

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #10**
DATE: May 26, 2021
SUBJECT: Presentation by The Conservation Fund – Sale of PotlatchDeltic forest lands
PRESENTER: Kim Berns-Melhus, MN State Director, TCF
 Emilee Nelson, MN Representative, TCF

Background:

In late 2020, [The Conservation Fund \(TCF\) purchased](#) the remaining MN forest lands owned by the Spokane-based corporation, PotlatchDeltic. Approximately 72,000 acres, TCF reportedly paid \$48 million with the goal “to eventually transfer the land to become part of existing state, county, tribal or federal forests, or other public land designations such as state wildlife management areas,” (Duluth New Tribune, Oct 9, 2020).

With the potential of much or most of these 72,000 acres of northern forest land showing up on fee-title acquisition lists of current and future OHF program appropriations, TCF has been asked to present to the Council their plans for these lands as it may concern the LSOHC and OHF appropriations. This presentation will provide information for the Council to consider.

It is hoped that this will be an opportunity for open and transparent discussion and consideration about the potential opportunities, as well as the possibly controversial and/or political issues, surrounding potential fee acquisition of some of the 72,000 acres; what price/acre may be anticipated, where the potential acres are located, who might be anticipated to hold OHF acquired parcels, PILT liability considerations, are these “prime habitat” or just “available habitat,” etc.

Currently, two OHF programs have submitted amendments to add “PotlatchDeltic” parcels to their fee-title acquisition parcel lists. Both amendment requests are in today’s Council agenda; items 11A & 11B.