



Board of County Commissioners  
1820 Jefferson Street  
PO Box 1220  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Heather Dudley-Nollette, District 1   Heidi Eisenhour, District 2   Greg Brotherton, District 3

January 20, 2026

**Kenny Ocker**

TLT Program Manager

MS 47014

Olympia, WA 98504

[kenny.ocker@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:kenny.ocker@dnr.wa.gov)

Dear Mr. Ocker,

The Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee strongly supports DNR's 2025 Trust Land Transfer (TLT) proposals #1 and #2 to permanently preserve approximately 2,600 acres of timber trust lands that remain within the Dabob Bay Natural Area boundaries.

In 2024, DNR approved an expansion of the Dabob Bay Natural Area's boundaries from 7,735 acres to 11,200 acres to better protect the forests, streams, wetlands, and fish and wildlife of the Dabob Bay ecosystem, including globally rare forest types.

The TLT proposals will allow DNR to transfer state lands within the boundary from commercial timber management (or even possible sale), to permanent protection as part of the Dabob Bay Natural Area. This transfer will help ensure long-term conservation of state lands, habitats, and water quality that are essential to maintaining the health of the marine ecosystems in Dabob Bay. Intact forests preserve soil integrity by stabilizing soils and preventing damaging surface water runoff from inundating the nearshore habitat with excess sediment loads and turbid waters. Protection of upland forest directly prevents downstream impacts to local shellfish and fishing economies; important nursery habitat for juvenile chinook, coho and chum salmon and a diversity of marine fish found in Dabob Bay; and the recreational areas found there, as they depend on clean water and a healthy nearshore environment.

The Marine Resources Committee, created by the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act, is an advisory committee for the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners. Our members represent a variety of stakeholders with interests in the marine resources of eastern Jefferson County. The stakeholder positions represented include recreation, commercial, environmental, marine science, tribal, residents, youth, city of Port Townsend, and elected officials from Jefferson County and the Port of Port Townsend.

We support this Trust Land Transfer because it will protect and preserve upland habitat critical to the health of the nearshore environment of Dabob Bay. This uniquely undeveloped watershed surrounding Dabob Bay provides significant recreational, commercial, and ecosystem services and the Marine Resources Committee strongly supports its protection.

Sincerely,

Heather Dudley-Nollette, Dist. 1

Heidi Eisenhour, Dist. 2

Greg Brotherton, Dist. 3 Chair