



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

PACIFIC CASCADE REGION

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ADDENDUM

SEPA File No. 24-032903

Description of the original proposal:

Ghost Town Sorts Timber Sale #104392 and Forest Practice Application #2942287 is a variable retention and right-of-way harvest with 237 acres in eight units (7 VRH, 1 ROW) removing approximately 5,518 MBF of timber in the Columbia HCP Planning Unit. The proposal includes 2,025 feet of road construction, 3,080 feet of road reconstruction, 27,771 feet of pre-haul maintenance, and 565 feet of road abandonment. The harvest area stand development stage has been categorized as biomass accumulation/competitive exclusion. The stand in Ghost Town Sorts timber sale do not meet DNR's definition for a structurally complex forest. Nonetheless, what follows describes structurally complex forests managed to meet older forest targets in the Columbia HCP Planning Unit.

Description of the addendum:

DNR is providing an addendum to this SEPA analysis to document the evaluation and identification of suitable structurally complex forest to be managed to meet the older-forest targets expected as a modeled byproduct of management under the 1997 Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and a policy target stated in the DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF).

The General Silviculture Strategy (policy) in the Policy for Sustainable Forests emphasized that older forest targets will be accomplished over time and that DNR intends to actively manage structurally complex forests to achieve older-forest structures (i.e. stands with older forests identified by structural characteristics) across 10 to 15 percent of each western Washington HCP planning unit in 70 to 100 years.

In May 2024, the DNR produced a document titled '*Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington*', which is incorporated by reference in this Addendum. This document describes the background, historical analyses regarding attainment of older forest conditions in western Washington, and updated data and modeling analyses showing when the various HCP planning units across western Washington are expected to attain a

level of older forest conditions through implementation of the HCP and other conservation objectives, and outlined as targets within the PSF.

This landscape assessment identifies the existing structurally complex forests of existing structurally complex stands, and additional stands suitable to be managed for older forest targets over time. The identified stands are located in conservation areas and deferred stands unavailable for regeneration harvest. These stands include areas identified as long-term forest cover under the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy, riparian areas, areas conserved under the multispecies conservation strategy, potentially unstable slopes, spotted owl nest patches, old growth, Natural Areas and Natural Resource Conservation Areas, and other conservation areas deferred from regeneration harvest.

The results from the May 2024 landscape assessment, and included in the above-referenced memorandum, show that while the Columbia HCP Planning Unit does not currently contain 10 to 15 percent older forest conditions, it demonstrates that through implementation of the HCP and other Policies and laws, stands containing structurally complex forests or managed for older forest targets in conservation areas is projected to exceed 10 percent in the Columbia HCP Planning Unit by 2090 (Table 1). Stands currently identified to meet older forest targets are represented in the attached map titled, “2021 Older Forest Within Conservation COLUMBIA” (2024). Additionally, those stands projected to meet older-forest targets are depicted in the attached map titled, “Projected 2100 Older Forest Within Conservation COLUMBIA” (2024).

Table 1. Percent area western Washington HCP planning units with older-forest stands in conservation areas by decade through 2120. With plot discounts and disturbance factor.

ADJUSTED QUERY OUTPUT (WITH PLOT DISCOUNT & DISTURBANCE FACTOR)											
HCP Planning Unit	Year										
	2021	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080	2090	2100	2110	2120
COLUMBIA	1.1%	1.2%	1.4%	1.8%	2.6%	4.3%	6.8%	10.1%	14.0%	17.3%	18.9%
N. PUGET	3.2%	3.9%	4.9%	6.2%	7.9%	10.2%	13.2%	16.7%	20.6%	23.9%	25.0%
OESF	10.2%	10.7%	11.0%	11.7%	12.6%	13.9%	16.0%	20.1%	25.0%	28.4%	29.6%
S. COAST	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	1.2%	2.2%	3.6%	6.0%	8.8%	12.3%	16.0%	18.7%
S. PUGET	1.7%	2.1%	2.7%	3.6%	4.6%	6.1%	8.4%	11.3%	14.4%	17.2%	18.7%
STRAITS	1.8%	2.5%	3.2%	4.3%	5.6%	7.4%	9.9%	12.6%	15.0%	17.9%	19.3%

The Ghost Town Sorts timber sale is not identified as one of those stands designated to meet older-forest targets over time. In the Ghost Town Sorts timber sale 237 acres are being harvested, while 88 acres are being conserved (27% of proposal area) for potential unstable slopes, riparian and wetland management zones, and leave tree areas that will contribute to older forests over time. Following the timber sale, half of the harvest units will be replanted with native, conifer tree species that will be supplemented by natural

regeneration expected to occur as a result of the conservation areas in and around the harvested units. The other half of the harvest units will be replanted with red alder to mitigate the root disease currently impacting the site.

Description of existing environmental document: SEPA Checklist, Determination of Non-significance, Forest Practices Application/Notification #2942287, and HCP Checklist.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 280
Castle Rock, WA 98611

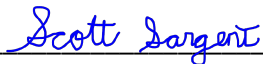
Lead Agency: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

This addendum is being distributed pursuant to WAC 197-11-600 and 197-11-625. It has been determined that this new information does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental document.

