



Thurston  
*Healthy Forests*

# A-25 Forest Conversions Ordinance

## Planning Commission Work Session 2

September 20, 2023





# Overview

1. Public Hearing Comments
2. Proposed Changes
3. Questions
4. Next Steps





# Public Hearing

August 16, 2023

Attendance:

2 In person

4 Virtual

Written Comments:

Open July 19 - August 16, 2023

2 comments received





# What we heard...

- Concerns about clarity with tree classifications, percent retention, and measurement.
- Concerns about enforcement policies and fees.
- Concerns about COHP implementation.
- Concerns about Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) building code updates.
- Concerns about permit notification and public involvement with conversions.





# Concerns about Clarity

- Updated definitions.
- Reviewed replanting standards.
- Reviewed tree measurement standards.
- Added definition for culturally modified trees.
- Updated language about exemptions from tree conservation plan requirements.



# Concerns about Enforcement

- Reviewed past compliance case load.
- Removed subdivisions from allowed moratorium activities.
- Plan to revisit fees after fee study is complete.
- Updated language about what parties are allowed to rescind a moratorium.
- Updated language to clarify department and applicant responsibilities.



# Concerns about COHP

- Changed language about applicant, department and DNR roles.
- Reviewed options for increasing retained tree percentage.





# Concerns about WUI Code

- Reviewed state WUI code definitions.
- Reviewed code sections with WUI code interactions.
- Discussed concerns with other jurisdictions and stakeholders.



# Concerns about Notification

- Reviewed SEPA requirements for conversion permits.
- Reviewed SEPA notification
- Discussed concerns with other jurisdictions and stakeholders.



# Phase 1 Next Steps





# Questions or Discussion?

## ***Draft Motion:***

- Move to recommend approval of the Forest Land Conversion Ordinance as amended.

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