

June 2014

## Economic and Revenue Forecast

Fiscal Year 2014 - Fourth Quarter

## Acknowledgements

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In the final analysis, the views expressed are our own and may not necessarily represent the views of the contributors, reviewers, or DNR.

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This Forecast is also available on the DNR website:
http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/EconomicReports/Pages/econ timb rev forcsts.aspx

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

| bbf | Billion board feet |
| :--- | :--- |
| BLS | U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics |
| CAD | Canadian dollar |
| CNY | Chinese yuan (renminbi) |
| CPI | Consumer Price Index <br> CY |
|  | Calendar Year |
| DNR | Washington Department of Natural Resources |
| ECB | European Central Bank |
| ERFC | Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council |
| FDA | Forest Development Account |
| FEA | Forest Economic Advisors |
| Fed | U.S. Federal Reserve Board |
|  |  |
| FOMC | Federal Open Market Committee |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| HMI | National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| ISM | Institute for Supply Management |
|  |  |
| LVL | Laminated Veneer Lumber |
| mbf | Thousand board feet |
| mmbf | Million board feet |
| PPI | Producer Price Index |
| Q1 | First quarter of year (similarly, Q2, Q3, and Q4) |
| QE | Quantitative Easing |
|  |  |
| RCW | Revised Code of Washington |
| RISI | Resource Information Systems, Inc. |
| RMCA | Resource Management Cost Account |
| SA | Seasonally Adjusted |
| SAAR | Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate |
|  |  |
| TAC | Total Allowable Catch |
| USD | U.S. Dollar |
| WDFW | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| WWPA | Western Wood Products Association |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |

## Preface

This Economic and Revenue Forecast (Forecast) projects revenues from Washington state lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These revenues are distributed to management funds and beneficiary accounts as directed by statute. The Forecast revenues are organized by source, fund, and fiscal year.

DNR revises its Forecast quarterly to provide updated information for trust beneficiaries and state and department budgeting purposes. The Forecast calendar at the end of this section shows the release dates. We strive to produce the most accurate and objective forecast possible, based on current policy direction and available information. Actual revenues depend on DNR's future policy decisions and on changes in market conditions beyond our control.

This Forecast covers fiscal years 2014 through 2019. Fiscal years for Washington State government begin July 1 and end June 30. For example, the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2014, runs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

The baseline date (the point that designates the transition from "actuals" to predictions) for DNR revenues in this Forecast is May $1^{\text {st }}, 2014$. The forecast numbers beyond that date are predicted from the most up-to-date DNR sales and revenue data available, including DNR's timber sales results through May 2014. Macroeconomic and market outlook data and trends are the most up to date available as the Forecast document is being written.

Unless otherwise indicated, values are expressed in nominal terms without adjustment for inflation or seasonality. Therefore, interpreting trends in the Forecast requires attention to inflationary changes in the value of money over time separate from changes attributable to other economic influences.

Each DNR Forecast builds on the previous one, emphasizing ongoing changes. Each re-evaluates world and national macroeconomic conditions, and the demand and supply for forest products and other commodities. Finally, each assesses the impact of these economic conditions on projected revenues from DNR-managed lands.

DNR Forecasts provide information used in the Washington Economic and Revenue Forecast issued by the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. The release dates for DNR Forecasts are determined by the state's Forecast schedule as prescribed by RCW 82.33.020. The table below shows the anticipated schedule for future Economic and Revenue Forecasts.

## Economic Forecast Calendar

| Forecast Title | Baseline Date | Draft Revenue Data <br> Release Date | Final Data and Publication <br> Date (approximate) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| June 2014 | May 1, 2014 | June 9, 2014 | June 30, 2014 |
| September 2014 | August 1, 2014 | September 5, 2014 | September 30, 2014 |
| November 2014 | October 1, 2014 | November 7, 2014 | November 30, 2014 |
| March 2015 | February 1, 2015 | March 9, 2015 | March 31, 2015 |

## Introduction and Forecast Highlights

U.S. Economy and Housing Market. While a harsh winter and business inventory adjustments caused the U.S. economy to shrink by 2.9 percent (annualized) in the first quarter of 2014, most analysts expect growth to strengthen for the remainder of the year. Year-over-year GDP growth remains modest at just above two percent, averaged over the last four quarters ending in March. In October 2009 the unemployment rate peaked at 10.0 percent, but has slowly fallen to 6.3 percent as of April 2014. The housing market continues to show positive signs: New housing starts in 2013 averaged 928,000 (up 18 percent over 2012 and 52 percent over 2011) and average U.S. housing prices have been trending upward since January 2012. However, the U.S. economy still faces significant challenges. Unemployment remains high and there are significant difficulties for younger graduates and workers, as well as the long-term unemployed. While the financial and economic crises in Europe are improving, several European countries remain in recession and the crisis in Ukraine has introduced significant political and economic uncertainty. China's economy continues to show signs of underlying problems. Finally, the U.S. government still has not implemented a coherent, growthdriven economic policy-which is unlikely to happen in the highly politicized environment of an election year.

Lumber and Log Prices. Lumber and log prices were up in 2013 and continue to improve. While it varied widely, Random Lengths' Coast Dry Random and Stud composite lumber price averaged $\$ 370 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in 2013 - up 20 percent from the 2012 average of $\$ 309 / \mathrm{mbf}$ - and has averaged $\$ 384 / \mathrm{mbf}$ thus far in 2014. Pacific Northwest log prices have also moved up sharply after being fairly flat for 2011 and most of 2012. The price for a 'typical' DNR log delivered to the mill continued to climb from 2013's $\$ 564 / \mathrm{mbf}$ average, up 18 percent from 2012, to a nominal high of $\$ 624 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in January, the highest price since 2000. However, the average price pulled back to $\$ 583 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in May.

Timber Sales Volume. FY 14 timber sales volumes are expected to total 517 mmbf , down from the February Forecast of 524 mmbf and the 540 mmbf projected in November. Absent a new sustainable harvest calculation, volumes are still estimated to total about 500 mmbf in the outlying years.

Timber Sales Prices. FY 14 average sales price is now predicted to be about $\$ 357 / \mathrm{mbf}$, up four percent from the $\$ 345 / \mathrm{mbf}$ predicted in February. Weighted by volume, sales prices have averaged $\$ 363 / \mathrm{mbf}$ through the May auction, leaving only the June auction remaining in the current fiscal year. The predicted sales price for FY 15 is increased by three percent to $\$ 393 / \mathrm{mbf}$. Based on a forecast improvement in timber prices more broadly, future sales price estimates are increased to about $\$ 411 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in FY 16, and $\$ 407 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in FY 17.

Timber Removal Volume and Prices. Changes in the harvest plans of DNR timber purchasers and lower year-to-date harvest volume have led to shifts in anticipated timber removal volumes throughout most of the forecast period. Removal volumes for FYs $14-17$ are forecast to be $466(-77), 600(+47)$, $532(+17)$, and $515(+4) \mathrm{mmbf}$. Timber removal prices are projected to be about $\$ 321(+\$ 11.7), \$ 353$
$(+\$ 4.7), \$ 382(+\$ 3.7)$, and $\$ 403(+\$ 11.5)$ per mbf for each fiscal year. These removal prices reflect changes in the removal timing and follow from - and lag behind - the changes projected in timber sales prices.

Bottom Line for Timber Revenues. The above changes to timber sales prices, sales volumes, and harvest timing, effectively reduce projected revenues in the current fiscal year, but increase them in the outlying years. The timber revenue projection for the 2013-2015 Biennium is increased slightly to $\$ 361.4$ million. Revenues in the 2015-2017 Biennium are predicted to be $\$ 411.1$ million, up four percent from February's Forecast of $\$ 395.1$ million.

Uplands and Aquatic Lands Lease (Non-Timber) Revenues. In addition to revenue from timber removals on state-managed lands, DNR also generates sizable revenues from managing leases on uplands and aquatic lands.

Revenues from agricultural and other upland leases are up compared to the February Forecast. Agricultural leases - particularly orchard/vineyard and irrigated leases - are projected to generate an additional $\$ 3.2$ million in FY 14, with smaller increases in the outlying years. Commercial lease revenues are unchanged. Revenues from all of these classes combined are predicted to total $\$ 41.0$, $\$ 35.8$, $\$ 35.9$, and $\$ 36.1$ million in FYs 14-17 respectively.

Revenues from aquatic lands will total about $\$ 32.5$ million in FY 14, $\$ 2.4$ million higher due to higher than expected geoduck revenue. However, expectations for the outlying years have been reduced slightly to $\$ 31.1$ million in FY $15, \$ 31.5$ million in FY 16 , and $\$ 32.8$ million in FY 17.

Total Revenues. Total 2013-2015 Biennium revenues are projected to be $\$ 501.8$ million, up $\$ 7.1$ million (1.4\%) from the previous forecast. Revenues for the 2016-2017 Biennium are expected to total $\$ 547.4$ million, up $\$ 16.7$ million ( 3.2 percent) from the February estimate.

Risks to the Forecast. Although significant curtailments in timber sales volumes were assumed in the June 2013 Forecast, further reductions due to potential environmental, operational, and policy issues (e.g., riparian management areas and continued timber harvest deferrals pending implementation of a long-term marbled murrelet conservation strategy) remain a real risk. This risk is particularly heavy for FYs 15-19.

While there are downside risks to the demand-side influences of timber sales prices - and therefore to subsequent removal prices - there is also upside potential if the nascent recovery in the U.S. housing market strengthens sooner than anticipated. Supply-side influences of stumpage price - such as timber mix and quality - are difficult to estimate in future years, but are assumed to be about average. Also on the downside are the many challenges to U.S. economic recovery cited above.

The end of the Chinese ban on geoduck imports from the Pacific Northwest has eased much of the uncertainty surrounding geoduck demand, however, geoduck prices are historically volatile and there are still significant questions about the testing conditions that China will accept. There is no guarantee that a blanket ban will not be reinstated if the Chinese officials are not satisfied. Together, this means that both the geoduck sales price and harvest volumes may become much more uncertain in the coming years.

## Part 1. Macroeconomic Conditions

This section briefly reviews current macroeconomic conditions of the United States and world economies, because they affect DNR revenue-most notably through the bid prices for DNR timber sales and lease revenues from DNR-managed lands.

Unless otherwise noted, all years in this section are calendar years.

## U.S. economy

## Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product GDP is the total output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States, minus inflation. Figure 1.1 shows the magnitude of the Great Recession during 2008 and the first half of 2009, when GDP actually declined in five out of six quarters. It took almost four years - until Q4 2011 - for real GDP to return to its pre-recession peak (Q4 2007). Since turning positive again in mid-2009, GDP growth has averaged a rather weak 2.2 percent on a real annual basis, compared with an annualized average of 3.2 percent over the previous 50 years (19602009).

Subdued by the fourth quarter's low annualized growth rate of 0.14 percent, GDP growth in 2012 averaged 1.95 percent. By contrast, the economy grew by 2.7 percent on a year-over-year basis in 2013, despite the Federal shutdown in the fourth quarter of 2013.

GDP fell in the first quarter of 2014 by 1.0 percent (SAAR). This was more negative than expected, though a fall in GDP had been expected due to draw downs in business inventories and to harsh winter weather. However, the analyst consensus is that growth in 2014 will accelerate in the rest of 2014 and 2015. Most forecasters have reduced their expectations for 2014 GDP growth to around two percent for example, the Fed is expecting between 2.1 and 2.3 percent GDP growth.

## Employment

I expect that the unemployment rate will fall below 6.2 by the end of 2014. If anything, this forecast may prove to be too pessimistic. Given the recent trends, an unemployment rate below 6 percent is certainly plausible.

Charles I. Plosser<br>President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Speech to Women in Housing and Finance, Inc. May 20, 2014

The U.S. unemployment rate continues to decline, as shown by the red line in Figure 1.2. The May employment report showed an unemployment rate of 6.3 percent-down from 10.0 percent in October


2009 and the lowest it's been since October 2008. Most notable about the recent employment statistics is that the number of jobs added has pushed the U.S. employment to an all-time high of over 138.4 million workers, surpassing the previous peak employment in January 2008. However, the creation of jobs has been painfully slow and an additional 12.8 million people have been added to the working age population since the previous peak employment.

There are two major official U.S. employment data series - the household survey and the payroll survey - both maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The household survey (or current population survey) is a sample survey of households, and it includes self-employed persons and farm workers. The unemployment, total work force, and labor force participation statistics are derived from the household survey. The payroll survey (or establishment survey) samples firms and does not include self-employed persons or farm workers. Employment statistics by industry sector come from the payroll survey. Figure 1.2 shows changes in the number of employed persons, or jobs gained or lost, according to each survey. Generally, economists favor the payroll survey data as a measure of job growth or to measure monthly changes in employment levels, mostly because its month to month changes are much less volatile.

The payroll survey has been showing job growth for 44 consecutive months-with over 200,000 per month for the last four month, which hasn't happened in the last 14 years. These are much better than the employment disappointing results reported as of the February Forecast. The current employment statistics reinforce the hope of improving economic and employment growth for 2014, however, there are still significant challenges.

Normally, monthly job growth will increase the employment level and decrease the unemployment rate, which is the number of unemployed persons (the unemployment level) as a percentage of the total

work force. Positive month-over-month job gains are the main reason why the unemployment rate in Figure 1.2 generally moves down from October 2010 onward; however, they are not the only reason for the decline in the unemployment rate-reductions in the labor force can also lower unemployment. Labor force reductions were the driving force behind the reduction in unemployment from 6.7 percent to 6.3 percent in April-when 282,000 jobs were added to the economy, but over 800,000 people left the work force. Additionally, while 200,000 additional jobs are certainly an improvement over the last several years, it is not matching the rising working age population, which is increasing by around 300,000 per month.

Particularly important for housing demand, youth unemployment is higher than overall unemployment. In May, 11.3 percent of workers between 20 and 24 years old were unemployed and 7.2 percent of workers between 25 and 29 years old were unemployed, compared to 6.3 percent overall. High youth unemployment can have serious negative implications for an economy, particularly regarding household formation (more on that later) and consumption of durable goods that can help drive business investment.

An alternative measure of unemployment, the U-6, includes unemployment, involuntarily part-time employment, and marginally attached workers, and so provides a more complete picture than the headline unemployment rate ${ }^{1}$. The U-6 rate was 12.2 percent in May, down from 13.8 percent a year earlier and from highs of 17.1 in 2010. The year-on-year reduction is due almost entirely to a decrease in the number of technically unemployed (either through finding work or leaving the labor force); the number of marginally attached and involuntarily part-time workers has remained virtually unchanged in the past year.

[^0]

Figure 1.3 depicts the composition of the U-6 unemployment level (measured on the left-hand axis) and how persistently high it has been in comparison to the first half of the decade. It also shows how the total workforce (right axis) - the sum of working age people currently working or seeking to work - has been increasing, but at a shallower rate since mid-2008. The total workforce usually moves upward over time since entrants (from population growth, immigration, and returning workers) tend to outnumber those leaving the labor market (see Figures 1.3 and 1.4).

The Great Recession expanded the ranks of the long-term unemployed to an extent not seen since the Great Depression. In May 2014, 3.4 million people had been unemployed for over 26 weeks, accounting for 34.6 percent of the unemployed. This is an improvement over the peak of 6.7 million in Spring 2010, but it is still far above the 1.3 million average for 2005-2007. Also in May, the average duration of unemployment was 34.5 weeks, which is off the record high of 40.9 weeks in November 2011. This contrasts with the 17.4-week average for 2005-2007.

Several insights can be drawn from Figure 1.4, which compares the growth rates of the working-age population, the total workforce, labor participation ${ }^{2}$, and employment levels. For example, the labor force participation rate line is horizontal when the working-age population and total workforce lines are parallel. The decline in the participation rate that started late in 2008 reflects the drop in the total workforce with respect to the working-age population. During the past several turbulent years, more people than usual have been leaving the job market for economic reasons (i.e., not due to retirement or death). In some months the unemployment rate has gone down even though there was little net job change, simply because the total workforce (and labor participation rate) dropped. In this way, monthly variations in the participation rate and total workforce have sometimes exaggerated monthly

[^1]
improvements in the unemployment rate. Despite a slow upward trend in the total workforce, the participation rate has continued to decline.

The general analyst consensus is for over 200,000 jobs created on average per month in 2014 and 2015. Unfortunately, FEA they note that this will create 5.1 million jobs in that time, while U.S. population will have increased by nearly 20 million.

