



Carbon and Forest Management Work Group

Understanding DNR



November 8, 2023, 9 am – 12 pm

Who is DNR?

State agency responsible for managing 5.6 million acres of public land in Washington.

- 2.9 million acres state trust lands, managed to generate revenue for trust beneficiaries and provide other benefits to the people of Washington; 2.1 million acres are forested.
- Remaining acres includes aquatic lands and land managed under the Natural Areas Program.



Natural Areas Program: Two Types

Natural Area Preserves

Approximately 42,000 acres statewide.

Managed for conservation of natural features, research, and environmental education under the 1972 Natural Area Preserves Act.

May or may not be compatible with recreation use.



Bone River Natural Area Preserve, Pacific County



Natural Areas Program: Two Types

Natural Resource Conservation Areas

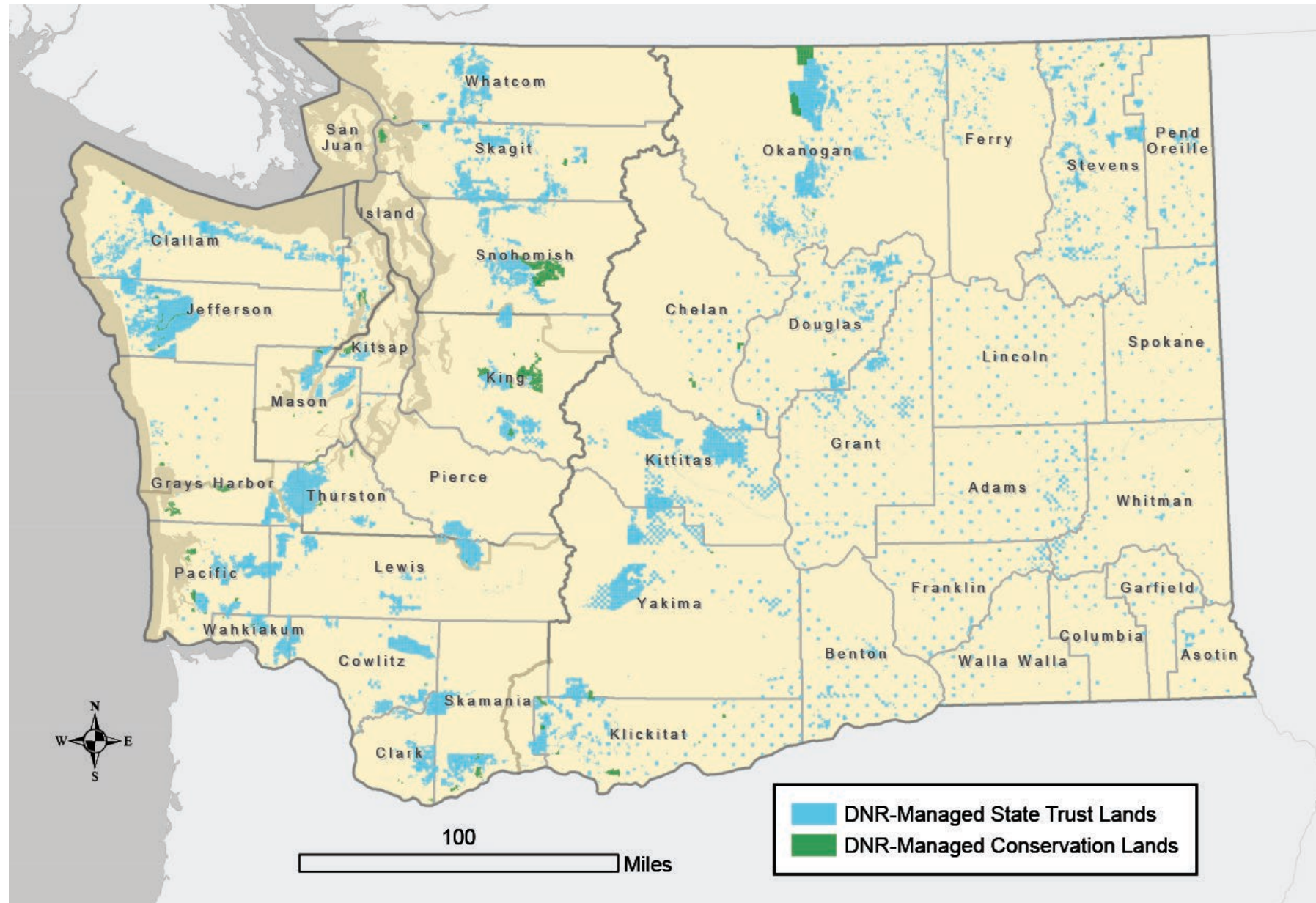
- 126,000 acres statewide.
- Designated under Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act of 1987.
- May include recreational elements that assure protection of natural features, while also promoting research and environmental education.



