

Olympic Experimental State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Planning Unit

Forest Land Plan



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Dear Supporters

The Washington state Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) forest land plan for the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) guides the management of over 270,000 acres of forested state trust lands on the western Olympic Peninsula. DNR manages these temperate rain forests for both timber harvest to provide revenue to trust beneficiaries, and ecological values such as habitat for native wildlife species.

A member of the US Forest Service's National Experimental Forest and Range Network, the OESF is managed under an experimental approach called "integrated management." Instead of designating one area for timber harvest and another for wildlife habitat and other ecological values, DNR manages forested state trust lands across the OESF for both.

In this forest land plan, DNR provides foresters and managers the practical guidance they need to implement this approach on a day-to-day basis.

DNR also describes its approach to research and monitoring, in which DNR investigates the relationship between management activities and ecological conditions; its step-by-step adaptive management process, in which DNR uses new information to affirm or change its management; and its new program of operational trials, in which foresters are encouraged to innovate on logging methods and other aspects of day-to-day operations. All of these programs and opportunities will help DNR maximize the potential of the OESF as a laboratory for sustainable forest management.

DNR could not complete a plan of this magnitude without help from individuals and organizations too numerous to list. DNR extends a special thanks to everyone who has supported this forest land plan with feedback, site visits, ideas, and the generous use of their time and energy.

DNR invites you to read and learn about this unique area, from its early history to today's management goals and strategies. Thank you for your continued support of the OESF.

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Prepared by

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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Acronyms

dbh Diameter at breast height

DNR Washington Department of Natural Resources

GIS Geographic information system

HCP State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan

LRM Land resource manager database

NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service

NPS National Park Service

OESF Olympic Experimental State Forest

RCW Revised code of Washington

RMAP Road maintenance and abandonment plan

SAF Society of American Foresters
SEPA State Environmental Policy Act
SOMU Spotted owl management unit

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
USDI United States Department of the Interior

USGS United States Geological Survey

USFS United States Forest Service

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WAC Washington administrative code

WDFW Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

WFPB Washington Forest Practices Board

Other

Federal Services NOAA Fisheries and USFWS