## Consumption

Real personal consumption expenditures (PCE) in April were 2.7 percent higher from a year ago. The April PCE was a slight drop from the March PCE, which was elevated due to a surge in spending after the severe winter weather of January and February.
U.S. consumer confidence was deeply shaken in the recession. The final Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Index of Consumer Sentiment reached a low of 55.3 in November of 2008, after averaging 91.3 between 2000 and the end of 2007. The index reached a post-recession high of 85.1 in June 2013, then fell precipitously in October to 73.2 - its lowest value since the end of 2012 - due to worries about dysfunctional federal governance and the government shut-down. Since then consumer sentiment has strengthened slowly; the preliminary index for May stands at 81.9.

## Interest Rates

Seldom in U.S. history has it been so inexpensive to borrow money. U.S. interest rates remain at or near record lows. The Federal Reserve funds rate has remained in the $0.0-0.25$ percent range since December 2008 and the FOMC has pledged to keep rates near zero until the employment situation has improved 'sufficiently'. The continued decline of the unemployment rate has prompted speculation

that the FOMC will begin raising rates in 2015. Ten-year U.S. Treasury bonds averaged 2.5 percent in May.

Average rates on closed conventional 30-year fixed rate mortgages have recently risen from historic lows after having mostly declined since the middle of 2008 (see Figure 2.7). Mortgage rates bottomed out at 3.35 percent in December 2012 and rose to 4.49 percent as of September of 2013. Since then mortgage rates have pulled back and were 4.19 percent in May 2014.

## Inflation

The recent evidence we have seen, abstracting from the noise, suggests that we are moving back gradually over time toward our 2 per cent objective and I see things roughly in line with where we expected inflation to be.

## Janet Yellen <br> Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System <br> Press conference, June 18, 2014

Figure 1.5 shows several measures of the U.S. inflation rate. The bars - representing "headline" inflation, measured by year-over-year changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) - show that consumer prices in the United States fell precipitously beginning in August 2008. The CPI did not recover to its July 2008 level until December 2010. In effect, inflation was zero over that two and onehalf year period. The rate of inflation was 1.6 percent for all of 2010, 3.2 percent for 2011, and 2.07 percent for 2012. More recently, the core CPR changed 1.83 percent year-over-year-well below the FOMC's target. Most economic forecasters see annual inflation of 2.0 percent or below through 2016

and the FOMC's forecasts are for inflation rates of 1.5 percent, 1.85 percent and 1.9 percent for 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

In addition to the disappointing employment growth outlined above, these low inflation rates help explain why the FOMC has elected to continue "quantitative easing"-its large-scale asset purchases to stimulate economic recovery. ${ }^{3}$ In its basic form, quantitative easing injects money into the economy and lowers long-term interest rates through the purchase of bonds and other investment vehicle with longer maturities.

Quantitative easing is one of the unconventional monetary policies undertaken by the FOMC in an attempt to stimulate the economy. The FOMC is the monetary policy-making body of the Federal Reserve System and is tasked with, among other things, encouraging full employment while managing inflation rates. Traditionally, the FOMC pursues these goals through changes in interest rates, which affect the incentives of individuals and businesses to save or spend money. Generally, higher interest rates make it more expensive to borrow money and create an incentive to save money, which can help cool down an overheated economy and lower inflation. Alternatively, lower interest rates make it less expensive to borrow and can encourage business expansion, which generally increases inflation.

Unfortunately, given the situation the economy is in, the FOMC has reduced interest rates to nearly zero and has hit the 'zero bound' where further interest rate reductions are implausible. When faced with this the Fed has tried more unconventional, and generally controversial, monetary policy measures. The first policy was targeted assistance to financial institutions, through the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) and other policies. This was largely successful at stabilizing the financial system, but was unable to spur economic growth, so the FOMC has been using its quantitative easing

[^2]policy. Figure 1.5 shows two alternative measures of inflation - core CPI and the core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index - that exclude purchases of historically volatile goods such as energy and food and provide a more realistic measure of underlying long-term inflation. The PCE price index is preferred by the Federal Reserve; it shows that long-term inflation has been at or below 2 percent since September 2008 ( 68 months straight).

## The U.S. Dollar and Foreign Trade

Figure 1.6 shows the broad trade-weighted U.S. dollar index for the last 12 years. The broad index is a weighted average of the foreign exchange values of the U.S. dollar against the currencies of a large group of major U.S. trading partners. In July 2011, the index in nominal and real terms fell to its lowest point in the history of the data series, which began in January 1973. At its low, the (real) U.S. dollar index was 29 percent below its early 2002 highpoint. Since July 2011, the dollar has generally strengthened off the bottom.

Declines in the dollar's trade value make American goods cheaper and more competitive relative to foreign goods. This supports U.S. exports and boosts economic growth. However, it also leads to higher prices for imports, which partly explains why oil and gasoline prices increased in dollar terms from 2009 through much of 2011, while the dollar was weakening (see Figure 1.7). The implications for DNR are that the lower relative value of the U.S. dollar may spur foreign demand and push up prices for logs and geoducks.

## World Economy

## Europe

Most forecasts for the U.S. economy cite the ongoing European financial crisis and very weak economic performance as a significant downside risk. The EU ( 28 countries) was hammered by the Great Recession, collectively suffering a 4.5 percent contraction in 2009. This was followed by two years of slow growth, between 1.7 and 2.0 percent, and then another contraction of 0.4 percent in 2012. In 2013, the EU economy again began to expand at a paltry 0.1 percent. The first quarterly of 2014 continued the weak growth, with real growth of 0.3 percent.

Weakness in Eurozone economies means reduced demand for U.S. exports as well as continued difficulties in addressing their sovereign debt and banking crises. There are continuing questions about whether government austerity and central bank policy are worsening or helping to repair the European economic situation-with increasing calls to change policy. Though the effects of the financial crisis are still being felt and several key European economies are contracting, it is thus far impossible to demonstrate significant tangible effects on the U.S. economy. The only good news is that the worst case European scenarios have not yet occurred, despite recurrent crises over the last several years.

## China

China is a major export market for logs and lumber from the Pacific Northwest, importing 323.8 mmbf of softwood logs (out of a total of 492.5 mmbf ) and 108.4 mmbf of softwood lumber (out of a total of 474.3 mmbf ) from the Seattle Customs District in 2012. Changes to the Chinese economy can have a dramatic impact on the prices for logs and lumber in the Pacific Northwest.

China appears to have weathered the global economic and financial crisis of the past six years better than major or emerging economies. However, there are a number of questions about the costs and the sustainability of that apparent economic resilience.

Following the Global Financial Crisis in 2007, China enacted a number of policies to mitigate its impact, including a massive stimulus package targeted at public infrastructure investment. These policies supported GDP growth, which averaged 9.6 percent between 2008 and 2011. However, one of the consequences of the fiscal stimulus was inflation, which rose to 6.6 percent in mid-2011. To counter this, China tightened monetary policy by pushing up regulated deposit interest rates, increasing reserve ratios, tightening lending conditions in the real estate market and restricting the amount of lending to property developers.

The tight monetary policy, combined with a slowdown in export performance, was successful in slowing down the high inflation-dropping annual consumer price inflation to 2 percent by the fourth quarter of 2012. However, the contractionary forces slowed GDP growth to 7.7 percent for 2012, which was a larger slowdown than intended and caused ancillary issues such as spikes in the urban and youth unemployment rates.

China eased monetary policy in mid-2012, cutting interest rates and encouraging infrastructure spending. More recently, toward the end of July 2013, China faced two straight quarters of slowing growth and enacted a "mini stimulus" that appears to be paying off in higher growth.


In the near term, there are a number of risks to China's continued economic growth as the effects of China's aggressive investment continue to flow through its economy. For instance, the strong capital build-up has pushed down profit margins in key industries, most notably steel production. There are also concerns about property prices, excessive off-balance sheet financing by the banking system and local governments, alarming levels of non-performing debt, and systemic corruption and waste in local governments and state-owned-enterprises. Over the longer run, inequalities, urban-rural dynamics, rural land ownership, and the aging of the populace will be significant sources of tension. ${ }^{4}$

In May 2013 the OECD predicted Chinese GDP to peak in 2014 at 8.2 percent and then fall to 7.5 percent in 2015, despite these issues. However, in May 2014 the OECD released a revised prediction of 7.25 percent for 2014 and 2015. The IMF has also recently released updated GDP growth forecasts, predicting 7.5 percent growth for 2014 and 7.0 percent for 2015 . As of the February Forecast, the Chinese yuan had been strengthening against the dollar since mid-2010 when the Chinese government allowed it to begin fluctuating again (see Figure 1.7). At that time the yuan was worth ten percent more, relative to the dollar, than it was in July 2010. However, this caused a number of issues in China, most notably capital inflows that further inflated a credit bubble, and since February China has pushed the value of the yuan down several percent.