Morningstar Natural Resource Conservation Area, Snohomish County



Where are DNR Managed Lands?

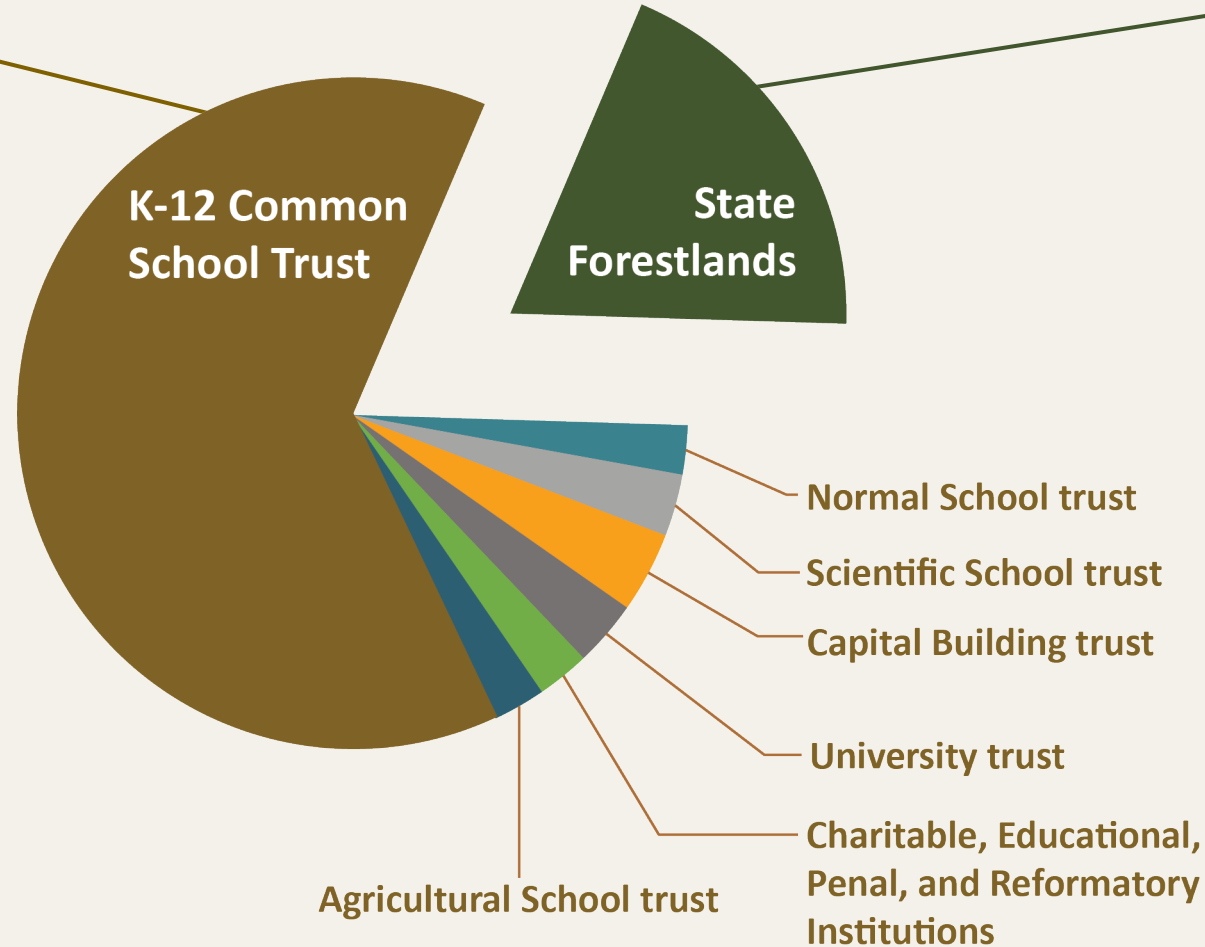


Types of State Trust Lands

State Lands

Federally granted lands

- Enabling Act (25 U.S. Statutes at Large, c 180 p. 676)
- State Constitution
- Revenue generated from a variety of sources
- Source of financial support, primarily for public schools and colleges



