

1 **Resolution on Department of Natural Resources – Pope Resources Land Exchange**

2 TO THE HONORABLE PETER GOLDMARK, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC
3 LANDS OF THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
4 AND TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR JAMES HARGROVE, AND TO THE
5 HONORABLE LYNN KESSLER AND KEVIN VAN DE WEGE,
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, AND TO THE
7 HONORABLE DAVID SULLIVAN, PHIL JOHNSON AND JOHN AUSTIN,
8 JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

9 **WHEREAS** Jefferson County, Washington, has been able to retain much of its natural
10 environment; and

11 **WHEREAS** these natural ecosystems are a great asset to Jefferson County by providing
12 prosperity and tranquility to this county’s citizenry; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently proposing a land
14 exchange with the commercial enterprise of Pope Resources, as a result of which much of
15 these natural assets listed as forests, rivers, lakes, streams, mountain tops, and waterways
16 within Jefferson County would be destined for development;

17 **WHEREAS** in the land exchange as currently proposed by DNR, the agency will trade
18 away land in eastern lowlands and in the more mountainous portions of the county with
19 much more timber on it, higher quality habitats, higher recreational values, and with a
20 higher risk of development than the lands they would receive from Pope Resources;

21 **WHEREAS** if approved, this land exchange would have severe economic and
22 environmental impacts on Jefferson County and the region, as well as lead to the
23 unraveling of the sustainability of commercial forestry in eastern Jefferson County;

24 **WHEREAS** the DNR has proven itself to be generally a good neighbor with respect for
25 habitat and harvesting practices which honor the environment, this land exchange would
26 seriously alter the retention and protection of such practices;

27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Democrats and Central
28 Committee encourage the Jefferson County Commissioners, the 24th Legislative District's
29 state representatives and senator, and the residents of Jefferson County to oppose such a
30 land exchange.

31 Matt Sircely, Chair,

32 Deborah Pedersen, Vice Chair

33 Jefferson County Democrats Chair and Central Committee

34 February 24, 2009