

Sustainable Harvest Calculation

DRAFT Purpose and Need

PROPOSAL

The proposal is to establish a sustainable harvest level for the 2015 to 2024 planning decade for forested state trust land in western Washington.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposal is to:

- Analyze the sustainable harvest level associated with the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy alternatives.
- Analyze alternative courses of action regarding the arrearage from the 2004 to 2014 planning decade; and
- Incorporate new information into an updated model to calculate the decadal sustainable timber harvest level. New information includes changes in the land base, changes in forest inventory, and changes in technology.

NEED

DNR needs to calculate a new sustainable harvest level and determine the best course of action regarding the arrearage consistent with state law and DNR policy.

- RCW 79.10.320 requires DNR to “periodically adjust the acreages designated for inclusion in the sustained yield management program and calculate a sustainable harvest level.”
- RCW 79.10.330 states that “[i]f an arrearage exists at the end of any planning decade, the department shall conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the course of action regarding the arrearage which provides the greatest return to the trusts based upon economic conditions then existing and forecast, as well as impacts on the environment of harvesting the additional timber. The department shall offer for sale the arrearage in addition to the sustainable harvest level adopted by the board of natural resources for the next planning decade if the analysis determined doing so will provide the greatest return to the trusts.”
- The 2006 *Policy for Sustainable Forests* states that “[t]he department, with Board of Natural Resources approval, will recalculate the statewide sustainable harvest level, for Board of Natural Resources adoption no less frequently than every ten years.”

The final selected alternative for the 2015 to 2024 sustainable harvest level is expected to meet the following:

- The 2006 *Policy for Sustainable Forest*;
- The 1997 *Habitat Conservation Plan*;
- Applicable forest practices rules (Title 222 WAC); and
- All other applicable state and federal regulations.