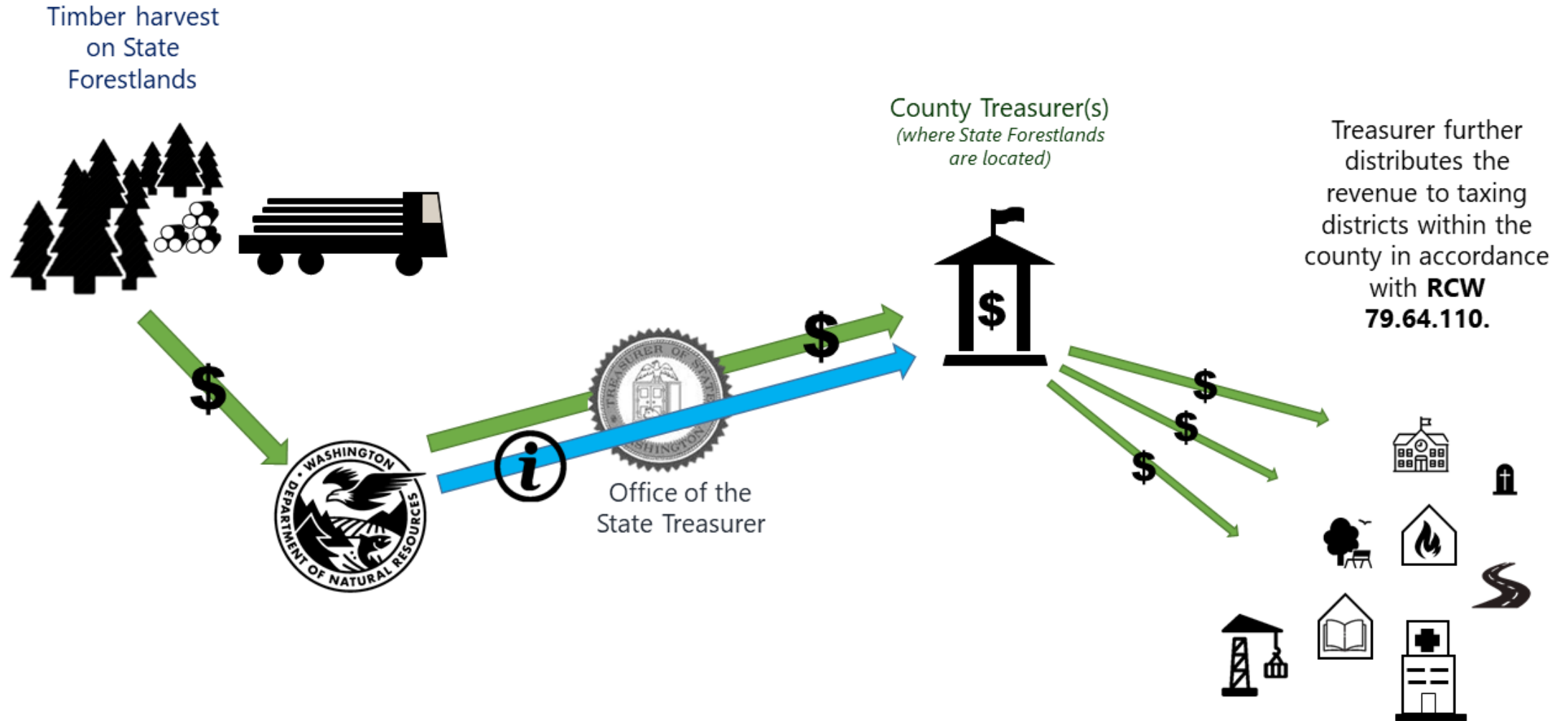
State Forestlands

Two types: Transfer and Purchase

- > 617,000 acres*
- Acquired by counties through tax foreclosures, purchased, or deeded to state as gift.
- Statutory trusts
- Revenue helps fund county services, state schools, and junior taxing districts
- 21 counties
- Revenue goes to county in which it is generated