In mid-June the Chinese finance ministry released data showing that government spending had increased by 25 percent year-on-year. This was the result of governmental steps to spur growth and hit their target 7.5 percent GDP growth rate for the year.

[^3]

## Japan

Japan is another major export market for the Pacific Northwest-importing 72.7 mmbf of softwood logs and 152 mmbf of softwood lumber. Unfortunately, Japan's economic growth has been stagnant since the early 1990s after a stock market and property bubble bust. After his election in late 2012, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe began a bold combination of economic policy moves, dubbed "Abenomics", in an attempt to shake Japan's economy. The "three arrows" of Abe's economic plan are aggressive monetary easing, very large fiscal stimulus, and structural reforms to boost Japan's competiveness (e.g., lifting a ban on the online sale of drugs, easing industrial regulations, etc.). The forceful monetary easing being undertaken by the Bank of Japan is intended to raise inflation in a controlled manner.

While Abenomics was initially well received by the Japanese, consumer confidence has since fallen to the lowest point since Abe took office on the back of disappointing GDP growth and a number of risks to the policy. More recently, first quarter 2014 GDP surged higher than expected to an annualized 6.7 percent. However, this appeared to be on the back of a surge in consumer spending to avoid a sales tax increase that came into effect in April. That sales tax, as well as a fast growing trade deficit and a drop in the exchange rate (which helps manufacturers but hurts households) are the major risks to the continued success of Abenomics. The analyst consensus is that GDP will return to around three percent for the current quarter and two percent for the remainder of the year.

## Petroleum

Crude oil prices and supply play an important role in the world and U.S. domestic economies, since crude oil and its derivatives affect production, transportation, and consumption. Moreover, oil prices especially sharp fluctuations - have the ability to influence intangible "forces" such as consumer and

producer confidence. Figure 1.8, which presents seven years of oil prices by the two most important indicators, the Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate ${ }^{5}$, shows that 2013 featured the most dramatic crude oil price drop since 2008. These data have been adjusted for seasonality. Brent crude averaged about $\$ 108$ per barrel in 2013, compared to about $\$ 111$ per barrel in 2012. The lower petroleum prices in 2013 were one of the few points of optimism in the world economy. It is interesting to note that 2013's cheaper crude prices had not translated into cheaper prices at the pump until the last two months (examine the same period from Figure 1.9).

[^4]
## Part 2. Log, Lumber and Stumpage Prices

This chapter focuses on specific market factors that affect timber stumpage prices and overall timber sales revenues generated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Over the past decade, timber stumpage revenues have constituted over 75 percent of DNR's total revenue. DNR is, therefore, vitally concerned with stumpage prices and understanding log prices, lumber prices, and the related supply and demand factors behind all three.

In general, timber stumpage prices reflect demand for lumber and other wood products, timber supply, and regional and local lumber mill capacity. Indeed, there is a consistent, positive relationship between log prices and DNR's stumpage prices, despite notable volatility in DNR's stumpage prices (evident in Figure 2.10). High log prices make access to logs more valuable and increase purchasers' willingness to pay for stumpage. Volatility in stumpage prices arises not only from log prices, but also the amount of logs held in mills' inventory and from DNR-specific issues, such as the quality of the stumpage mix offered at a given auction.

The relationship between lumber prices and $\log$ prices is less consistent. Lumber prices are significantly more volatile and both the direction and size of price movements can differ from log prices. Lumber prices tend to lead log prices because it takes time for mills to process the logs into lumber and mills will often have an inventory of logs, so they do not always need to bid up log prices to take advantage of high lumber prices.

There are differences in average annual monthly price volatility between lumber, logs and stumpage, as illustrated in Figure 2.1. These prices are affected by a degree of seasonality that is largely the result of when each of these commodities will be used. For instance, lumber prices tend to peak in spring, when housing construction picks up, and declines until fall as the demand wanes. DNR stumpage price volatility is also affected by the firefighting season and the quality of the stumpage


mix, which varies throughout the year but tends to be lowest from August through September.
This chapter begins with a discussion of the U.S. housing market because it is particularly important to overall timber demand in the U.S. Following that are smaller sections on the export market and mill inventory and supply, all of which influence timber prices, and therefore DNR stumpage prices.

## U.S. Housing Market

There's no doubt that these can be confusing times for ordinary people trying to read the tea leaves. Home sales are up for the month, but down for the year. Case-Shiller is way up for the year, as always, but slowing. Inventory is coming back, but not at the low end of the market. Negative equity is falling, but is still extraordinarily high in many areas. The reality is that the market is moving from one defined by distortions including high negative equity and constricted inventory, to one defined by fundamentals like household formation rates, jobs and income growth. Unfortunately, some of these fundamentals are still fairly weak. This is a multi-year process that we are far from done with. This ride is not for the faint of heart, but we are slowly getting back to normal.

Dr. Stan Humphries
Chief Economist, Zillow, June 24, 2014
New residential construction (housing starts) and residential improvements are major components of the total demand for timber in the U.S. Historically, these sectors have constituted over 70 percent of softwood consumption - 45 percent going to housing starts and 25 percent to improvements - with the remainder going to industrial production and other applications.

However, the crash in the housing market and the following recession drastically reduced timber demand for new housing-from over 30 billion board feet per year in 2005 to less than 10 billion board feet per year in 2009. This undermined the total demand for lumber, which fell from over 60

billion board feet per year in 2005 to less than 35 billion board feet per year in 2009. Since the trough in 2009, the lumber demand by residential construction has increased slightly, but it was still less than 10 billion board feet at the end of 2012. An increase in housing starts is essential for a meaningful increase in the demand for lumber.

A number of measures suggest that a very modest recovery in the U.S. housing market is underway. Figure 2.2 compares the trajectories of existing home sales, new home sales, and housing starts as percentages of their pre-recession peaks. The chart shows the increases in all three since 2011, though starts and new home sales have flattened off recently. Recent months have seen declines in all three measures as tight lending standards, increased interest rates, increased prices, continued weak employment numbers and a harsh winter constrained home purchases.

## Existing Home Sales

Existing home sales took an upward turn in July 2013 to 4.76 million (see blue line in Figure 2.3) before steadily falling to 4.05 million (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in January 2014. This decline put existing home sales below the 4.5 million to 5.5 million range that housing experts think will be the new post-recession "normal" sales rate and seems to undermine an earlier upward.

However, there were reasons for continued optimism. At 5.10 million units, existing home sales in all of 2013 were 9.1 percent higher than in 2012. Notably, while there are still many distressed sales, the share of distressed sales continues to decline nationwide, 24 percent of sales were distressed in 2012, down to 17 percent in 2013. In the first quarter of 2014, distressed sales declined to 15 percent of sales.

In 2013 inventory climbed from an apparent bottom, and 12-year low, of 1.58 million homes in January to a high of 2.0 million in August-a 27 percent increase (see brown line in Figure 2.3). Inventory peaked at 4.0 million existing homes in July 2007 and generally declined until the beginning
of 2013. Since then, inventories have oscillated around 2 million homes-most recently there were 2.01 million homes in inventory in April. The months' supply of housing - the number of months it would take to clear the inventory of used homes on the market at current sales rates - reached an apparent low of 4.3 months in January 2013. In April 2014 it was estimated at 6.0 months (see orange bars in Figure 2.3). This measure peaked at 12.4 months in July 2010.

House price increases through 2013 may have encouraged some homeowners to list their houses for sale, including those who may have owed more than their house was previously worth, leading to some of the increase in inventory. The NAR Realtor Confidence Index Report notes that sellers wanting to downsize or upgrade are having difficulty finding suitable homes-in particular, baby boomers looking to downsize are having difficulty finding purchasers because there are not enough buyers for larger homes.

