



MEMORANDUM

August 2, 2007

File No. 07-080201

TO: All interested parties

FROM: Rochelle Knust, SEPA Center Manager

SUBJECT: **SEPA LEAD AGENCY & DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS) AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a forest land plan which will produce a set of forest management strategies for the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) HCP Planning Unit, state lands on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. These strategies will be part of the OESF Forest Land Plan, and will inform forest management decisions implementing the agency's policies, including the sustainable harvest level for the planning unit, and the 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan. Consistent with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), DNR will complete a phased review. This first phase is a programmatic proposal, which assesses potential environmental impacts of the strategies. In the future, individual site-specific activities (i.e. construction projects, timber sales, aerial spraying, etc.) that implement the strategies may require additional review under SEPA.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

- **Economic Performance**: Reliable, sustainable revenue; and harvest amount and timing.
- **Forest Ecosystem Health & Productivity**: Unzoned forest approach to meld habitat conservation and commodity production; forest health; and riparian conservation.
- **Social & Cultural Benefits**: Public access and recreation; cultural resources; and local economic vitality.
- **Implementation**: Silvicultural practices/strategies; and research and monitoring.

Public Meetings (each meeting will start at 6:00 PM):

Tuesday, August 21, 2007:

WA State Dept. of Natural Resources
Olympic Region Conference Area
411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331

Wednesday, August 22, 2007:

Clallam Transit System Center
830 West Lauridsen Blvd.
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Thursday, August 23, 2007:

Washington State University
Jefferson County Extension
201 W Patison Spruce Room
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

Contact: Farra Vargas, Project Manager: (360) 902-1792

Information about this proposal including the Threshold Determination and Scoping Notice can be viewed on DNR's website at:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department's SEPA Center at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington, on August 2, 2007. We will consider comments on this proposed DS received by 4:30 p.m. on August 31, 2007. **Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center, at P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. You may also email your comments to: sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov. Please include the file number listed above on all comments.**