State Forestland Revenue Flow

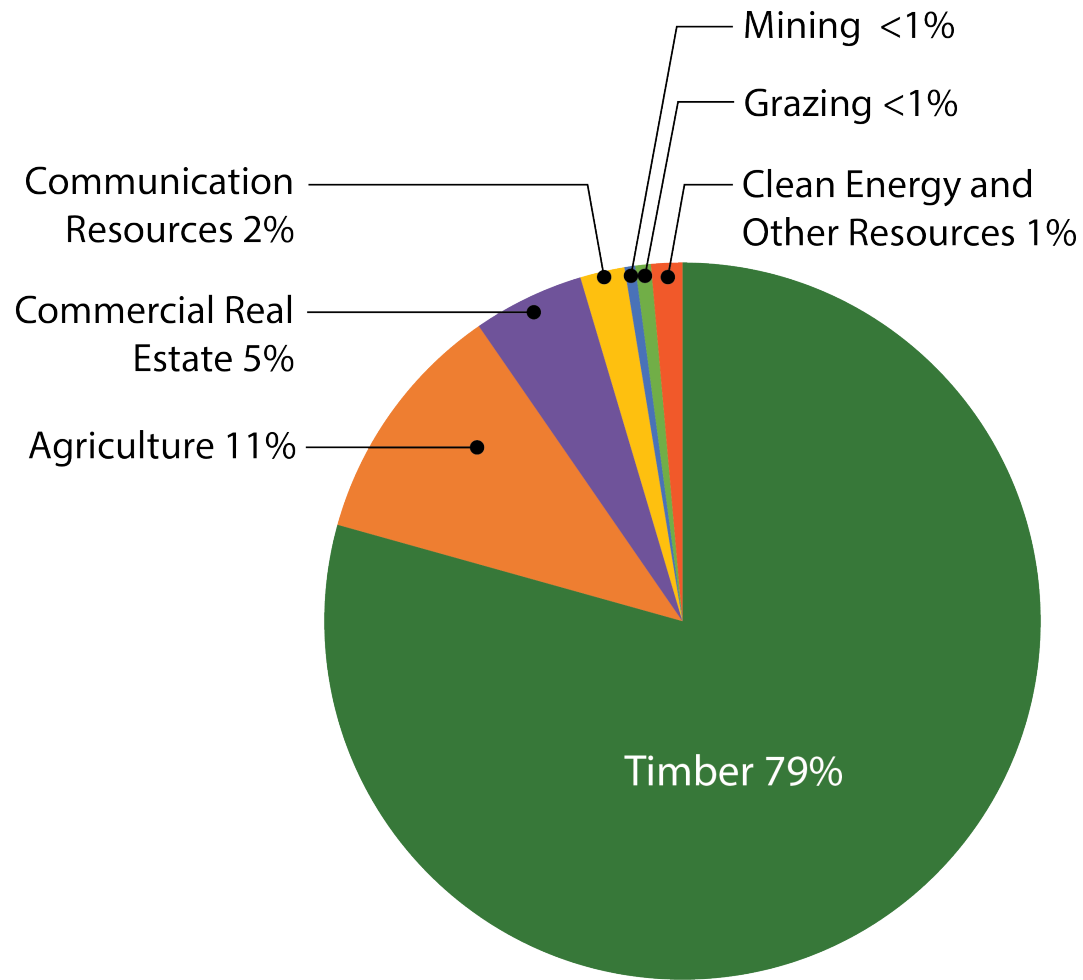


Revenue Generating Activities

- Annual revenue over \$200 million per year.
- Approximately 79% of annual revenue is generated from the 2.1 million acres in the timber asset class.
- This asset class generates approximately \$1.5 billion per year in economic activity.



Other Major Sources of Revenue



Policy and Legal Framework

- State and federal laws
- Policy for Sustainable Forests
- State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (to comply with the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)
- Sustainable harvest level
- Multiple Use Act (RCW 79.10.120)



DNR's Fiduciary Responsibility

- Generate revenue and other benefits for each trust, in perpetuity.
- Preserve the corpus of the trust.
- Exercise reasonable care and skill.
- Act prudently to reduce the risk of loss for the trusts.
- Maintain undivided loyalty to beneficiaries.
- Act impartially with respect to current and future beneficiaries.



