Sustainable Harvest Calculation
For Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington

A Report to the Board of Natural Resources

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February 2015
Today’s Objectives

- Informational
- Scoping period
- Provide background information, and staff recommendations, on two areas of interest for the alternatives:
  – Arrearage
  – Riparian
Sustainable Harvest Calculation

- Scoping

  - Scoping notice issued: January 29, 2015
  - Comment period ends: February 27, 2015

  - Live webinar: February 12, 2015
    4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sustainable Harvest Calculation
Scoping: Purpose

- Analyze the sustainable harvest level associated with the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy (MMLTCS) alternatives
- Analyze alternative courses of action regarding the arrearage
- Incorporate new information
Options to Consider

- Marbled murrelet
  - At an upcoming meeting
- Arrearage
  - Three options
- Riparian
  - Two options
Arrearage
Arrearage

- **Arrearage – RCW 79.10**

  The summation of the annual sustainable harvest timber volume, less the sum of state timber sales contract default volume and the state timber sales volume deficit

- If an arrearage exists, then the Department will:
  - Conduct an analysis
  - Identify greatest return to the trusts
  - Offer for sale the arrearage in addition to the sustainable harvest level, if in best interests of the trusts
Arrearage
In Numbers

- **Western Washington FY 2005-2014**
  - Sustainable harvest = 5,500 MMBF
  - Sold volume = 5,062 MMBF

- **Arrearage**
  \[ 5,500 - 5,062 = 438 \text{ MMBF} \]
Why is There an Arrearage?

- Land transactions
- Riparian harvest
- Interim marbled murrelet conservation strategy
Arrearage
Land Transactions

- Reposition land
- Provide revenue to beneficiaries
- Over time, transactions result in disposal of mature forests and acquisition of young forests

Subject to change - February 2015
## Land Transactions

**FY 2005 - 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All transactions</th>
<th>Acquired</th>
<th>Disposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land (acres)</td>
<td>69,225</td>
<td>57,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber volume (MMBF)</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber value ($ millions)</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trust Land Transfer represented 82% of the disposed timber volume.
Arrearage
Trust Land Transfer (TLT)

- In the 2004 sustainable harvest calculation, some trust lands were placed in a harvest deferral status in anticipation of transferring them out of trust status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TLT acres</th>
<th>TLT timber volume (MMBF)</th>
<th>TLT timber value ($ millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deferred</td>
<td>17,854</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not deferred</td>
<td>15,822</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>$81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,676</strong></td>
<td><strong>657</strong></td>
<td><strong>$171</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arrearage Options
Arrearage Options to Consider

- Option 1:

Incorporate arrearage into the starting forest inventory and schedule harvests over the planning horizon (i.e. 100 years)

438 MMBF
Arrearage
Options to Consider

- **Option 2:**

Schedule harvest for arrearage within first decade -
Non-deferred Trust Land Transfer volume

\[438 \text{ MMBF} - 304 \text{ MMBF} = 135 \text{ MMBF}\]
Arrearage
Options to consider

- Option 3:

Harvest arrearage within the first 2 years of the decade

438 MMBF
Riparian
Riparian Habitat Conservation

- Two Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) strategies:
  - Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (RFRS) applied to the 5 Westside HCP units
  - Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF)
Riparian Habitat Conservation

- Both strategies include:
  - Riparian management zones (RMZs)
  - Protection of potentially unstable slopes within the RMZs
Riparian Habitat Conservation

- The two strategies (RFRS and OESF) differ:
  - RFRS has a desired future condition for the RMZ at the **stand scale**
  - OESF has an objective of restoring and maintaining riparian functions at a **watershed scale**

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Riparian Options
Riparian Options to Consider

- Of the total sustainable harvest volume, how much will be from riparian areas?

  - Riparian management determined by:
    - HCP objectives
    - Forest conditions in riparian areas
    - Linkage to upland harvests
Riparian Options to Consider

For the five westside HCP units – RFRS

- Option 1
  - Riparian restoration harvests are considered opportunistic
  - Activity acres likely not to exceed more than 100 acres per year
  - Approximates current performance
Riparian Options to Consider

For the five Westside HCP units – RFRS

- **Option 2**
  - Riparian restoration harvests will not exceed the HCP RFRS
  - Not more than 1 percent of the total riparian area per year
  - Equivalent to approximately a maximum of 3,500 acres/year
## Options to Consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Arrearage</th>
<th>Riparian*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Include in forest inventory</td>
<td>Opportunistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Deduct TLT, harvest in first decade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Harvest in two years</td>
<td>Harvests area not to exceed 1% total riparian area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Riparian management in the OESF will use those alternatives presented in the 2013 Revised Draft EIS*
Next Steps

- Marbled murrelet
  - Baseline acres
  - Biological implications
  - Alternatives

- Sustainable harvest calculation
  - Scoping summary
  - Alternatives
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands