To: Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and DNR Employees
From: WFSE/AFSCME Council 28 Executive Leadership
Date: March 30, 2022
RE: DNR Management of State Trust Lands

In light of recent attempts to change settled law over how forests are managed on state-owned lands, we write in support of the excellent work performed by the geologists, biologists, archaeologists, hydrologists, engineers and foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources.

They are the experts in forest management. They are the public servants that ensure that "all the public lands granted to the state are held in trust for all the people," as directed by Article 16, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution.

The public depends on them to protect habitats, keep our water clean, and responsibly manage timber harvesting in order to fund public schools, counties, universities, fire districts, libraries, hospitals, and public services that protect the most vulnerable Washingtonians.

Many outside entities would like to influence how our state harvests timber on public lands. Some believe we should harvest more; some believe we should harvest less. Regardless of the merit of their arguments, these competing interests are more narrow in scope than those protected by and entrusted to the Department of Natural Resources.

Public services fulfill vital needs not met by a profit motive and solve problems that nobody else can solve. The Department of Natural Resources balances legal, environmental, and health requirements without sacrificing one for the other. It ensures "all of the people" of Washington benefit from our state's forests.

We applaud the work of Department of Natural Resources employees in sustaining our lands and our communities.

Respectfully,

**WFSE/AFSCME Council 28 Executive Leadership**

Leanne Kunze, Executive Director                    Mike Yestramski, President

CC: Board of Natural Resources