

RESOLUTION 2021-26
(Wind River Nursery Conveyance)

WHEREAS Skamania County is currently leasing a 28-acre parcel of U.S. Forest Service land in the Wind River Nursery compound; and

WHEREAS the parcel is adjacent to and surrounded by land previously conveyed to the county in 2000 for the purpose of offsetting the losses imposed on the County and its citizens by the implantation of the Northwest Forest Plan; and

WHEREAS this conveyance includes the water and septic system which is critical and necessary for the development of lands already conveyed by the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS the county has actively been rehabilitating structures in the initial conveyance and desires to continue this effort to provide jobs, income for the county and improved recreational opportunities for the general population in the adjacent Gifford Pinchot National Forest; and

WHEREAS the majority of structures involved have been declared surplus by the USFS under the Gifford Pinchot's deferred maintenance plan, and the USFS has continued to acquire large amounts of private land in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area resulting in annual property tax losses to the county exceeding \$750,000; and

WHEREAS the county is heavily impacted by having 98% of our lands exempt from property tax as 80% is National Forest, 10% is private timber and 8% is State Department of Natural Resources land, resulting in less than 2% taxable at full market value; and

WHEREAS these restrictions have resulted in Federal and State agencies in designating Skamania County as Depressed, Distressed, Overlooked and Underserved; and

WHEREAS the conveyance would allow for the continued rehabilitation of the buildings and grounds which provide recreational opportunities, jobs, and maintenance of these historical structures; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Skamania County Board of Commissioners hereby prays for relief from these encumbrances and encourages the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to approve the legislation proposed by Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler for the conveyance of this parcel to Skamania County.

PASSED IN REGULAR SESSION this 24th day of August 2021.

ATTEST:



Debbie Slack

Debbie Slack
Clerk of the Board

APPROVE AS TO FORM ONLY

Adam Kick
Adam Kick, Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

T.W. Lannen

T.W. Lannen, Chairman

Richard Mahar

Richard Mahar, Commissioner

Robert Hamlin

Robert Hamlin, Commissioner

*2 ayes
0 nays
1 absent
1 abstain*