



Policy for Sustainable Forests General Silvicultural Strategy

Board of Natural Resources
December 3, 2024
Duane Emmons



Agenda

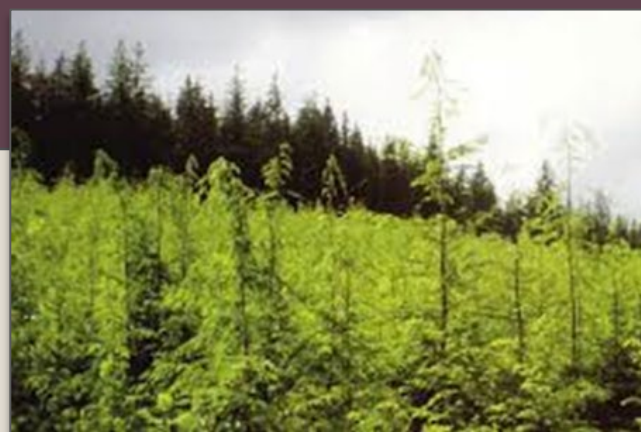
- Older Forest Definition
- DNR Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF)
- 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
- Resolution 1645



Stand Development Stages

- Foundation of Ecological Forestry (*Carey, Franklin, et al.*)
- Interrelationships of biodiversity, function, and structure
- Use to assist in silviculture decision making

	Summarized Stand Development Stage	Stand Development Stage
Less Complex Forest	Ecosystem Initiation	Ecosystem Initiation
	Competitive Exclusion	Sapling Exclusion
Pole Exclusion		
Large Tree Exclusion		
Understory Development		
More Complex Forest	Structurally Complex	Botanically Diverse
		Niche Diversification
	Older Forests	Fully Functional





General Silvicultural Strategy Summary

The department will:

- Provide professional management of forested lands through active management and stewardship of the greatest possible portion of these lands at the landscape level
- 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 suitable stands that help meet targets

[WADNR 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests, page 47](#)





Development of Older Forest Targets

Policies that shaped our current management

- 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan
- 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests
- 2019 Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy – Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment



Resolution 1645



- The Board interprets the General Silvicultural Strategy to mean that the Department will identify suitable forest stands that may be actively managed to achieve the desired 10-15% of older-forest structure in each western Washington HCP planning unit within 100 years of the adoption of the PSF.
- The Board interprets the General Silvicultural Strategy to direct the Department to identify structurally complex stands that are suitable to be managed toward older-forest targets over time.
- The Board does not interpret the General Silvicultural Strategy to prohibit the Department from harvesting structurally complex stands until it has achieved 10-15% older-forest structure across each western Washington HCP planning unit.
- The Board's interpretation of the General Silvicultural Strategy expressed above is consistent with the PSF as a whole, the release of structurally complex stands for harvest resulting from the adoption of the Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet and the 2019 Sustainable Harvest Calculation, DNR's management over the past eighteen years, other Board adopted policy, and the Department's governing law.



