



# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation

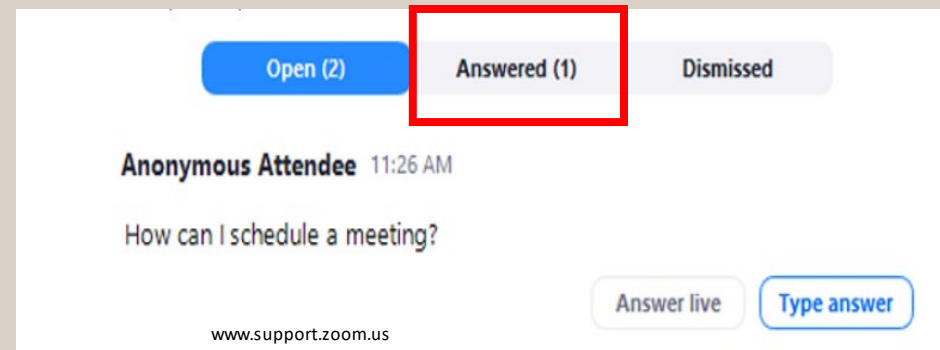
## For Forested State Trust Lands in Eastern Washington



Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
January 24, 2024

# Webinar Instructions

- This Webinar is being Recorded
- Providing Scoping Comments
- Questions and Answers
- Public Record



# Agenda

- Background on WA State Trust Lands
- Two Concurrent Calculations
- Environmental Review Steps
- What is Scoping?
- SHC Proposal Information
- Providing Comments



An aerial photograph of a vast landscape. In the foreground, a dense forest of green trees covers a valley. A river winds through the forest. Beyond the forest, there are rolling hills and a wide valley. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with distinct erosion patterns, possibly badlands, under a clear sky. The word "Background" is overlaid in large, dark, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