Investor purchases appear to have been fallen slightly since the beginning of 2014, when investor purchases represented more than 20 percent of home sales. The National Association of Realtors estimated that in April 18 percent of homes were purchased by investors. Previously, private investors moved into depressed housing markets and purchased large numbers of lower-priced foreclosed residential properties, funding a bet on long term recovery in housing prices by renting in the short term to potential buyers still locked out of the housing market. These investors have been driving many housing markets and may have set a floor under the housing market, contributing to the recovery in some key markets. On the other, there is concern about the potential impact on the housing market when the investors begin selling and increase the housing supply.

## New Home Sales

The blue line in Figure 2.4 shows that new home sales bottomed out in mid-2010 and that there was an upward trend from late 2011 to the beginning of 2013. Calendar year 2011 was the lowest year on record with only 306,000 new homes sold, compared with the long-term (1963-2010) "normal" rate of 678,000 per year. New home sales were about 368,000 in 2012 and 432,000 in 2013.

As low as new home sales have been, new house construction (green line in Figure 2.4) was even lower from early 2007 through mid-2011. Since the number of new homes sold exceeded the number of new homes built for the five year period, the inventory of newly built homes for sale (brown line) declined over the period. It appears the inventory of new homes has now bottomed out, reaching a low of 142,000 homes in July 2012. In April, inventory had risen to 192,000 homes-still a low number historically. Inventory is still far lower than the high of 570,000 in the summer of 2006.

Total months' worth of inventory of new homes for sale seems to be climbing from its low of 3.9 months in January 2013 (orange bars in Figure 2.4). This measure is dependent not only on the current inventory but the rate of sales of new homes. Since July 2013, the months' worth of inventory has averaged around 5.3 months, varying by less than half of a month-above the pre-2006 average of 4.0 months.


## Shadow Inventory

The inventory of homes in foreclosure and serious delinquency status are back to 2008 levels, yet remain elevated from a historical perspective. While getting healthier, the housing market is a long way from being fully recovered. By way of comparison, distressed stock inventories are more than three times higher than the levels of the early 2000s, before the most-recent housing boom and subsequent financial crisis

Dr. Mark Fleming<br>Chief Economist, CoreLogic<br>National Foreclosure Report, March 2014

The inventories of existing and new homes discussed above are made up of those housing units that are currently listed for sale ("on the market"). While it exists even in normal times, the "shadow inventory" - housing units not currently on the market, but expected to be listed in the next few years has gained attention as an important measure of the health of the housing market. CoreLogic tracks the shadow inventory, which it defines as being composed of bank-owned properties, REO (or "real estate owned") properties in the process of foreclosure, and properties with seriously delinquent mortgages of over 90 days ${ }^{6}$. In April CoreLogic reported that the shadow inventory had declined to 1.7 million housing units, down 43 percent from its January 2010 peak of 3.0 million. Through March 2014, there were 720,000 homes in some stage of foreclosure, compared to 1.2 million in the same period of 2012.

[^5]A large shadow inventory can lead to a large number of distressed sales (including short sales) and put downward pressure on future prices.

## Household Formation

Under typical conditions, household formation (or the growth in the number of households) is the key component of housing demand and a major driver of U.S. housing starts. However, the Great Recession caused atypical conditions that have continued for several years. Due to job and income losses and greater financial precarity, household formation lagged as people doubled up and younger people, who were hit especially hard, moved back in with their parents or otherwise shared housing. Net immigration from Mexico also approached zero during the Recession, slowing household formation.

The reduction in demand for home purchases contributed to the surge in the inventory of available housing units and the significant drop in housing starts. Typical annual U.S. household formation generally ranges between 1.2 and 1.3 million. In the depth of the Recession, formation dropped dramatically to 0.4 million in 2009 and to 0.5 million in 2010. Household formation returned to near the 1.2 million level in 2012, before receding below one million in 2013.

An important concept frequently discussed in relation to household formation is the 'pent-up' demand-the demand for housing from those who wish to form households, but are currently unable to because of employment, earnings, or credit eligibility issues. Much of the discussion from analysts in the past year have been around how there is a large, and growing, amount of pent-up demand as more young adults want to move out and create their own households. The drop in household formation since the recession has created a large amount of pent-up demand for housing. Analysts have consistently overestimated its impact on the housing market, repeatedly predicting a strong rebound in household formation and housing starts that has yet to emerge. Ultimately, it seems that many analysts put too much emphasis on the pent-up demand, and not enough on what is ultimately holding the demand in check - employment, wages and affordability.

Household formation growth stalled in 2013 with the continued stagnancy of the youth labor market and increases in both prices and interest rates that had a large negative impact on affordability. Looking forward, household formation will depend on both the continued recovery in the U.S. labor market and improvements in affordability.

## Housing Starts

U.S. housing starts picked up in 2012 and continued to rise in 2013, after having moved more or less sideways at a historic low level in the three previous years (see Figure 2.5). In April 2009, U.S. housing starts fell to 478,000 (seasonally adjusted annual rate), the all-time record low since the Census Bureau began tracking housing starts in 1959. New housing starts averaged 931,000 (SAAR) for 2013, a level not seen since mid- 2008. In April, housing starts again topped one million (SAAR), however single-family housing starts are still below their November and December numbers-all of the growth back to over a million starts has come from multi-family units. This is an important distinction to make for its implication on lumber prices because multi-family units use much less lumber than single-family houses.


In the 2009-2011 housing market trough, single family starts (blue line) averaged 440,000 per year (SAAR). The annualized rate of single family starts was up to 537,000 in 2012 and averaged 622,000 in 2013. Multifamily starts for 2012 averaged 247,000 on an annualized basis, compared with the average of 148,000 in the three-year 2009-2011 trough. In April, there were 649,000 single family and 423,000 multi-family starts (SAAR).

Homebuilder confidence in the market for newly-built single-family homes, as measured by the Housing Market Index (HMI), pulled back in February from its August high of 58 to a preliminary value of $46^{7}$. Since then, the HMI has stayed lingered around this level, only recently climbing up to 49 in June. While this is higher index than the average for every month between 2012 and 2013, it is still below 50, indicating a generally pessimistic outlook from homebuilders. The HMI averaged 1516 for years 2008-2011, when the housing market was the most depressed.

In the last six months of 2013, home builders scrambled to ramp up production but faced delays because of the difficulty in finding construction workers and in obtaining permits from suddenly overwhelmed local authorities. After six years of low levels of new home building, skilled labor is scarce. Many workers have returned to Mexico and others have pursued work in Texas and North Dakota's oil and gas fields, where jobs have become more plentiful. Others are hesitant to return to construction work after experiencing the employment upsets of the recession and are content to stick with lower-paying but more secure jobs. The decline in the HMI suggests that there may be some slackening in the demand for construction workers and permits-this may also slow the rate of house price increases.

[^6]

While the longer-term outlook for housing starts is optimistic, in the short term household formation will continue to be constrained. FEA reduced their projected housing starts from 1.11 million units for 2014 in their January forecast to 1.05 million units in their May forecast.

## Housing Prices

U.S. housing prices have continued to climb after six unprecedented years of falling or flat prices. Figure 2.6 charts the seasonally adjusted S\&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Indices for the 20-city composite, which represents national existing home price trends. The 20 -city composite index has increased every month since bottoming out in January 2012-its lowest point since October 2002, almost ten years earlier. The most recent release includes data through March 2014 and shows a year-over-year increase of 12.4 percent. With the recent increase in prices, the average existing house in the U.S. in March was worth 82 percent of its value at the peak of the real estate bubble in April 2006, up from the price bottom of 67 percent in March 2012. Nationally, as reported by the National Association of Realtors, the 2014 first quarter median home price for an existing single-family home was $\$ 191,600$ (down from 2013's fourth quarter estimate of $\$ 196,900$ ), or 7.1 percent greater than 2012's fourth quarter median price of $\$ 178,900$.

Seattle house prices are following a similar trajectory, having increased 11.6 percent year-over-year as of March. When Seattle prices bottomed in February 2012 - at their lowest point since June 2004 the average existing house in Seattle was worth only 70 percent of the May 2007 peak (see Figure 2.6). As of March, the average Seattle home was worth 87 percent of its peak price.


The increase in prices should allow the return to a more normal housing market, where home owners are able to make rational decisions about when or whether they wish to sell-as opposed to being forced to sell or remaining 'underwater' to avoid taking a loss or damaging their credit.

The Case-Shiller index is a three-month moving average that shows the changes in value of houses when they are resold in arm-length transactions. As a moving average some volatile changes get smoothed out. Additionally, the index presented in Figure 2.6 is the seasonally adjusted moving average, meaning seasonal variations are removed from the index.

## Housing Affordability

The National Association of Realtors' (NAR) U.S. Housing Affordability Index - which is based on the relationship between the median home price, the median family income, and the average mortgage interest rate - is a useful, though imperfect, measure of how affordable or attainable houses are to the average American. A higher index value reflects greater household purchasing power and therefore improved affordability of the typical home, though it says nothing about whether the median income family can actually amass the 20 percent down payment that the index assumes. Examining the data series over time can reveal the overall trend of housing affordability, even though the individual values can be misleading.

The index peaked at a record high of 209.0 in January 2013 and then crashed to 156.3 in August - its steepest decline in 30 years - on the back of increased interest rates and house prices (see Figure 2.7). The index has fallen from a recent peak of 173.5 in February to 164.7 in April (the newest point available) . The income required to purchase a median-priced house $(\$ 191,600)$ has increased year-over-year from $\$ 30,624$ in the first quarter of 2013 to $\$ 37,104$ in the first quarter of 2014. This is still lower than the average qualifying income needed to buy the median house in 2008, $\$ 46,000$, or 2007, $\$ 53,000$. While the qualifying income is now much lower, median family income is now around

$\$ 64,000$, very similar to the average of $\$ 63,000$ in 2008 and $\$ 61,000$ in 2007. In short, median incomes have stagnated.

The recent increase in affordability is predominantly due to the drop in median house prices and a modest decrease in interest rates. In June of 2013, Richard Green, Director of the University of Southern California's Lusk Center for Real Estate, argues that lack of strong wage growth should put the brakes on housing price hikes. ${ }^{8}$

The drop in median prices may seem contradictory to the Case-Shiller index in Figure 2.6, but is probably due to the fact that Case-Shiller uses a moving average and it is seasonally adjusted. Indeed, the unadjusted indices for December through February are actually lower than the November values.

It is interesting to note the implications of the recent increase in the affordability index and the flat house sales. Analysts have suggested that the dramatic decrease in affordability in 2013 was a shock to home buyers. For example, in January a median priced house at market rates would have a $\$ 612$ payment on the mortgage, while just seven months later a median priced house at market rates would have a $\$ 841$ mortgage payment. So while affordability is historically high and interest rates are historically low, the changes in monthly costs are likely high enough to have put off a number of potential buyers.

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## Export Markets

While logs from public lands west of the $108^{\text {th }}$ meridian cannot be exported by Federal law, log exports have an indirect, but real, impact on DNR stumpage prices. Foreign purchasers compete with domestic purchasers for privately sourced logs and strong export competition for private logs will pull more of the supply from the domestic market, thereby reducing the overall number of logs available to the domestic market and raising all domestic prices. However, changes in domestic prices do not arise from changes in export prices in a one-to-one relationship.

While export prices are usually higher than domestic prices, a difference which is referred to as the 'export premium', both prices tend to cycle together. The export premium exists primarily due to the characteristics of the export markets, which often include a demand for higher quality wood, a high value placed on long-term contracts, and high transaction costs.

Between 2002 and 2007, the export premium was between 10-20 percent for Douglas-fir while export and domestic prices for hemlock were consistently very close. Both export and domestic prices fell following the economic downturn in 2008, but the drop in export prices was more muted. For instance, the export price for Douglas-fir logs dropped 26 percent from 2007 to 2009 while the domestic price dropped 44 percent (Figure 2.8).

Following a surge in demand from China, export prices increased rapidly through 2011-12, with hemlock increasing 44 percent (see Figure 2.9) and Douglas-fir by 16 percent. The initial increase in demand was for hemlock logs, but as hemlock prices approached Douglas-fir prices the demand for Douglas-fir logs increased. By 2012, the Douglas-fir premium was near its historic average. In 2012,
export and domestic prices for both hemlock and Douglas-fir softened and the price spread between the species returned to its historical average.

Looking forward, the export premium will likely shrink due to strong domestic demand from recovering markets. Strong domestic prices will make export logs less competitive internationally, but much will depend on supply constraints from key international suppliers. In the long run, the export premium will likely shrink yet more as West Coast log exports face stronger international competition.

## Production Capacity

Lumber mills have excess capacity because of layoffs and shift reductions caused by reduced production during the Great Recession. Capacity utilization ${ }^{9}$ in the U.S. Coast region (western Washington and western Oregon) softwood lumber mills dropped to 57 percent in the bottom of the U.S. wood products industry in 2009. In 2013, production capacity increased by two percent in the latter half of the year as mills responded to higher prices by increasing investment. Broadly, capacity is expected to expand by three percent per year in 2014-15. In the meantime, lumber prices are expected to be especially volatile as mills and the supply chain adapt to increased lumber demand and production.

The recession in the forestry and wood products sector affected not only the mills but also the logging workforce and infrastructure. Many loggers and log truckers have left the industry and may not return. Logging firms have delayed investments in facilities, roads, and equipment in order to eke through the tough times. This will limit the firms' ability to increase production quickly and will add to the price volatility expected over the next couple of years.

## Timber Supply

Timber supply is up in the Coast region, as well as in the competing U.S. Inland and South timber regions, because timber landowners reduced harvests during the recession in response to low prices. Although timber growth has exceeded timber harvest since the beginning of the recession, increasing the potential timber inventory, strong log exports in the U.S. West Coast have constrained the growth of the timber inventory in that region. Thus the deferred volume in the Coast region is not as great as in other regions. FEA expects that harvesting on the U.S. West Coast will soon exceed growth, which will begin to deplete the inventory.

The timber resources of British Columbia have been devastated by the mountain timber beetle, which has destroyed about a third of province's timber resources ${ }^{10}$. This has increased British Columbia's timber supply since 2007. Timber killed by beetles must typically be harvested between 4 and 10 years after being killed, so the government increased the allowable harvest to ensure that the dead timber was not wasted. FEA forecasts that British Columbia's timber supplies will increase some in

[^8]

2014 before declining by two percent per year thereafter. The supply from Canada will be further diminished by Quebec's allowable annual cut being reduced by implementation of Bill 57 in 2013 and may be additionally reduced by Plan Nord.

Imports increased 30 percent in 2013 and the domestic market strengthens, offshore imports of softwood lumber are likely to continue to grow. FEA expects that imports will increase by about 50 percent per year between 2014 and 2018, ending up over three billion board feet in the latter year.

Decreasing Canadian timber supplies in the long term will likely outweigh the effects of the increase in supply from the U.S. Coast region, such that overall supply will be diminished.

## Price Outlook

## Lumber Prices

As shown in Figure 2.10, lumber prices have increased substantially since they bottomed out at $\$ 156 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in January 2009. The lumber prices shown on the chart are from Random Length's Coast Dry Random and Stud price series.

After tremendous volatility in 2010, regional lumber prices generally rose through 2011 and 2012. More recently, they hit $\$ 425 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in April 2013, an impressive 44 percent year-over-year increase. The lumber price fell off steeply to $\$ 362 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in May 2013 but a drop in this time period was predicted by forest economists because of the jerky response of bringing lumber production back on line. Lumber price growth is likely to remain flat over 2014 because mills and dealers are now better prepared to meet increased demand-they are unlikely to be surprised by increased lumber demand

Figure 2.11: DNR Composite Log Prices

like they were in 2013. However, many analysts expect that lumber prices will climb through 20152017 on the back of stronger housing markets, constraints on capacity and more cautious inventory positions.

## Log Prices

Figure 2.11 presents prices for Douglas-fir, hemlock, and DNR's composite logs. DNR's "composite $\log$ price" is calculated from prices for logs delivered to regional mills, weighted by the average geographic location, species, and grade composition of timber typically sold by DNR. In other words, it is the price a mill would pay for delivery of the typical log harvested from DNR-managed lands. The dark green line for the DNR composite log price on Figure 2.11 is the same as the brown line on Figure 2.10. All three log prices hit their post-2000 lows in April 2009, with the composite log falling to $\$ 284 / \mathrm{mbf}$. After rising through the rest of 2009 , 2010, and into 2011 , $\log$ prices generally moved sideways until the fall of 2012. From there, composite log prices climbed dramatically to a nominal high of $\$ 587 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in April 2013, the highest price in the period since 2000, but fell back until the end of the 2013. At the end of 2013 the composite log prices climbed above $\$ 600 / \mathrm{mbf}$ and in January reached $\$ 624 / \mathrm{mbf}$. Since January, the price of a DNR composite log has pulled back to $\$ 580 / \mathrm{mbf}$.

## Stumpage Prices

Timber stumpage prices are the prices that successful bidders pay for the right to harvest timber from DNR-managed lands. Figure 2.10 shows monthly nominal prices for DNR stumpage prices since 2000 in green. Like the log price, DNR stumpage prices bottomed out in April 2009 at $\$ 144 / \mathrm{mbf}$. Currently, the average DNR stumpage price weighted by volume is $\$ 363 / \mathrm{mbf}$, up from $\$ 342 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in

the February Forecast and $\$ 308 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in the November Forecast. Lower prices in the beginning of the fiscal year pulled down the average prices and were primarily due to a high proportion of thinning sales.

At any time, the difference between the delivered $\log$ price (in brown on Figure 2.10) and DNR's stumpage price (in green), is equivalent to the sum of logging costs, hauling costs, and harvest profit. Taking the average of these costs over 12 years and subtracting it from the $\log$ price line gives us an inferred or estimated DNR stumpage price, as shown by the green dotted line. Stumpage prices from actual DNR timber sales in 2012 were generally lower than stumpage prices inferred from log prices, which suggested that an upward market "correction" would be forthcoming. This correction seems to have occurred with higher stumpage in 2013 and 2014-except for an anomalous result in the April 2013 and the low prices due to sales composition in the early months of FY14.

Note the diverging trend between lumber and log prices from late 2011 into 2013; it suggests that potential profit margins for lumber mills in the Pacific Northwest have increased throughout this recent period.

## DNR Stumpage Price Outlook

Figure $\mathbf{2 . 1 2}$ shows DNR's historical timber stumpage prices (the solid green line, which is a quarterly version of the line in Figure 2.10), the price outlook as of the February Forecast (orange dashed line),
and our updated price outlook ${ }^{11}$ (green dashed line). There are modest adjustments to the stumpage prices throughout the forecast years.

DNR currently contracts with two forest economics consulting firms that provide log and timber stumpage price forecasts, as well as valuable insights into the housing, lumber, and timber markets. By modeling DNR's historical data on their price forecasts, we arrive at two alternative stumpage price outlooks-named Outlook A and Outlook B in Figure 2.12. Outlook A predicts relatively flat average prices throught the forecast period, with minor volatility as the market finds new equilibria in the face of a series of demand changes and supply adaptations. Outlook B reflects an assumption that demand will outpace supply through late 2014, and it incorporates a business cycle downturn from 2016 forward. The updated DNR Forecast represents a middle ground between these two outlooks. Furthermore, the ascent of our forecast stumpage prices slows down in outlying years to account for increasing uncertainty, particularly in timber mix brought to auction.

Figure 2.12 shows the outlying years of the updated Forecast culminating in DNR stumpage prices at or above the highest achieved in the past twelve years-including at the height of the real estate boom in 2006-07. Its important to note that these expectations are for nominal prices. In real (inflation adjusted) terms, the forecast stumpage prices will be much lower than the highs achieved during the real estate boom.

[^9]
## Part 3. DNR's Revenue Forecast

This Revenue Forecast includes revenues generated from timber sales on trust uplands, leases on trust uplands, and leases on aquatic lands. In the final summary table, it also forecasts revenues to individual funds, including DNR management funds, beneficiary current funds, and beneficiary permanent funds. Caveats about the uncertainty of forecasting DNR-managed revenues are summarized near the end of this section.

## Timber Revenues

DNR sells timber through auctioned contracts. With the approval of the Board of Natural Resources, DNR determines the total volume to be offered for sale each month and the minimum bid for each timber sale. The sale is awarded to the highest bidder and the average sales price ( $\$ / \mathrm{mbf}$ ), or stumpage price, is set by the result of the auction. DNR collects a 10 percent initial deposit at the time of sale and holds it until the sale is completed. Revenues are collected at the time of harvest (removal). The initial deposit is credited as the last 10 percent of timber is harvested.

Contracts for DNR timber sales sold in FY 2013 varied in duration from three months to three and a half years, with an average (weighted by volume) of about 21.5 months. The purchaser determines the actual timing of harvest within the terms of the contract. As a result, timber revenues to beneficiaries and DNR management funds lag sales and are subject to purchaser's perceptions of current market conditions.

For the purposes of this chapter, timber that is sold but not yet harvested is referred to as "volume under contract" or as "inventory." Timber volume is added to the inventory when it is sold and placed under contract, and it is removed from the inventory as the timber is harvested.

## Timber Sales Volume

As of May, DNR had sold 427 mmbf in FY 2014's. Projected timber sales volume for the current fiscal year is $517 \mathrm{mmbf}-7 \mathrm{mmbf}$ lower than previously predicted (see Figure 3.1). FY 2014 is the last year of the current FY 2005-2014 sustainable harvest decade.

FY 2015 is the first year of the next sustainable harvest decade (FY 2015 through FY 2024) for western Washington. Through the March 2013 Forecast, the Department's annual Westside sustainable harvest level for FYs 2015-2017 was assumed to be 537 mmbf . This placeholder target was estimated at the beginning of the current FY 2005-2014 decade from the sustainable harvest model. More recent policy constraints, scenario modeling, and observations from the field suggested that the 537 mmbf assumption was no longer likely. In response to this evidence, in the June 2013


Forecast annual Westside sales volume estimates were reduced to 450 mmbf for FYs 2015-2017. This Forecast assumption will be periodically revisited throughout the official process of determining the next decade's sustainable harvest levels. Combined with projected eastern Washington timber sales of 50 mmbf for the next several years, we arrive at a projected annual timber sales volume of about 500 mmbf for FYs 2015-2017. These projections are presented graphically in Figure 3.1.

## Timber Removal Volume

At the end of April, the Department had 527 mmbf of timber under sales contract, valued at $\$ 177.5$ million. This is up from the 507 mmbf in December, valued at $\$ 159.6$ million.

For each Forecast, we survey DNR timber sale purchasers to determine their planned harvest timing for the timber volume they have under contract at the time of the survey. This Forecast's survey, conducted in the first half of May, indicates that purchasers plan to harvest 92 mmbf , or 17 percent, of the 527 mmbf remaining under contract in the remainder of this fiscal year (FY 2014) and 365 mmbf (65 percent) of the existing inventory in FY 2015 (see Figure 3.2 for detail).


The survey suggests that a total of about 466 mmbf will be removed in FY 2014: 376 mmbf that timber purchasers have already removed and anticipated removals of 91 mmbf from volume under contract as of the end of April ${ }^{12}$ (see Figures 3.2 and 3.3).

The level and timing of projected timber removal volumes have changed in this Forecast in response to purchasers' plans and the 7 mmbf reduction in FY 2014 timber sales volume. While FY 2014's expected harvest is reduced by 77 mmbf , FY 2015's harvest is increased by 47 mmbf , with smaller increases in expected harvest in the outlying years. As a result, projected timber removal volumes for the current biennium, 2013-2015, are decreased by 30 mmbf , around three percent, from the February Forecast. Projected volumes across the 2015-2017 Biennium are increased by 21 mmbf , or around two percent (see Figure 3.3).

## Timber Sales Prices

The price results of monthly DNR timber sales (shown in Figure 2.10 in seasonally adjusted, nominal terms) are quite volatile. In FY 2011, monthly timber sale prices were mostly above $\$ 300 / \mathrm{mbf}$ and averaged $\$ 339 / \mathrm{mbf}$ weighted by volume, whereas they averaged $\$ 296 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in FY 2012 and $\$ 334 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in FY 2013 (see Figure 3.4).

[^10]

As discussed in Part 2, the slow improvement of the U.S. housing market and is likely to continue over the forecast period. The timing and magnitude of the recovery in housing construction remain uncertain, but when domestic demand for lumber strengthens, it exerts upward pressure on stumpage prices via higher $\log$ prices. This effect on stumpage prices is lagged, but the length of the lag is shorter when mills have less log inventory, as they have now. Among other things, Figure $\mathbf{2 . 1 0}$ illustrates this sensitivity.

