

Chapter 7

KEY DEFINITIONS

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Active management: Intervening in the development of a forest stand through planting, thinning, managing competing vegetation, harvesting, or other stand management activities. Also referred to as “active forest management.”

Bare land value: Bare land value (BLV) assesses the present net worth of an infinite number of successive, identical timber harvest rotations.

Biodiversity: The full range of life in all its forms as defined by the Washington Biodiversity Council.

Board foot: The amount of wood contained in an unfinished board 1 inch thick, 12 inches long, and 12 inches wide (2.54 x 30.5 x 30.5 centimeters), abbreviated bd. ft.; commonly, 1,000 bd. ft. is written as 1 MBF and 1,000,000 bd. ft. as 1 MMBF.

Board of Natural Resources (BNR or Board): As defined and authorized in RCW 43.30.215, the BNR consists of six members: the governor or governor designee; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Commissioner of Public Lands; the director of the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington; the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University; and a representative of those counties containing state forestlands acquired by the department. The BNR’s duties include establishing department policy and setting appraisal value of lands and valuable materials including timber values offered for sale. See RCW 43.30.215 for more duties of BNR.

Buffer: A forested strip left during timber harvest to conserve sensitive ecosystems or wildlife habitat. Active management may be allowed as long as they are consistent with the conservation objectives for the buffer.

Commercial thinning: A thinning that generates revenue and is performed to meet a wide range of objectives, including improving the growth of the stand, enhancing stand health, reducing tree mortality, or accelerating the development of habitat.

Consultation: As used in this DEIS, “consultation” does not mean an ESA Section 7 consultation, but refers to the DNR informally contacting USFWS about a specific project to determine consistency with the HCP and the incidental take permit. DNR and USFWS may identify measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to remain consistent with the HCP and incidental take permit.

Critical habitat (federal): Defined under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 for threatened and endangered species as “(i) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 1533 of this title, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographical area

occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 1533 of this title, upon a determination by the [U.S.] Secretary [of Interior] that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.”

Cumulative impact: The incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can occur from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time and space.

Deferral: As used in this DEIS, the term “deferral” or “deferred lands” refers to forestland that will not be harvested during the planning period due to a long-term conservation commitment under the 1997 HCP, *Policy for Sustainable Forests*, or other DNR conservation objectives.

Dispersal habitat: Habitat used by juvenile northern spotted owls or by this species at any age to disperse or move from one area designated for nesting-roosting-foraging habitat to another.

Endangered species: Any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and published in the Federal Register.

Forest health: Defined in RCW 76.06.020 as “the condition of a forest being sound in ecological function, sustainable, resilient, and resistant to insects, diseases, fire, and other disturbance, and having the capacity to meet landowner objectives.” RCW 76.06.140 points to “overcrowded” conditions (i.e., overstocking) as causing forest health impediment and to well-managed forests as the first line of defense.

Gene pool reserve: A stand that has been deferred from harvest to conserve native genetic material well-adapted to local conditions for the future.

Guy line: A cable stay used to hold up a logging tower, spar, or a tailhold tree.

Habitat conservation plan (HCP): A plan authorized under Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act that permits incidental take (in the course of an otherwise lawful activity) of a species protected under the Act.

HCP planning unit: An geographic area that is based on watersheds for the purpose of tying the minimization and mitigation more closely to the natural systems and geographic variation in habitat, to gain economies of scale, and to provide greater efficiency in planning and implementing the HCP.

High-quality spotted owl habitat: The most structurally complex habitat used by territorial northern spotted owls for nesting, roosting, and foraging. See *DNR State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan 2015 Annual Report* for a more complete definition.

High-quality P-stage: Habitat with a P-stage score of 0.47 or above.

Landing: A widened area (often on or adjacent to a forest road) to which logs are yarded or skidded for loading onto trucks to be hauled to market.

Large data overlay: A complex GIS model comprised of hundreds of individual data sources describing DNR-managed lands. Examples of such data include forest inventory information, riparian and hydrology data, roads and trails, and other biological and physical information.

