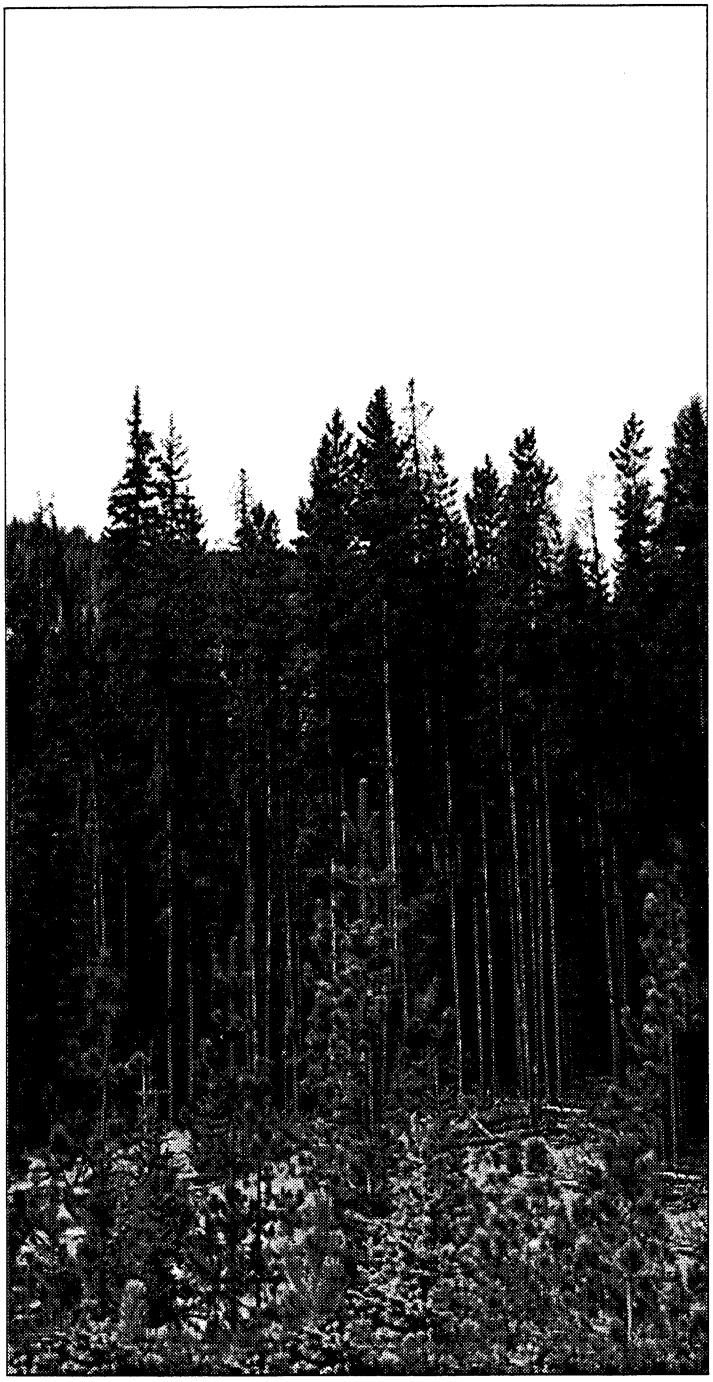
N A T U R A L R E S O U R C E S

LOOMIS STATE FOREST

FINAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

June , 1996



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Northeast Region

PREFACE

PRINCIPAL PLAN CHANGES

The Draft Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan was issued for public comment March 4, 1996. Public comments were received during the 30 day comment period between March 8 and April 8, 1996 and at Public Hearings held at Okanogan and Olympia. The Board of Natural Resources is expected to act on this final Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan at their June, 1994 meeting.

The following notes identify the principal additions and changes from the Draft Landscape Plan as a result of comments received.

1. Air Resource

a. A more detailed description for content of fire suppression plans.

2. Archaeological/Historical Resource

a. Text added to planning concepts that DNR will work with tribes to preserve traditional and cultural heritage sites consistent with the Forest Resource Plan policy no. 24.

3. Fish Resource

a. Additional discussion of when 30% volume removals may or may not occur in RMZs was added to planning concepts text and guideline 3.1 consistent with Forest Resource Plan policy no. 20.

b. Clarification of Type 5 stream protection added to guideline 3.2. and riparian landscape objectives consistent with Forest Resource Plan policy no. 20.

c. Guideline 3.3.b revised to include limiting cattle access to creeks to reduce streambank damage.

4. Grazing Resource

a. Clarification of relationships between Coordinated Resource Management, Resource Management Plans and permitting process added in planning concepts text and guideline 4.4.

b. Guideline 4.4 revised to emphasize additional controls to limit cattle grazing impacts.

c. Guideline 4.8 added to assess and limit potential access points for cattle access to streams after timber harvest.

d. Grazing permit range map added.