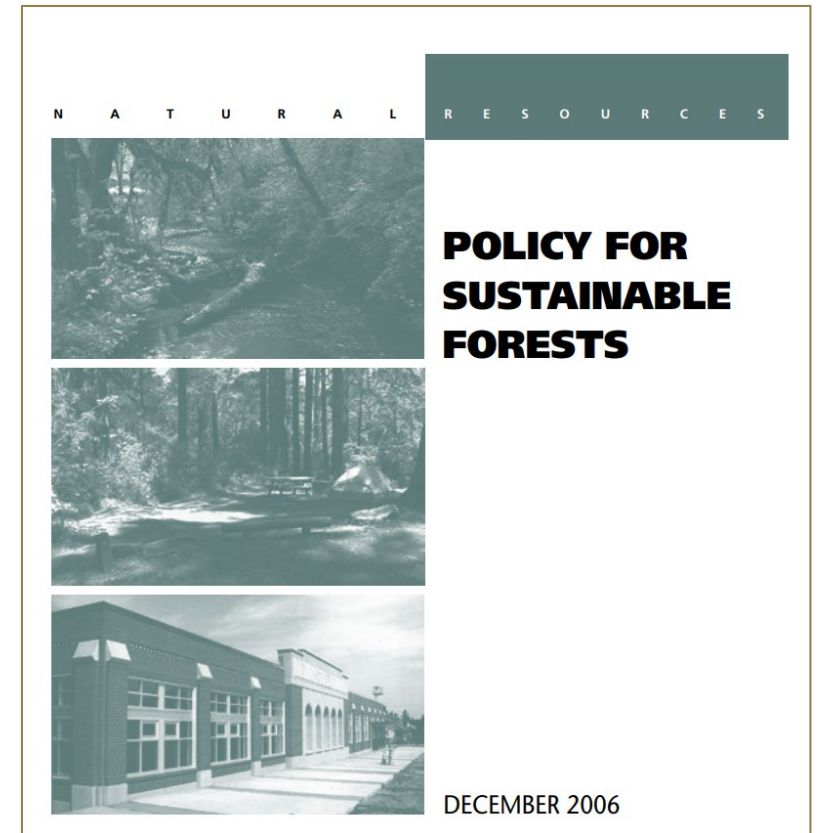
Examples of State and Federal Laws

- State Forest Practices Act
- Federal Endangered Species Act
- State and Federal Clean Air Acts
- State and Federal Clean Water Acts



Policy for Sustainable Forests (2006)

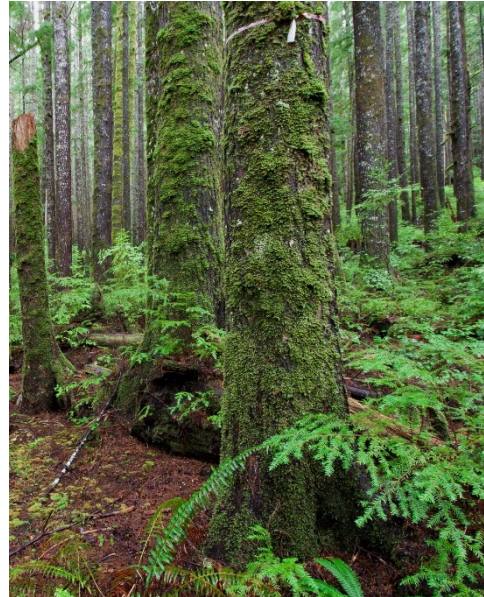
Purpose: To conserve and enhance the natural systems and resources to produce long-term sustainable trust income, and environmental and other benefits for the people of Washington, consistent with the fiduciary standards governing trust management.