Long-term forest cover (LTFC): DNR-managed forestlands with commitments to maintain permanent forest cover provide long-term conservation benefits to the marbled murrelet. Areas of long-term forest cover have existing conservation commitments under the 1997 HCP, *Policy for Sustainable Forests*, Natural Heritage Program, forest practices rules, the OESF Forest Land Plan, and/or are identified as marbled murrelet conservation areas.

Low-quality P-stage: Habitat with a P-stage score of 0.25 or 0.36.

Management area for spotted owls: Lands identified and designated in the 1997 HCP to be managed for specific types of habitat for the northern spotted owl.

Marbled murrelet conservation area (MMMA): A generic term for a discrete area designated for marbled murrelet habitat conservation under one or more of the alternatives analyzed in this DEIS. Refers to: occupied sites and buffers, habitat identified under the interim strategy, emphasis areas, special habitat areas, marbled murrelet management areas, or isolated stands of higher-quality P-stage habitat.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: An act passed by the U.S. Congress to (1) declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; (2) promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; (3) enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and (4) establish a Council on Environmental Quality. In the state of Washington, NEPA's counterpart is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Natural area preserve (NAP): Under authority of the state Natural Area Preserves Act of 1972 (codified in Chapter 79.70 RCW), an area established on public lands to protect the best remaining examples of many ecological communities, including rare plant and animal habitat. NAPs are managed by DNR under the Natural Areas Program.

Natural regeneration: Reforestation by natural seed-fall from existing stands and trees.

Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA): As codified in 1987 in Chapter 79.71 RCW, an area designated to protect outstanding examples of native ecosystems; habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants and animals; and scenic areas. The NRCA program represents a protection alternative to complement NAPs. NRCAs are managed by DNR under the Natural Heritage Program.

Nesting, roosting, and foraging (NRF) management area: A discrete area to be managed for sub-mature or better northern spotted owl habitat and nest patches.

Nest patch: Designated 500-acre patches that include a 300-acre patch for nesting and a 200-acre buffer of sub-mature or better habitat.

Old-forest habitat or old forest: As used in this DEIS, this habitat defines northern spotted owl habitat in the OESF planning unit (1997 HCP, p. IV.88).

Old growth (western Washington): DNR's *Policy for Sustainable Forests* defers old-growth stands from harvest, defined as stands, 5 acres or larger, in the most structurally complex stage of stand development, also referred to as fully functional (determined through a standard scoring method based on a scientist panel consensus). Old growth stands also refer to stands with a natural origin date prior to 1850, generally considered the start of European settlement in the Pacific Northwest.

Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF): An HCP planning unit, about 264,000 acres of forested state trust lands on the western Olympic Peninsula, in which foresters and scientists seek to intentionally learn how to integrate revenue production and ecological values in a working forest.

Peak flow: Periods of high stream flow usually associated with storm events.

Policy for Sustainable Forests: A policy document that provides broad direction for DNR, in the form of 23 policies, to effectively manage forested state trust lands. The *Policy for Sustainable Forests* was adopted by the Board of Natural Resources on July 11, 2006. The purpose of the *Policy for Sustainable Forests* is to conserve and enhance the natural systems and resources of forested trust lands managed by DNR to produce long-term, sustainable income and environmental and other benefits for the people of Washington.

Pre-commercial thinning: Thinning wherein felled trees have little or no market value (usually because of insufficient size) and are therefore left where felled.

P-stage: A habitat classification system used in the development of the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy. Assigns a numeric value to forest stands based on the probability of their use by marbled murrelets for nesting.

Procedure: An explicit department direction for implementing policies such as those contained in the *Policy for Sustainable Forests*.

Reforestation: The reestablishment of forest cover either naturally (by natural seeding, coppice, or root suckers) or artificially (by direct seeding or planting). *Synonym:* regeneration.

Regeneration: The act of renewing tree cover by establishing young trees naturally or artificially.

Riparian management zone (RMZ): A protected band of vegetation adjacent to wetlands (called wetland management zone or WMZ), lakes, rivers, and streams that varies in width based on stream or wetland size and presumed ecological significance. The 1997 HCP designated RMZs and WMZs in order to protect salmonid and other aquatic and riparian obligate species.

