

Alternatives *for the* Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level

For Forested State Trust Lands
in Western Washington



Final Environmental Impact Statement

October, 2019



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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October 2019

Dear Interested Party,

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is establishing a sustainable harvest level for the fiscal year 2015 to 2024 planning decade for more than 1.4 million acres of forested state trust lands in western Washington. Once the level is set by the Board of Natural Resources (Board), it will ensure the sustainable management of state trust lands consistent with the economic, ecological, and social objectives contained within the *Policy for Sustainable Forests*. Included in these objectives is meeting the commitments of the 1997 *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan*, and complying with all applicable state and federal laws.

The fiscal year 2015 to 2024 sustainable harvest level will address three key issues facing DNR uplands: marbled murrelet conservation, arrearage, and riparian area thinning. The marbled murrelet conservation strategy alternatives were analyzed by DNR in a separate final environmental impact statement released in September 2019. The strategies designate varying amounts of state trust lands for marbled murrelet conservation. Different amounts of state trust lands in conservation status shift the total of land available for harvesting and therefore have the potential to increase or decrease the decadal harvest level. In addition, DNR is required to address an arrearage that occurred during the previous decade (fiscal year 2005-2014). When and how the arrearage is addressed may also impact the sustainable harvest level. Finally, lower-than-expected levels of thinning in riparian areas contributed to the previous decade's arrearage. How much volume to expect from riparian areas will also impact the harvest level.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement evaluates five sustainable harvest level alternatives, along with a no-action alternative that reflects the previous level set by the Board in 2007. Each alternative combines a murrelet conservation strategy, arrearage approach, and riparian area thinning level as a basis for calculating a sustainable harvest level. The result is that the alternatives analyzed in this document provide a wide range of sustainable harvest levels for consideration by the Board.

Further information is posted at dnr.wa.gov/shc.

Thank you for your interest in the sustainable management of state trust lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Franz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Hilary Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands

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FINAL

Environmental Impact Statement

on

Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington

Lead Agency:

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Olympia, WA 98504

Prepared by:

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Fact Sheet

Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington

Description of Proposal: This proposal involves setting a sustainable harvest level for the fiscal year 2015–2024 planning decade for forested state trust lands in western Washington. Six alternatives, including a no action alternative, are analyzed. The alternatives propose a range of harvest levels for forested state trust lands in western Washington.

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Date of Issuance of FEIS

October 14, 2019

Final Action

The final action is the adoption of a sustainable harvest level by the Board of Natural Resources.

Location, Availability, and Cost of Copies of This FEIS and Supporting Documents

This FEIS is posted online at:
www.dnr.wa.gov/shc.

CD copies also are available to read at selected public libraries. These libraries are listed in Appendix K.

CD copies also are available at no charge. Requests for CDs may be mailed to the address listed under “Contact.” Hard copies will be available for the cost of printing, per RCW 42.17.

This FEIS incorporates the following documents by reference:

- *Final (Merged) Environmental Impact Statement for the Habitat Conservation Plan*
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Issuance of Multiple Species Incidental Take Permits or 4(d) Rules for the Washington State Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan*
- *South Puget HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Olympic Experimental State Forest HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy*

Copies of these documents and the following supporting documents—*Policy for Sustainable Forests, State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan, Olympic Experimental State Forest HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan*, and Washington forest practices rules—are available for review at the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington Street, Olympia. These documents can also be found online at www.dnr.wa.gov

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