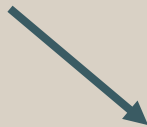
# Background



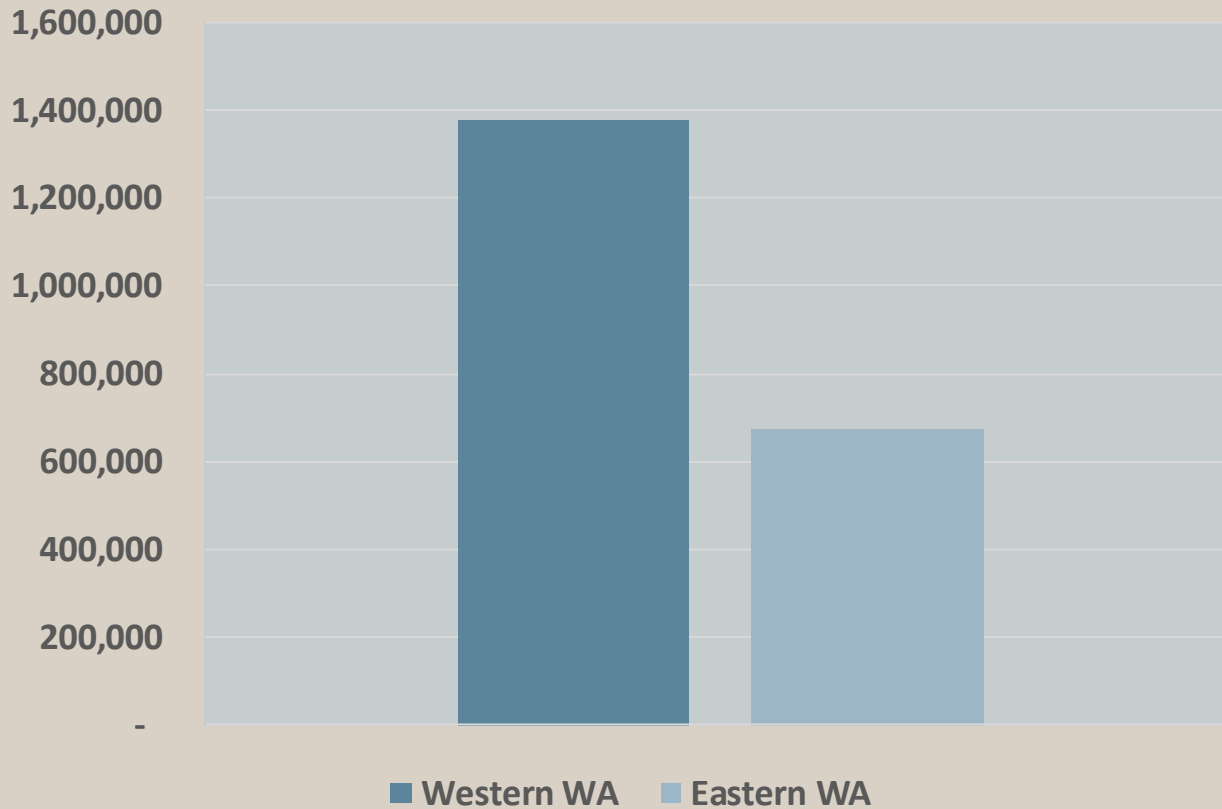
# Washington State Trust Lands

DNR is the Trust Manager of ~2.9 million acres of State Trust Lands in Washington

