Public Outreach For Timber Sales

Cory McDonald
July 5, 2022
The type or amount of outreach depends on the landscape
Road system with several residences on left
Road system connects to State Highway on right
February 4, 2022

(Address: see Neighbor Mailbox List)

Subject: Washington State Department of Natural Resources “XXX XXX” Timber Harvest

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to inform you that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is planning a timber harvest in the vicinity of your property. Please see the attached map for the approximate location of this proposed harvest. The DNR manages approximately 2.1 million acres of forestland for the benefit of a number of trusts across the state. The proceeds from this timber sale will be transferred to the county and school district to support infrastructure and school construction projects.

This proposed harvest will utilize a “variable retention harvest” prescription which retains an average of eight trees per acre after harvest. The harvest will be conducted under our State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) which ensures protection for listed threatened and endangered species as well as other species that could be impacted by timber harvesting. Field foresters will work in consultation with our department biologist to ensure we meet the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and our HCP. The timber sale planning process will also include evaluations by a licensed engineering geologist to help ensure this proposed harvest avoids potential areas of slope instability and doesn’t increase the risk of landslides occurring in the area.

The precise boundaries of the proposed harvest units have not been determined. Field foresters are currently marking the boundaries and this work will continue into the spray. The timber is expected to be auctioned in the fall of 2019 and harvest activity is likely to begin in late 2019 or early 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our proposal please feel free to contact me at PHONE NUMBER or by e-mail at RAD.FORESTER@dnr.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

RAD FORESTER
EVERGREEN Unit Forester

Enclosure: draft timber sale map (2)

CC: Timber Sale File
    Chris Hackey, Baker District Manager
Forested State Trust Lands: Supporting Schools, Counties, and Critical Services

MANAGING WORKING FORESTS

State trust lands are different than other publicly managed lands. They come with a legal responsibility to generate revenue for their designated beneficiaries, such as schools, counties, and critical local services. There are more than 2 million acres of forested state trust lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for long-term timber production, specific habitat objectives, and protection of clean, abundant water. These forests often provide public recreation opportunities, too.

As stewards of the lands and natural resources, DNR draws upon a variety of staff, including foresters, engineers, geologists, biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, economists, and others as management activities are planned. All DNR-managed forested trust lands are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI). Certified forests are grown to an approved set of standards that demonstrate environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable management practices. For more information on DNR’s forest certification program, go online to bit.ly/DNRStaySFI.

KEY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Habitat Conservation Plan
DNR provides habitat for species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Policy for Sustainable Forests
The agency’s forest management policies were adopted by the Board of Natural Resources in 2006.

Sustainable Harvest
Forested trust lands are managed to generate sustained yield. Decadal harvest levels are approved by the Board of Natural Resources.

Washington Forest Practices Act
DNR enforces state regulations to protect public resources, such as water quality and fish habitat, on lands managed by the agency.

State Environmental Policy Act
Timber harvests and construction on trust lands are reviewed for probable significant adverse impact and involve the public.

TIP TOP TIMBER SALE

Several key factors were considered in the planning of this sale:

- Units are planned for sustained yield harvest, which includes the retention of wildlife trees, standing dead trees, and stream buffers to promote wildlife habitat
- Tree stumps are 5 to 60 years old and last harvested in the 1940s
- Mitigation, such as no-harvest buffers of at least 167 feet on each side of Rendall Creek, to preserve water quality and slope stability
- Meeting DNR’s obligation under the Habitat Conservation Plan to retain and promote long term forest cover on sensitive sites
- Retaining older legacy trees to maintain biologic diversity throughout the harvest units
- Replacing and establishing a vigorous stand of Douglas-Fir, western redcedar, and western hemlock seedlings to benefit future generations
- This sale is estimated to generate more than $800,000 in net revenue for school construction and critical services in Mason County, depending on market conditions

CURRENT PROJECT TIMELINE

- August 2020-February 2020: Public outreach
- December 2020-February 2021: Sale announcement
- February 2021: Sale announcement
- March 2021: Sale announcement
- April 2021: Pre-sale work
- September 2021: Final pre-sale work
- September 2021: Sale announcement
- June 2022: Sale announcement

Contact
Arty Alcorde
Forest District Manager
South Puget Sound Region
Aalcorde@dnr.wa.gov
Leave trees were concentrated on the east side of the unit
Having tenured staff and DNR memory is crucial
Attendance at community and recreation planning meetings is very helpful.
• 1997 State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan
• 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests
• 2006 Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan
• 2004 Sustainable Harvest Calculation
• 2015 Sustainable Harvest Calculation
• 2019 Amendment to the 1997 HCP (LTCS for Marbled Murrelets)