Policy for Sustainable Forests
Washington State Trust Lands

How do Older Forests fit in?

Board of Natural Resources
January 4, 2022
Angus Brodie
Agenda

• Policy Framework

• DNR Policy on Older Forests

• Public Comments

• Next Steps
Policy Framework

Policies comply with a Legal Framework

- Enabling Act 1889, Constitution 1889
- Federal Laws, e.g. Endangered Species Act 1973
- Tribal Treaties 1854-56
- Powers of the Board (RCW 43.30.215) 1957
- Multiple Use (RCW 79.10.100..120) 1971
- Sustainable Harvest (RCW 79.10.300..340) 1971
- Laws of General Applicability
Policy Framework - Sustainability

Economic

Environmental

Social

Healthy ecosystems
Habitat conservation
Watershed protection

Public Access and Use
Cultural and Historical Resources
Supporting Critical Local Services

Net Present Value
Revenue Generation
Support Local Economies
Policy Framework - Sustainability

**Economic Performance**
- Financial Diversification
- Financial Assumptions
- Definition of Sustainability for the Sustainable Harvest Calculation
- Recalculation of the Sustainable Harvest Level
- Harvest Deferral Designations

**Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity**
- Forest Health
- Catastrophic Loss Prevention
- Old-Growth Stands in Western Washington
- Wildlife Habitat
- Watershed Systems
- Riparian Conservation
- Special Ecological Features
- Genetic Resource

**Social and Cultural Benefits**
- Public Access and Recreation
- Visual Impacts
- Cultural Resources
- Local Economic Vitality

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Policy Framework - Sustainability

Implementation
- Forest Land Planning
- General Silvicultural Strategy
- Forest Roads
- Research
- External Relationships
- Implementation, Reporting and Modification of the Policy for Sustainable Forests

Economic
- Financial Diversification
- Financial Assumptions

Environmental
- Definition of Sustainability for the Sustainable Harvest Calculation
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Social
- Public Access and Recreation
- Visual Impacts
- Cultural Resources
- Local Economic Vitality

Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity
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Social and Cultural Benefits

Figure 1.4.2. DNR’s Planning Process

Federal and State Law
Applies to all stages; not set by DNR. Examples: Forest Practices Rules, Clean Water Act

Board of Natural Resources Policy
Examples: Policy for Sustainable Forests, State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan, sustainable harvest calculation, and the long-term Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy

Strategic Stage
DNR determines policy

Tactical Stage
DNR determines how to implement and achieve policy

Operational Stage
DNR implements activities according to policies and laws using guidance developed at the tactical stage

Implementation Guidance
Examples: Forest land plans, management strategies, procedures, harvest schedules, maps, databases

Individual Actions
Examples: Timber sales, road building

WADNR 2019 Final EIS page 1-16
Implementing Sustainable Forestry

Silviculture:
The art and science of cultivating forests to achieve objectives

POLICY ON GENERAL SILVICULTURAL STRATEGY
- The department will provide professional management of forested state trust lands through active management and stewardship of the greatest possible portion of these lands.
- The department will carry out active management as an integral part of the department’s fiduciary responsibilities to achieve, on a landscape basis, a combination of forest structures that, over time, provide for broad and balanced economic, ecological and social benefits.
- The department will use intensive and innovative silviculture to guide the desired progression of stand development to simultaneously produce trust revenue and create structural diversity across the landscape.
- The department will target 10-15 percent of each Western Washington Habitat Conservation Plan planning unit for “older” forests—based on structural characteristics—over time.
- Through landscape assessments, the department will identify suitable structurally complex forest stands to be managed to help meet older-forest targets. Once older-forest targets are met, structurally complex forest stands that are not needed to meet the targets may be considered for harvest activities. However, old growth is addressed in the Old-Growth Stands in Western Washington policy.

Summary
The department will:
- Provide professional management of forested lands though active management and stewardship of the greatest possible portion of these lands
- Balance economic, ecological and social benefits
- Use intensive and innovative silviculture to produce structural diversity and revenue
- Target 10-15% for “older” forests over time, and use landscape assessments to identify stands that help meet targets
Development of Older Forest Targets

Policies that shaped our current management

• 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan

• 2004 Sustainable Harvest Calculation

• 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests

• 2019 Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy – Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment
Landscape Management Activities under the Habitat Conservation Plan

- HCP Multi-species Conservation Strategy
  Uncommon Habitat

- HCP Riparian Conservation Strategy
  Riparian Buffer

- Policy for Sustainable Forests
  Sustainable Harvest Level

- HCP Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy
  Occupied Site

- HCP Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy
  NRF Habitat
Acres Available for Harvest and Conserved under the HCP Strategies

