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ORDINANCE NO. 467 AN ORDINANCE TERMINATING THE TIMBERLAND CLASSIFICATION AND CONSOLIDATING THE TIMBERLAND CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM WITH THE DESIGNATED FORESTLAND PROGRAM AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR.

Auditor File Number(s) of document being assigned or released:

Grantor

1. **Walla Walla County Commissioners**
- 2.
- 3.

Additional names on page ____ of document.

Grantee

1. **The Public**
- 2.
- 3.

Additional names on page ____ of document.

Legal description (i.e.: lot and block or section township and range)

n/a

Additional legal is on page ____ of document.

Assessors Parcel Numbers

n/a

Additional parcel number is on page ____ of document.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 467

AN ORDINANCE TERMINATING THE TIMBERLAND CLASSIFICATION AND CONSOLIDATING THE TIMBERLAND CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM WITH THE DESIGNATED FORESTLAND PROGRAM AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 6180, later codified as RCW 84.34.400, was passed in 2014, and allows a county to merge its timberland classification with its designated forestland program; and

WHEREAS, applications for land classifications are made to the county assessor or the county legislative authority; and

WHEREAS, the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are hereby made:

Findings of Fact:

1. On May 2, 2017, County Assessor Debra Antes presented a request to the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners during an open, public session of the Board on May 2, 2017, to ask that, for administrative purposes, the Board consider adoption of the statutorily allowed County option.
2. On May 15, 2017, Walla Walla County Resolution was approved, setting a date of public hearing to consider this request for May 30, 2017.
3. On May 18, 2017, a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Walla Walla Union Bulletin.
4. Other counties, such as Lewis County, have enacted similar ordinances.

Conclusions of Law:

1. The proposed merger of the County's Current Use Timberland Classification Program (under RCW 84.34) with the Designated Forestland Program (under RCW 84.33) is recommended and requested by the County Assessor for administrative purposes.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on May 30, 2017, for the purpose of receiving testimony regarding the request; and

WHEREAS, this Board finds it is in the public interest to merge the County's timberland classification program with its designated forestland program.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners that, based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law above:

1. The County timberland classification is hereby terminated.
2. All timberland classifications granted in Walla Walla County prior to the effective date of this ordinance are hereby terminated.
3. Any land that had been classified as timberland is now designated as forestland under RCW 84.33.
4. The date the property was classified as timberland is considered to be the date the property was designated as forestland.
5. The County Assessor is directed to notify each owner of timberland of the merger by certified mail.
6. When designated forestland is removed from designation, only compensating tax will be collected in accordance with RCW 84.33.140(12), unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 1. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective immediately upon adoption.

Section 2. Savings and Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Section 3. Publication. This ordinance will be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

PASSED by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners in regular session at Walla Walla, Washington, then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage this 5th day of June, 2017.

Attest:



 Connie R. Vinti, Clerk of the Board



 James L. Duncan, Chairman, District 3



 James K. Johnson, Commissioner, District 1



 Todd L. Kimball, Commissioner, District 2

Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
 of Walla Walla County, Washington

Approved as to form



 Jesse D. Nolte, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

