrats call on the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Honorable Hilary Franz, to stop the Bessie timber sale;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 42nd Legislative Democrats call on the State Senator and the State Representatives of the 42nd Legislative District, the City Council and Mayor of Bellingham, and the Whatcom County Council and County Executive to oppose the 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 42nd Legislative District Democrats request our State Senator and Representatives and elected Council Members and Executives to register their opposition with the BNR as soon as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 42nd Legislative District 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.