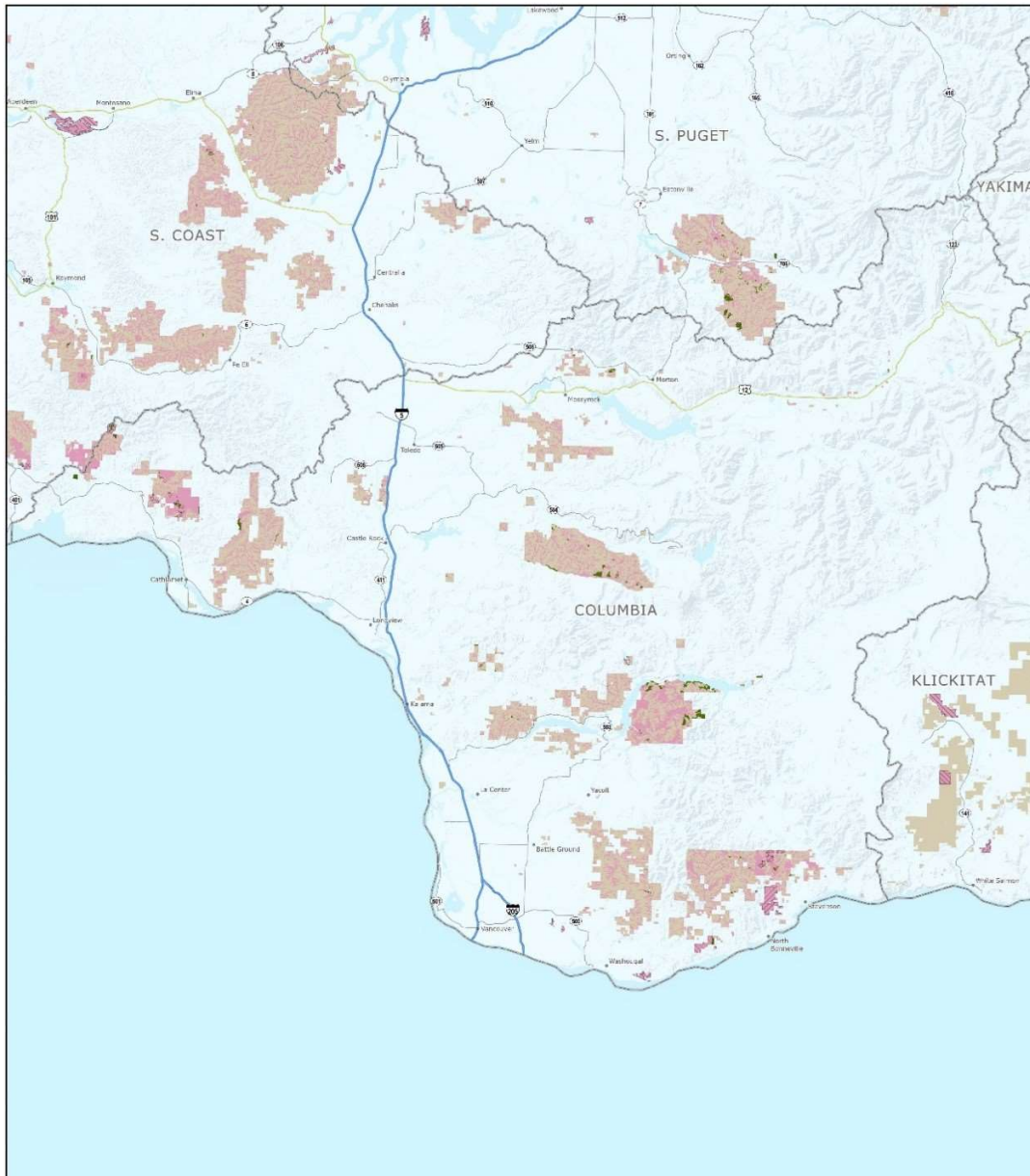
Responsible Official:

Position/Title: Scott Sargent, Pacific Cascade Region Manager **Phone:** (360) 577-2025

Address: P.O. Box 280 Castle Rock, WA 98611

Date: 05/07/2024 **Signature:** 

There is no DNR administrative SEPA appeal.



2021 Older Forest
Within Conservation
COLUMBIA

- Older Forest in 2021
- Westside Forest Cover
- HCP Planning Units
- Natural Area Preserve
- Natural Resource Conservation Area
- Other DNR-Managed Lands

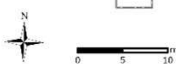


Map created on 4/18/2024 of older forests and westside forest cover identified from the analysis documented within the memo titled "Identifying Stands to Meet Older Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 11, 2021." All data are draft and subject to change.



Projected 2100
Older Forest
Within Conservation
COLUMBIA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Projected Older Forest in 2100 | Natural Area Preserve |
| Westside Forest Cover | Natural Resource Conservation Area |
| HCP Planning Units | Other DNR-Managed Lands |



Map created on 4/18/2024 of older forests and westside forest cover identified from the analysis documented within the memo titled "Identifying Stands to Meet Older Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 11, 2021." All data are draft and subject to change.