5. Mineral Resource

a. No changes.

6. Recreation Resource

a. Discussion of enforcement of road closures through education of user groups and possible enforcement in conjunction with the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife expanded in planning concepts.

b. Recreation monitoring added to Section 5.

7. Soils Resource

a. No changes.

8. Timber Resource

a. The term "forest health" as generally used in the plan was defined in the context of forest stands and trees.

b. Sustainable harvest calculations and SNAP planning harvest level predictions are not the same. A discussion of the difference in sustainable harvest calculations as identified through Forest Resource Plan policy and harvest levels as predicted through SNAP modeling was added.

c. Age class maps added in "Decade" discussions after conceptual harvest maps depicting age class distribution across the forest over time as timber harvest occurs (at the end of 10, 20, 40 and 80 years).

9. Water Resource

a. The Dept. of Ecology has committed to jointly monitor several plots in the forest with DNR only through 1999. Text added that the DNR will continue to monitor beyond 1999 as needed.

10. Wildlife Resource

a. Late successional characteristics discussion expanded in planning concept text, guideline 10.5, and new Appendix D. The point that timber harvest will occur in these blocks, but certain characteristic will be maintained through management was emphasized in plan and is consistent with Forest Resource Plan policy no. 22.

b. New leave tree guideline added for retaining some large ponderosa pine trees in the ponderosa pine zone.

c. Additional map added to show approximate locations of late successional habitat management blocks and principal lynx travel routes.

CONTENTS

SECTION 1

5 **Introduction**
6 Vicinity Map
7 Landscape Planning
8 Purposes of A Landscape Plan for the Loomis State Forest
8 Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan
9 Loomis Landscape
10 Current Conditions in the Loomis Forest
11 Desired Future Conditions

SECTION 2

13 **Landscape Objectives for the Loomis State Forest**

SECTION 3

19 **Implementation Plan - Decade by Decade View Introduction**
23 Decade One (1996 - 2005)
26 Decade One Map - Conceptual Harvest & Road Network
27 Ten Year Age Class Map
28 Decade Two (2006 - 2015)
30 Decade Two Map - Conceptual Harvest
31 Twenty Year Age Class Map
32 Decades Three - Five (2016 - 2045)
34 Decades Three - Five Map - Conceptual Harvest
35 Forty Year Age Class Map
36 Decades Six - Eight (2046 - 2075)
37 Decades Six - Eight Map - Conceptual Harvest
38 Eighty Year Age Class Map
39 Harvest Targets by Decade and Vegetation Zone
39 Potential Transportation Activity by Decade

SECTION 4

40 **Landscape Plan Guidelines**
40 Introduction
40 Resource Guidelines
42 Air Resource
44 Archeological/Historical Resource
46 Fish Resource

49 Grazing Resource
52 Permit Range Map
53 Mineral Resource
54 Recreation Resource
57 Conceptual Use Zones Map
58 Soils Resource
61 Forest Slope Stability Map
62 Timber Resource
66 Forest Inventory Map
67 Moutain Pine Beetle Map
68 Water Resource
70 Water Types and WAUs Map
71 Wildlife Resource
76 Vegetation Types Map
77 Late Successional Blocks Map

SECTION 5

78 Monitoring and Adaptive Management
78 Introduction
79 Adaptive Management
80 Resource Monitoring

APPENDICES

88 Loomis State Forest Chronology
92 Vegetation Zones
110 Vegetation Zones Map
111 Glossary
124 Late Successional Forest Characteristics

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

The Loomis State Forest was created in 1925 as part of a federal land grant for the support of Washington State's common school trust. The forest is located in Okanogan County in north central Washington, east of the North Cascade Mountains, 12 miles west of Tonasket. The vicinity map on the next page shows the location of the Loomis State Forest (Figure 1). Fire suppression and cattle grazing were the main management activities in the forest until 1957 when the Department of Natural Resources was formed.

The 1960s saw the expansion of a road network into the forest to allow for better fire control access. Forest inventory work was also completed for the first time, allowing the Department to see what resource values were available. The State inherited a forest with a unique biological make-up of a multitude of vegetative communities.

The 1970s saw an expansion of timber harvest and recreation management activities, and an increased flow of dollars from forest management to the common school trust. A spruce budworm epidemic in the late 1970s and early 1980s resulted in heavy cutting in some Douglas fir stands.

Throughout the 1980s, economic factors affecting the timber industry caused a roller coaster effect on timber prices and timber sale plans in the forest. Spruce budworm populations declined, but mountain pine beetle populations increased. Increased recreational use was also seen.

With the start of the 1990s, more questions were asked about the impacts of road construction and timber harvesting on wildlife habitat, soil stability, water quality, etc. In 1991, the Department's Northeast Region established a planning process with a 12-member citizen advisory committee reviewing each timber sale.