~2.1 million  
forested  
acres



# Forested Trust Lands for Each Calculation



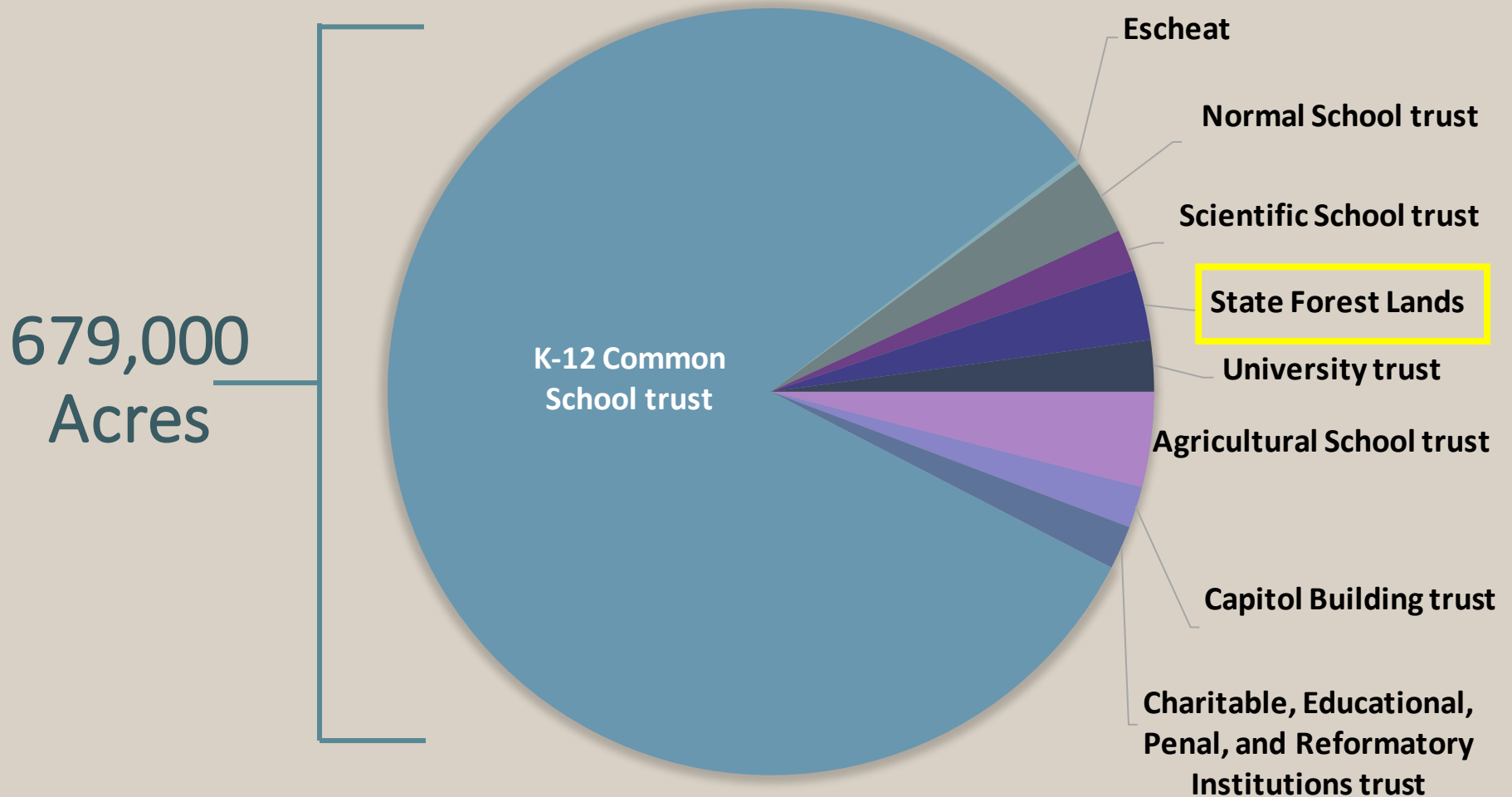
# Forested Trust Lands by Proposal Area

	Major Trusts*	Western WA	Eastern WA	Beneficiary Use
Federally Granted	Common School Trust	526,000	557,000	Construction of public K-12 Schools
	Capital Building Trust	88,000	12,000	Construction of state government office buildings
	University Trust	43,000	15,000	Construction at University of Washington
	Scientific School Trust	54,000	12,000	Construction at Washington State University
	Charitable, Educational, Penal and Reformatory Institutions (CEP&RI) Trust	29,000	12,000	Establishment and maintenance of institutions managed by Department of Social and Health Services and Department of Corrections
	Agricultural School Trust	26,000	27,000	Construction at Washington State University
	Normal School Trust	34,000	22,000	Construction at Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, and The Evergreen State College
State Forest	State Forest Transfer Lands	493,000	20,000	Acquired by 21 counties in the 1920s & 1930s through tax foreclosures. Transferred to the state and placed in trust status. Trust revenue goes to the county in which the land is located.
	State Forest Purchase Lands	76,000	<100	Purchased by the state, or acquired as a gift. Trust revenue goes to the county in which the land is located.

\*Excludes – Community College Forest Reserve, Escheat, and Water Pollution Control Board trust acreage



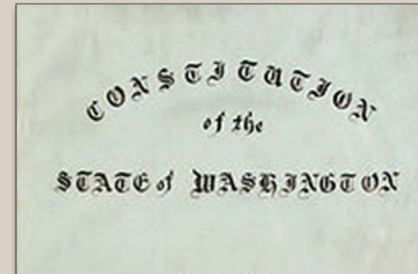
# Eastern WA Forested Trust Lands by Trust



# Trust Responsibilities

DNR's role as a trust manager means it bears fiduciary duties to:

- Make the trusts productive by generating revenue and other benefits, 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 each beneficiary
- Act impartially with respect to current and future beneficiaries



# Board Policies and Other Applicable Laws

## Policy for Sustainable Forests

(Multiple state and federal laws)

- Economic Performance
- Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity
  - Social and Cultural Benefits
  - Implementation

## Multiple Use Concept

(Multiples Uses - RCW 79.10.120)

## Sustainable Harvest Level

(Sustainable Harvest - RCW 79.10.300-340)

## Habitat Conservation Plan

*Endangered Species Act*

(16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

# Board of Natural Resources



The Honorable Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands

Dan Brown, Ph.D., University of Washington

Jim Cahill, Office of the Governor



Wendy Powers-Schilling, Dean, Washington State University

The Honorable Lisa Janicki, Skagit County Commissioner

The Honorable Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction



[www.dnr.wa.gov/bnr](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/bnr)



