

Energy and Natural Resources • 220 Occidental Ave • Seattle, WA

February 5, 2020

Thurston County
Planning Commission
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW
Olympia WA, 98502

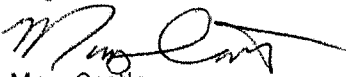
Dear Commissioners,

Subject: Thurston County Mineral Resource Lands Designation

Weyerhaeuser appreciates the work by the county planning commission and staff in compiling a wide variety of data and multiple stakeholder input on designating mineral lands of long term significance. Weyerhaeuser has some preferences on the options given by staff on January 22, 2020 as follows:

1. Although the County Commissioners have selected a parks definition, there should be more thought around the necessity of an arbitrary 1000' separation on undeveloped parks. There should also be consideration of using other hardscape items in the 1000' as delineation of a smaller allowable separation distance. These include having a road, rail, or building located between the designated parcel and the 1000' line.
2. Large portions of the designated acres are uneconomic due simply to low quality aggregates and transportation issues to market. Some proposed resources areas located in mountainous areas are challenging topographically and inaccessible during winter months.
3. Since a mineral lands designation does not mean a permit to operate has been issued, we support the concept that any mineral designation in a parcel should allow that whole parcel to be designated, including the 1000' separation areas. The permit process will limit the acres available to mine if it is deemed a conflict with other land uses or critical areas.
4. The least impact to surrounding communities and the environment is to create a streamlined process for expansion of existing operations. These operations have already established a presence in their communities, the transportation systems, and land impacts.

Regards,



Mary Castle
Manager, Minerals West