Road maintenance and abandonment plan (RMAP): A plan that covers all forest roads on a landowner's property constructed or used for forest practices after 1974. It is based on a complete inventory that also shows streams and wetlands adjacent to or crossed by roads. The plan lays out a strategy for maintaining existing roads to meet state standards and shows areas of planned or potential road abandonment.

Salvage: Logging performed to sell blowdown, insect-infested, or otherwise damaged timber before natural processes cause deterioration in quality and value. Salvage harvest volume is not counted toward the sustainable harvest level set by the Board.

Security forest: A closed-canopy forest stand over 80-feet tall that is located adjacent to marbled murrelet nesting habitat and provides security from windthrow, predation, and other disturbances.

SEPA: The State Environmental Policy Act codified under Chapter 43.21C RCW.

Silviculture: The art and science of cultivating forests to achieve objectives. (This concept incorporates theory, planning, and practice at the stand through landscape/management area scales.)

Site preparation: Preparation of a final-harvested or intermediate-harvested forest management unit to increase the probability of successful regeneration by reducing slash and/or undesirable tree and brush species. Site preparation may be performed concurrent with logging (by, for example, pulling up and disposing of brush clumps), through piling and burning logging slash, through broadcast- or under-burning logging slash, by manually cutting undesirable vegetation, by applying herbicide (aerial or ground) to undesirable tree and brush species prior to planting, or other methods or combinations of methods. Compare to “vegetation management.”

Stand density: A quantitative measure of stocking expressed either absolutely in terms of number of trees, basal area, or volume per unit area or relative to some standard condition; a measure of the degree of crowding of trees within stocked areas commonly expressed by various growing space ratios (e.g., height/spacing).

Stand development stages: The generally recognized stages of forest stand development that would occur as trees and other organisms populate a piece of ground, grow into a stand, evolve in form, and gradually die in the absence of stand-replacement disturbance.

Stochastic: Referring to patterns resulting from random effects.

Stringer habitat: Stringer habitat is predominantly narrow riparian management zones (less than 200 meters wide) where adjacent uplands have not been designated as LTFC. This habitat is not part of the calculation of impact or mitigation.

Structurally complex stand: A forest stand in the in the niche diversification or fully functional stand development stages.

Sub-mature habitat: A northern spotted owl habitat definition for stands with the structural characteristics necessary to provide roosting and foraging functions and, rarely, nesting functions.

Sustainable harvest calculation: A strategic analysis process that quantifies forestry goals, such as future forest conditions and trust revenue, against forecasted near- and long-term effects of alternative sets of policy. This process is also used to recommend to the Board of Natural Resources the next decade’s sustainable timber harvest level. DNR is required by law (RCW 79.10.320) to periodically calculate and adjust the harvest level from forested state trust lands managed by DNR.

Tailhold: A stump, tree, rock bolt, or other immovable object to which a skyline is tied off or tail block attached.

Timber sale: A sale of timber from DNR-managed forested state trust land that is separate from the land.

Upland: Land above the ordinary high watermark of bodies of water. In everyday usage, the term refers to all lands above riparian management zones and aquatic lands, forested as well as not.

Variable-density thinning: A type of commercial thinning in which a mixture of small openings (gaps), un-thinned patches (skips), and varying stand densities are created to achieve specific objectives, such as accelerating development of a complex stand structure.

Variable retention harvest: A type of regeneration or stand-replacement harvest in which elements of the existing stand, such as down wood, snags, and leave trees (trees that are not harvested), are left for incorporation into the new stand. Variable retention harvest is different from a clearcut, in which all of the existing stand is removed.

Vegetation management: Weeding of undesirable competing vegetation, generally performed between planting and establishment, which may be performed through a variety of means such as hand-slashing or felling, mechanical means, herbicide applied from the ground, and herbicide applied by aircraft. Compare to “site preparation.”

Windthrow: Blowing over or breaking of trees in the wind.

Yarding: The act of moving timber to a landing using a cable system.