# Two Calculations

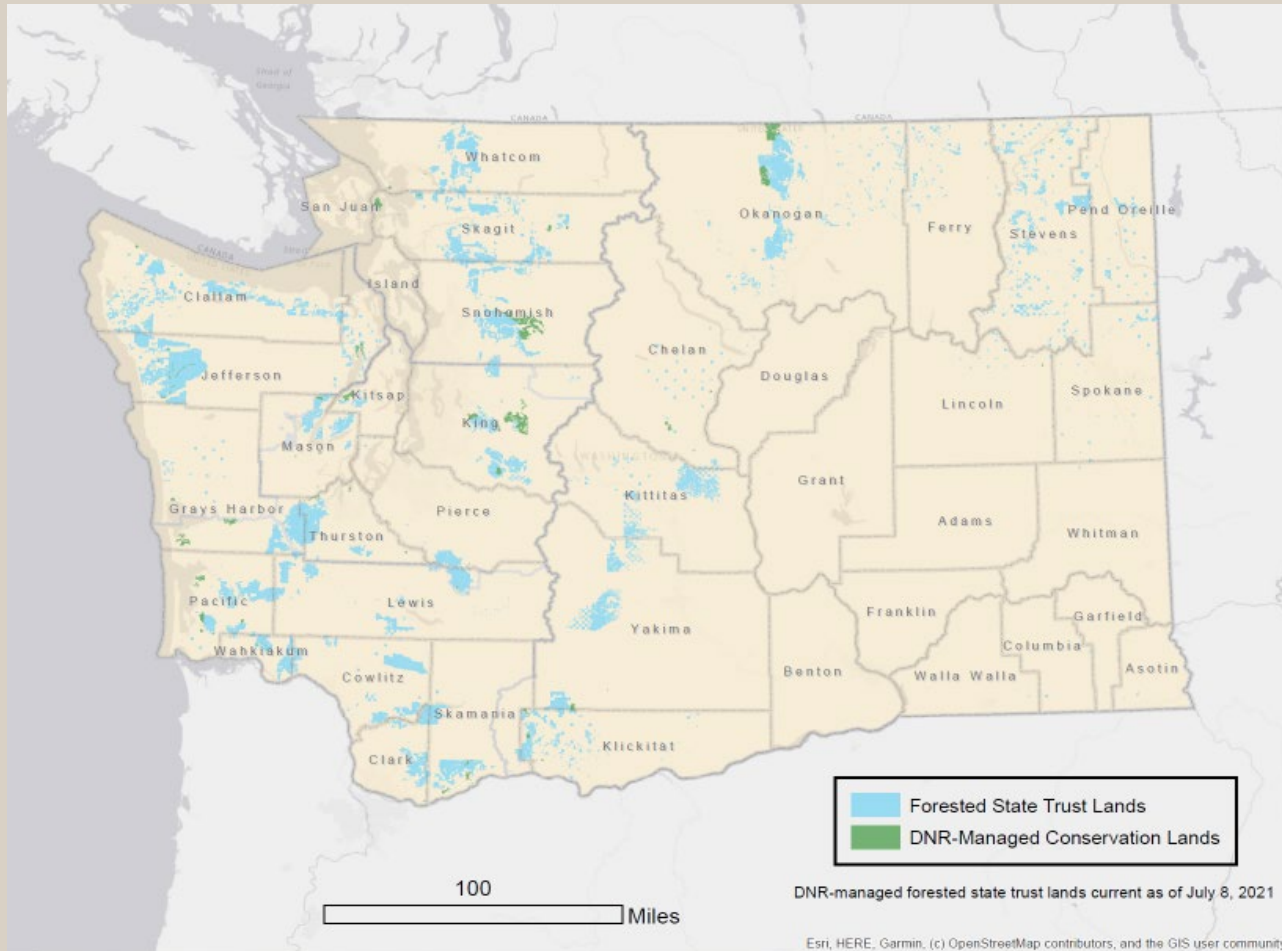
Eastern Washington



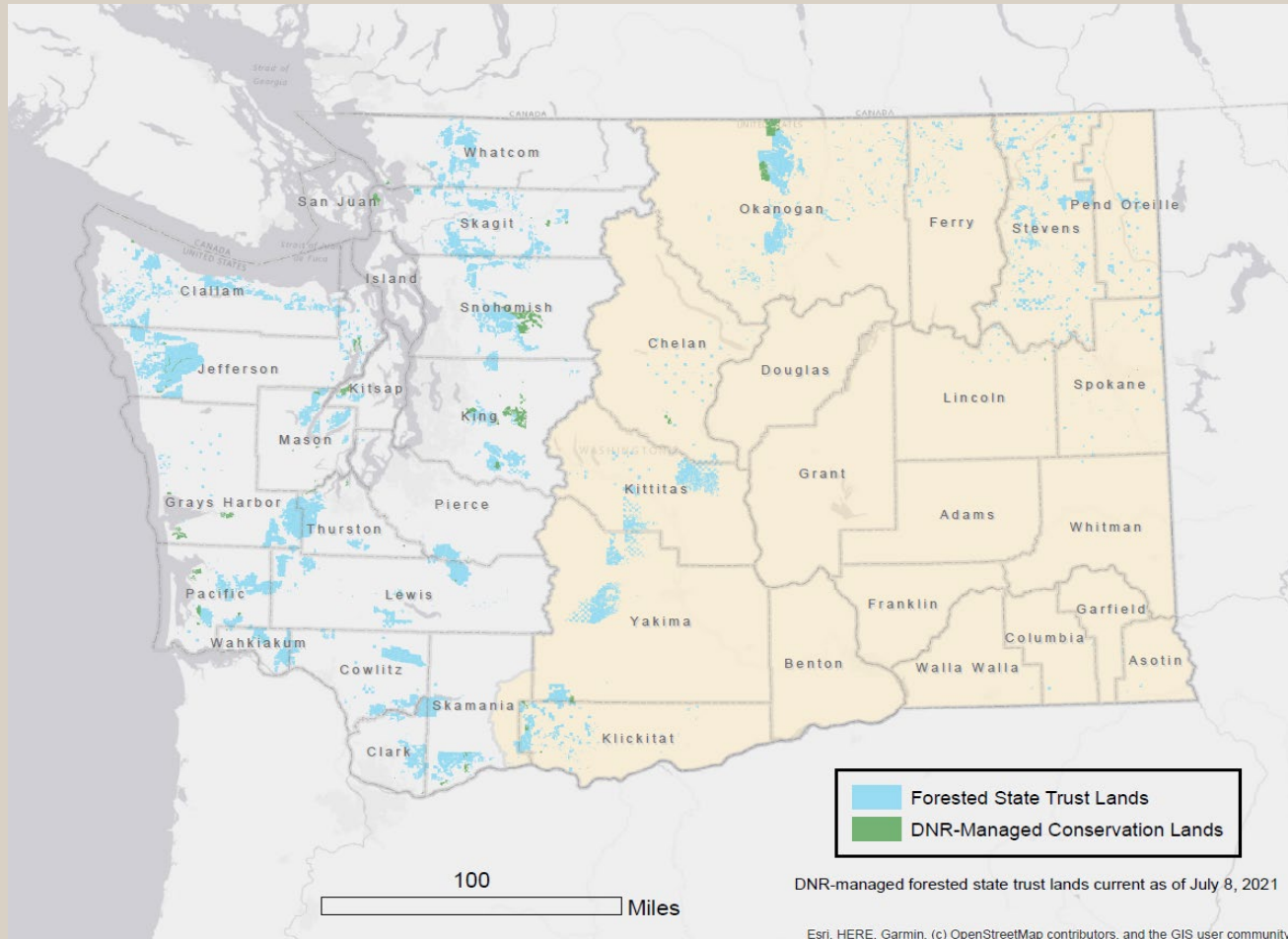
Western Washington



# Two Separate Proposals for Two Separate Calculations



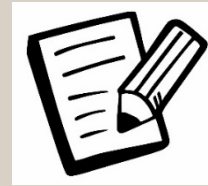
# Eastern Washington



# DNR's Sustainable Harvest Calculation Webpage



- Webinars



- Links for submitting comments



- DNR contact information

[www.dnr.wa.gov/shc](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/shc)





# Environmental Review Steps

# Environmental Review Steps

Determination of Significance



EIS Required



Conduct scoping

Comment Period January 9<sup>th</sup> – February 22<sup>nd</sup>



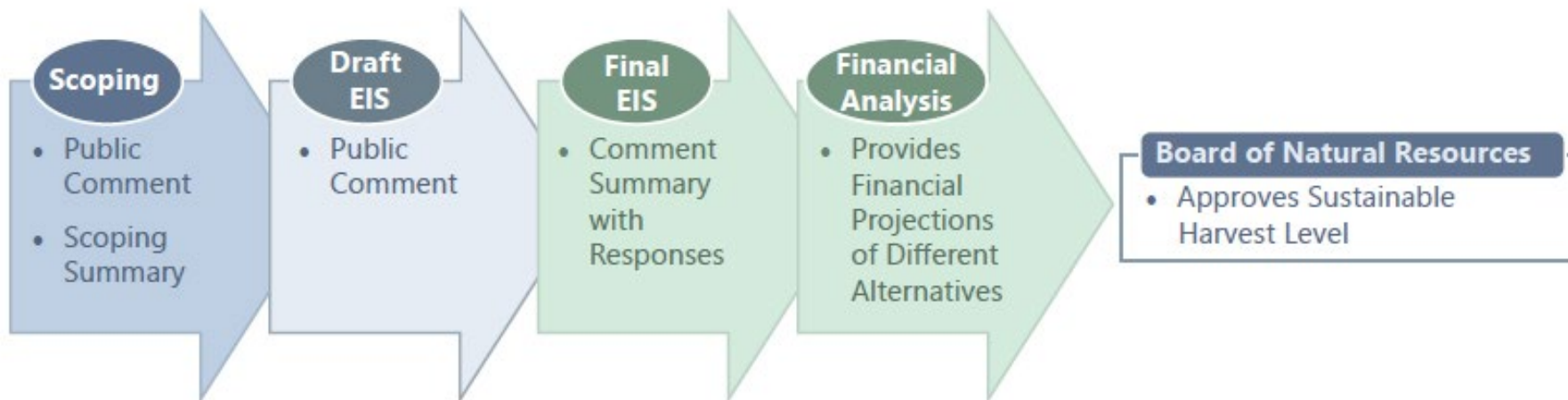
Issue a draft EIS for review and public comment



Publish a final EIS



# Other Sustainable Harvest Calculation Steps



# What is Scoping?

# Eastern Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping

Seek public input to help DNR:

- Narrow the focus of the EIS to significant environmental issues
- Eliminate issues that would have insignificant impacts, or that are not directly related to the proposal



# Eastern Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping

Seek public input to help DNR:

- Identify alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS
- Identify mitigation measures that address potential environmental impacts of the proposal



# Eastern Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping Notice

## DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

**Description of proposal:** The proposal is to establish a sustainable harvest level for the 2025 to 2034 fiscal year planning decade for forested state trust land in eastern Washington.

**Proponent:** Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

**Location of proposal:** All forested state trust lands located east of the Cascade Crest in Washington State (refer to attached map).

**Lead agency:** DNR

**Determination:** *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required.* The lead agency has determined this proposal potentially will have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared.