HCP Planning Units within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl

(2021 data) Western Washington Forested Lands
Federal listing of Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and Salmonids under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- ESA Compliance Options
  - Take avoidance (or)
  - Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

- Conservation Approach
  - Take avoidance is site specific
  - HCP’s provide landscape approach

- 1997 State Trust Lands HCP
  - Much of the existing older forest is captured in the HCP strategies
**2019 HCP Amendment - By the Numbers**

Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy

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**No Action – Interim Strategy**

- **Site specific conservation**: occupied sites and existing higher quality habitats (33,000 acres)\(^1\)
- Marginal habitats available for harvest (35,000 acres)\(^2\)

**Interim Strategy**

- **Site specific conservation**: occupied site and buffers (21,000 acres)\(^1\)
- Special habitat area (47,000 acres)\(^1\)
- **Habitat released** (38,000 acres)\(^2\)
- **Metering**

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**HCP Amendment**

- **Site specific conservation**: occupied site and buffers (21,000 acres)\(^1\)
- Special habitat area (47,000 acres)\(^1\)
- **Habitat released** (38,000 acres)\(^2\)
- **Metering**

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**Notes:**

1. Table 2.2.3, FEIS
2. Table 4.6.2, FEIS

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[1232x1187]
## Table 4.6.2 WADNR Final EIS, page 4-37

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
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<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
<td>0.2–0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- January 2022 BNR Draft - subject to change
- Table 4.6.2 Estimated Areas of Habitat Released for Harvest in the Analysis Area By the End of the Planning
Age Class Distributions of DNR-Managed Forested Lands in Western Washington under the HCP

Retrospective – Now – Prospective
1995 through 2070
Policy Summary

Trust Lands are managed to generate sustainable long-term revenue for the beneficiaries

The Policy Framework is Sustainability

The Habitat Conservation Plan is a landscape approach to protecting species, habitat, and biodiversity

Changing policy leads to an examination of the balance between the economic, environmental, and social benefits
Public Comments
### Ecological
- Naturally generated forests are more complex
- Trees are larger in naturally-regenerated stands
- These forests contain more carbon than plantations
- All lowland old-growth has been logged in South Puget Sound

### Don’t harvest naturally regenerated forests that have an origin date prior to 1945

### Social
- These forest are learning opportunities
- Popular recreational destinations for hunters, hikers, bikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts

### Policy
- HCP obligates DNR to keep these forests
- DNR’s own policy obligates it to keep these forest until the 10-15% targets are reached
- There’s more than enough plantations to satisfy the sustainable harvest targets and fulfill DNR's current commitments to beneficiaries
What does the review look like?

- Extra review of timber sales that receive public comments
- Extra screening protocols for forest stands close to Board’s ‘Old-Growth’ definition
- Delayed a number of timber sales
- Reviewed policy framework with the Board
Q. How many acres of ‘older forest’ are there?

A. It depends on the Age Class one chooses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Class (years)</th>
<th>Operable Acres</th>
<th>Acres Conserved by HCP (i.e. LTFC)</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>165,190</td>
<td>14,090</td>
<td>179,280</td>
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<td>10-19</td>
<td>115,680</td>
<td>13,620</td>
<td>129,300</td>
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<td>20-39</td>
<td>247,870</td>
<td>136,810</td>
<td>384,680</td>
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<td>40-69</td>
<td>237,980</td>
<td>326,850</td>
<td>564,830</td>
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<td>70-119</td>
<td>64,040</td>
<td>157,400</td>
<td>221,440</td>
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<td>120-169</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>43,470</td>
<td>51,670</td>
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<td>&gt;=170</td>
<td>2,220</td>
<td>41,210</td>
<td>43,430</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>841,180</strong></td>
<td><strong>733,450</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,574,630</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operable Acres:
Forested areas identified for even-age management, including regeneration harvest

Acres Conserved by HCP:
Includes forested areas in old growth areas, marbled murrelet management areas, habitat in northern spotted management areas, riparian and wetland management zones

Data from July 2021
Next Steps

1. Delaying policy compliant timber sales in forests close to the Board’s old-growth definition

   *For FY 2022, 7 sales and 49 million board feet are delayed*

2. Conducting a review of the Pre-1900 forests to assess options

   *Anticipate this review to be complete by May 2022*

3. Planning a presentation on forest carbon to the board in first quarter of 2022

4. Public outreach