Categories of Policies



**Economic
Performance**



**Forest Ecosystem
Health and
Productivity**



**Social and
cultural benefits**



Implementation

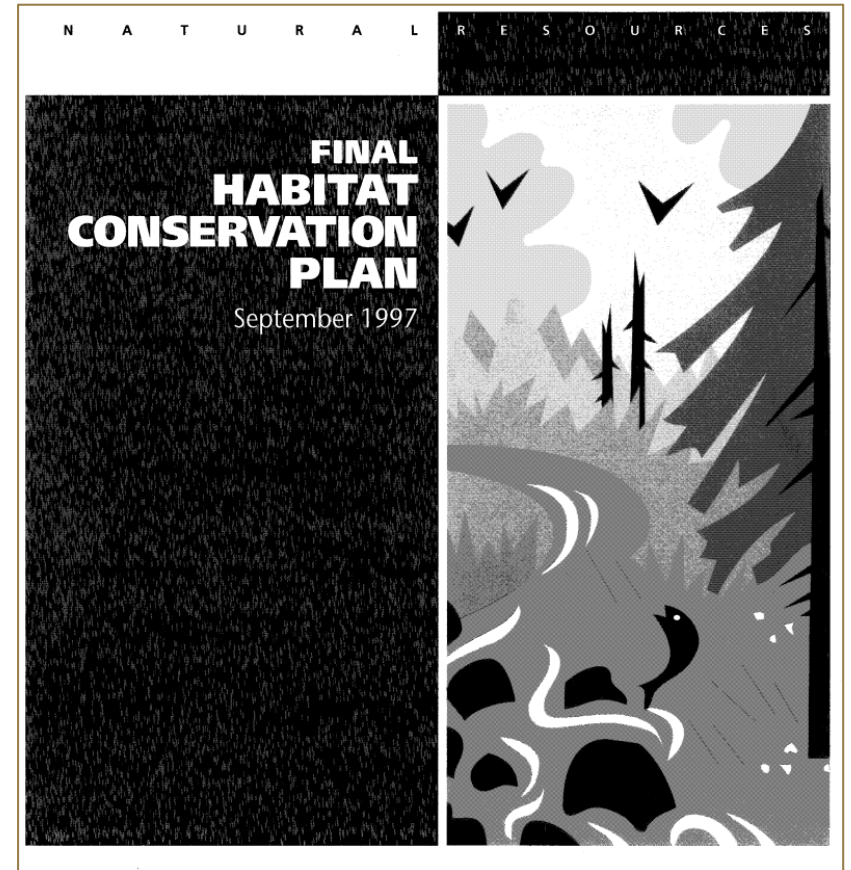
Old Growth Policy

- Defer from harvest old-growth stands (stands 5 acres and larger, in the most structurally complex state of stand development, that originated naturally before the year 1850).
- Retain known, very large diameter, structurally unique trees.



State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (1997)

Purpose: Protect habitat for at-risk species while carrying out forest management and other activities to generate revenue for trust beneficiaries.



Major HCP Conservation Strategies

Riparian

Maintain or restore freshwater habitat for salmonids on state trust lands, and contribute to the conservation of other species that depend on aquatic and riparian habitats, including wetlands.

By: Setting buffers on wetlands and fish-bearing streams; stream buffer width depends on stream type.

Northern Spotted Owl

Maintain nesting and foraging areas for northern spotted owls and facilitate the owl's movement through the landscape.

By: Maintaining percentages of northern spotted owl habitat within the owl's range.



Major HCP Conservation Strategies

Marbled Murrelet

Provide forest conditions in marbled murrelet conservation areas that minimize and mitigate incidental take of marbled murrelets resulting from DNR land management activities.

By: Concentrating conservation in special habitat areas and occupied sites and buffers.

Multi-species

Protects uncommon habitat types for unlisted species such as caves, cliffs, talus slopes, wetlands, and mineral springs.

By: Protecting habitat for numerous state-listed plant and animal species of concern.

Complements other HCP conservation strategies.



Putting it All Together

- Nearly half of state trust lands are managed specifically for ecological objectives.
- Over time, location of structurally complex forest has shifted into ecologically focused areas.
- Additional areas are protected when timber sales are designed; examples: unmapped streams and wetlands, unstable slopes, leave tree clumps.



Sustainable Harvest Level

- The volume of timber scheduled for sale from state-owned lands during a planning decade as calculated by DNR and approved by the Board of Natural Resources (RCW 79.10.300(5)).
- Recalculated each decade according to state laws and DNR policies.
- Calculated for eastern and western Washington.



Sustained Yield and Intergenerational Equity

- RCW 79.10.320 requires DNR to grow forest crops on a “sustained yield basis.”
- RCW 79.10.310 defines sustained yield as “management of the forest to provide harvesting on a continuing basis without major prolonged curtailment or cessation of harvest” (RCW 79.10.310).
- Meeting this requirement helps ensure intergenerational equity.



Questions