**Deadline for comments:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 by 5:00 pm

### Scoping notice invites comments:

Scoping is the first formal step in preparing an EIS and initiates public involvement. Through scoping, DNR seeks public input on identifying the areas that require in-depth analysis, and those areas for which a more limited discussion is appropriate. This process helps to focus DNR's consideration on the issues that are truly significant, and avoids obscuring those issues with unnecessary detail. The primary purposes of scoping are to:

- Narrow the focus of the EIS to significant environmental issues;
- Eliminate issues that would have insignificant impacts, or that are not directly related to the proposal;
- Identify alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS; and
- Identify mitigation measures that address potential environmental impacts of the proposal.

### Areas for public comment:

# Eastern Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping Notice

- Applicable forest practices rules (Title 222 WAC)
- All other applicable state and federal regulations
- All current DNR policies, including the objectives of the *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan*
- Proposed purpose and need statement (attached to this notice)

**You may submit these comments via one of the following methods:**

- Online comment form, via: <https://wadnr.commentinput.com/?id=HtPRZf7Vj>
- USPS mail: SEPA Center, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, WA 98504-7015

## **Background Information:**

In Washington, DNR manages approximately 5.6 million acres of state trust lands. State trust lands are lands held in trust for specific trust beneficiaries, such as public schools and universities. The term “state trust lands” refers to both State lands and State forest lands:

- State lands (RCW 79.02.010(14)) are lands granted to the state by the federal government at statehood. State lands are also referred to as Federal Grant Lands.
- State forest lands (RCW 79.02.010(13)) are lands acquired by Washington State from the counties. There are two types: State Forest Purchase Lands, which are lands purchased or acquired by the state as a gift, and State Forest Transfer Lands, which are lands transferred to the state from the counties.

As a trust lands manager, DNR’s responsibility is to manage these lands consistent with fiduciary principles, which include producing a perpetual supply of revenue for specific trust beneficiaries. On forested state trust lands, revenue is produced primarily through the harvesting of trees.

Providing a perpetual supply of revenue requires responsible management with an emphasis on long-term sustainability. A major component of DNR’s approach to sustainable management is calculation of a sustainable harvest level, which is the volume of timber to be scheduled for sale during a planning decade according to applicable laws, policies, and procedures (RCW 79.10.300)(5). Put another way, the sustainable harvest level is the amount of timber DNR can harvest



# Why Reinitiate Scoping?

# Analyzing revisions to the 1999 Northern Spotted Owl Procedure (PR-14-004-120)

- Discussed at the Board of Natural Resources meeting on December 5, 2023 – recording is available online

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/bnr>

- Protects owl circles – a relic of pre-Habitat Conservation Plan management
- Westside application cancelled as part of the 2004 SHC process, replaced with new westside procedure



<b>PROCEDURE</b>		<i>Department of Natural Resources</i>
<b>Date:</b>	August, 1999	Page: 1 of 7
<b>Cancels:</b>	Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Memorandum #1 (1/20/98)	
<b><u>PR 14-004-120</u></b>	<b><u>MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN SPOTTED OWL NEST PATCHES, CIRCLES, DESIGNATED NESTING, ROOSTING, AND FORAGING AND DISPERSAL MANAGEMENT AREAS</u></b>	
<b><u>APPLICATION</u></b>	All forested ecosystems covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan, including the Olympic Experimental State Forest Planning Unit	
<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	This procedure provides direction for managing spotted owl habitat to ensure that adequate habitat is provided for spotted owls and other wildlife species that require an older-forest ecosystem for all or part of their life-cycle functions. The goal of the spotted owl conservation	

# Why revise the 1999 procedure?

- Conflicts with the ecological considerations of the HCP and HCP Amendment One
- Limited flexibility in managing for forest health
- Risk of catastrophic loss



*Unhealthy, overly dense owl habitat*



*Owl habitat burned in the 2017 Jolly Mountain fire*

# Proposal

# Eastern Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation Proposal:

The proposal is to establish a sustainable harvest level for the 2025 to 2034 fiscal year planning decade for forested state trust lands in eastern Washington.



# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping Proposal: Purpose

The purpose of the proposed action is to recalculate a sustainable harvest level consistent with DNR policies, including the Policy for Sustainable Forests, the 1997 HCP, and applicable local, state, and federal laws

## **AND**

To evaluate the environmental impacts of revising or rescinding the 1999 procedure (PR 14-004-120) related to managing spotted owl habitat in eastern WA HCP units in order to bring northern spotted owl habitat conservation practices into alignment with HCP landscape-level conservation strategies and forest health and catastrophic loss prevention strategies and policies.



# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Proposal: Need

DNR needs to:

- Calculate a new sustainable harvest level
- Determine the best course of action regarding arrearage, if one exists, consistent with state law and DNR policy
- Analyze how revisions to Procedure 14-004-120 may address forest health issues and risk of catastrophic loss



# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Proposal: Objective 1

Incorporate new information into an updated forest estate model to calculate the sustainable harvest level that will inform the Board of Natural Resources when setting the decadal harvest level.





# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Proposal: Objective 2

Consider climate change as part of the affected environment, analyze climate change impacts and benefits of the alternatives, and identify possible mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate any identified adverse environmental climate change impacts of the proposal.



# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Proposal: Objective 3

Support implementation of DNR's Forest Health Treatment Prioritization and Implementation Plan on State Trust Lands in Eastern Washington as required by E2SHB1711 and broader implementation of DNR's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan.



[dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthPlan](https://dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthPlan)

# Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Proposal: Objective 4

Ensure alternatives analyzed are reasonable, feasible, and consistent with DNR's trust management obligations, existing DNR policies, Habitat Conservation Plan and Amendments, and applicable local, state, and federal laws.



# Environmental Review Steps

Determination of Significance



EIS Required



Conduct scoping

Comment Period January 9<sup>th</sup> – February 22<sup>nd</sup>



Issue a draft EIS for review and public comment



Publish a final EIS



# Providing Comments

# Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping: Providing Comments

## Description of the Proposal

- Is the proposal clearly described?
  - If not, why not?
- Is the purpose and need statement clearly described?
  - If not, why not? What needs to be added/deleted?



# Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping: Providing Comments

## Additional Information

- Alternatives to be considered that meet the purpose, need, and objectives of the proposal
- Identification of additional environmental information, to support comments, such as peer reviewed studies or reports

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

# Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping: Providing Comments

## Environmental Impacts

- Specific mitigation measures that DNR should consider to avoid or minimize impacts

## Elements to be Included in the EIS

- Identify elements of the environment that may be significantly impacted by the proposal and should be considered for analysis in the EIS
- WAC 197-11-444

## Environmental Justice Considerations

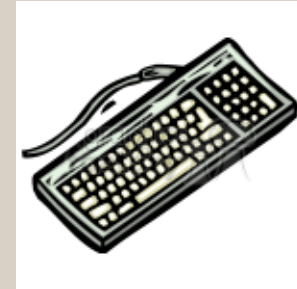
- Overburdened communities and vulnerable populations





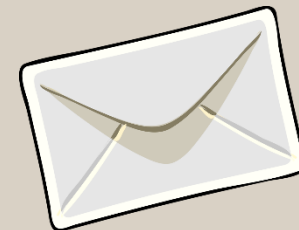
# Sustainable Harvest Calculation Submitting Scoping Comments

- **Comment Deadline:**  
**February 22, 2024 at 5:00 pm**



- **Online Comment Form:**  
<https://wadnr.commentinput.com/?id=HtPRZf7Vj>

- **USPS:**  
SEPA Center  
P.O. Box 47015  
Olympia, WA 98504-7015



# DNR's Sustainable Harvest Calculation Webpage



- Recorded webinars



- Links for submitting comments



- DNR contact information

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