

**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA REQUEST**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

**FROM:** Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner

**DATE:** October 7, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Dabob Bay Natural Areas - Economic Assessment

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will expand the Dabob Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) by approximately 3,943 acres, per Commissioner's Order 202422 signed September 23, 2024. The expansion was announced following a public hearing in Jefferson County on June 17, 2024 and a public comment period through June 28. We will be presented with an economic assessment of the recently approved Dabob Bay Natural Area boundary expansion and discuss next steps in working with DNR to get replacement lands.

**ANALYSIS:**

From the associated press release: *The Dabob Bay NRCA boundary expansion will provide more complete protection and improved long-term viability of features within the current site of Dabob Bay's ecosystem, including its productive fish and wildlife habitats and water quality by further protecting hydrologic influences on streams, wetlands, and bays, expanding terrestrial-aquatic linkages, and improving connectivity of forest habitats. DNR is authorized to transfer state-owned trust lands and acquire private lands from willing land owners for the creation of NRCA's per Chapter 79.71 RCW. The expansion also allows DNR to seek funding from grants or the state legislature to purchase replacement lands for the Trust beneficiaries.*

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

TBD. The purpose of this discussion is to ensure that productive replacement lands are acquired and funds get distributed to affected Junior Tax Districts (JTDs). This expansion and purchase of replacement lands is likely to net more revenue for JTDs than if these lands continued in their previous status due to other State level regulatory constraints.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Discuss.

**REVIEWED BY:**

  
Mark McCauley, County Administrator      Date 10/2/24