The FY 2014 average DNR timber sales price projection is raised from $\$ 345 / \mathrm{mbf}$ to $\$ 357 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in this Forecast, reflecting strong auction prices in recent months (see Figure 3.4). Timber sales in FY 2014 have averaged $\$ 363 / \mathrm{mbf}$, with one auction remaining. Sales through October 2013 had only averaged $\$ 274 / \mathrm{mbf}$, so low because there was an unusually large percentage of forest improvement thinnings. The average jumped to $\$ 309 / \mathrm{mbf}$ through November 2013 due to the November auction's high average price of $\$ 423 / \mathrm{mbf}$. Average auction results stayed near or above $\$ 400 / \mathrm{mbf}$ until the May auction, when they fell to $\$ 335 / \mathrm{mbf}$. The forecast average sales price for FY 2014 is lower than the current average of $\$ 363 / \mathrm{mbf}$, because the upcoming auction is expected to have a less valuable timber mix and will pull the fiscal year average down slightly.


## Timber Removal Prices

Timber removal prices are determined by sales prices, volumes, and harvest timing. They can be thought of as a moving average of previous timber sales prices, weighted by the volume of sold timber removed in each time period. The removal volumes used to calculate the weights are shown in Figure 3.2. There is a smoothing out and a lag of timber removal prices compared to timber sales prices. For example, sales prices bottomed at an average annual price of $\$ 174 / \mathrm{mbf}$ in FY 2009 (see Figure 3.4). However, removal prices bottomed out in FY 2010 at $\$ 221 / \mathrm{mbf}$ on an annual basis, which was $\$ 47 / \mathrm{mbf}$ higher and came a year after the bottom for annual sales prices (Figure 3.5). Figure 3.5 shows that future removal prices are changed only modestly from the February Forecast.

## Timber Removal Revenues

Figure 3.6 shows projected annual timber removal values, broken down by the fiscal year in which the timber was sold ("sales under contract" are already sold as of May 1, 2014). About $\$ 119$ million, or around 80 percent, of the projected $\$ 149$ million timber harvest revenue this fiscal year (FY 2014) has already been harvested

The projected 2013-2015 Biennium timber revenues have been increased from $\$ 360.4$ million to $\$ 361.4$ million-an increase of $\$ 1$ million or $0.3 \%$ percent (see Figure 3.7). In the 2015-2017 Biennium, forecast timber removal revenues are projected to be up four percent or $\$ 16$ million, from $\$ 395.1$ million to $\$ 411.1$ million.


Figure 3.6: Forecast Timber Removal Value



## Upland lease revenues

Upland lease revenues are generated primarily from leases and the sale of valuable materials - other than timber - on state trust lands. In this Forecast, upland lease revenues are divided into two overarching categories: agriculture and other. Each of these is further divided. Presenting the data this way reflects the size and constitution of the uplands revenue sources.

The major changes in upland lease revenues from the previous Forecast are: a $\$ 0.6$ million increase in irrigated lands revenue in FY 2014; a $\$ 1.9$ million increase in orchard/vineyard revenue for FY 2014; a $\$ 0.7$ million increase in commercial lease revenues in FY 2014 (see Figure 3.8). Additionally, there are increases of $\$ 0.5$ million in the outlying years in irrigated agriculture and for FY 2015 in orchard/vineyard leases. Orchard/vineyard leases are dependent upon product prices in the previous year and the increase in FY 2014 revenue is due in part to higher than expected prices for orchard products in 2013, and in part to changing lease terms.


|  | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | Percent of <br> FY 2011-13 <br> Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agricultural | \$13,058,000 | \$17,471,000 | \$21,623,000 | 67.1\% |
| Irrigated | 3,895,000 | 5,762,000 | 7,127,000 | 21.2\% |
| Orchard/Vineyard | 4,148,000 | 5,922,000 | 8,996,000 | 24.1\% |
| Dryland | 5,015,000 | 5,788,000 | 5,658,000 | 20.8\% |
| Grazing | 663,000 | 850,000 | 843,000 | 3.0\% |
| Special forest products | 424,000 | 567,000 | 576,000 | 2.0\% |
| Special use | 1,818,000 | 2,132,000 | 1,779,000 | 7.2\% |
| Communication site | 3,958,000 | 3,814,000 | 4,190,000 | 15.1\% |
| Right-of-way | 433,000 | 634,000 | 588,000 | 2.1\% |
| Mineral, oil, and gas | 282,000 | 147,000 | 61,000 | 0.6\% |
| Rock, sand, and gravel | 595,000 | 877,000 | 908,000 | 3.0\% |
| Other ${ }^{13}$ | 181,000 | 221,000 | 488,000 | 0.6\% |
| Total | \$21,420,000 | \$26,541,000 | \$31,214,000 |  |

[^11][This page intentionally left blank]

## Aquatic Lands Revenues

DNR manages 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands. Very broadly, aquatic lands revenues are generated in two ways: geoduck sales and harvest revenue, and lease and other revenue. The lease and other revenues are comprised of:

1. Water dependent leases (e.g., marinas and buoys);
2. Non-water dependent leases (e.g., structures related to upland uses);
3. Aquaculture leases (e.g., oyster and salmon 'farming');
4. Easements (e.g., power line rights-of-way); and
5. Other (e.g., sand and gravel sales and trespass settlements).

The expected revenues from these leases are reduced for all outlying years in this Forecast. Previous forecasts for the outlying years were based on an assumed growth in water dependent leases that has not occurred and currently appears unrealistic. The decline in water dependent rents was offset in FY 2014 by increased revenues in both aquaculture and non-water dependent rents.

DNR sells the rights to harvest geoducks at several auctions throughout the year. There were four geoduck auctions in FY 2014. The first was held September $5^{\text {th }}$ and sold 452,000 pounds at an average price of $\$ 12.84 / \mathrm{lb}$. This price was on the high side of our expectations. The second auction, took place November 21, selling 490,000 pounds at an average of about $\$ 12.44 / \mathrm{lb}$-also on the high side. At the time of the November Forecast only the results from the first auction were available. Given that auction's modest volume compared to the whole year and given the significant price volatility inherent in geoduck markets (see Figure 3.9a), the November projection for FY 2014's average auction price of $\$ 9.20 / \mathrm{lb}$ remained unchanged from September's.

In early December, the Chinese government declared import restrictions on shellfish from most of the West Coast of North America, citing health concerns from high levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning toxin (PSP) and arsenic. The ban has been lifted but it resulted in about $\$ 1$ million in refunded or foregone revenue from the last of the September poundage. Almost all of the poundage from the November auction was harvested in January, in time for the Chinese New Year; apparently, geoduck brokers and exporters were able to find sufficient supply routes.

As of the February Forecast, DNR was planning to bring nearly 1.2 million pounds forward for sale between the February 25 and April 30 auctions-almost 70 percent of the pounds finally offered. Given the large amount of geoduck remaining for FY 2014 and the significant uncertainty caused by the Chinese ban - the duration of the import restriction, its effect on prices, and its effect on sales volumes were all unknown - the February Forecast used conservative volume and price forecasts for the remaining sales. Ultimately, the Chinese ban was not as devastating as feared and the estimated average price of $\$ 7.50 / \mathrm{lb}$ turned out to be more than a dollar lower than the $\$ 8.75 / \mathrm{lb}$ average price of the auctions. Consequently, the FY 2014 forecast geoduck revenue is increased by $\$ 2.7$ million.

These downside risks to geoduck revenues in outlying years are important to consider but difficult to forecast:

1. Harvests (and therefore revenues) could be deferred or lost if geoduck beds are closed due to occurrence PSP toxin.
2. A further slowdown in China's economic growth could lower demand for this luxury good in its largest market.
3. In light of recent WDFW surveys of closed south Puget Sound geoduck tracts showing declining recovery rates, and of evidence of active poaching, future commercial harvest levels may be further reduced.


Figure 3.9b: Aquatic Lands Revenues Forecast Geoduck and Other, FYs 2014-2017


## Total Revenues from All Sources

Total forecast revenues for the 2013-15 Biennium (FYs 2014 and 2015) are up from the previous Forecast by $\$ 7.1$ million ( 1.4 percent) to $\$ 501.8$ million. Revenues for the 2015-2017 Biennium (FYs 2016 and 2017) are projected to be up by $\$ 16.7$ million ( 3.2 percent) to $\$ 547.4$ million. The vast majority of the overall revenue changes are driven by a change in planned timber harvests and increasing timber sales prices.


## Some Caveats

DNR strives to produce the most accurate and objective projections possible, based on the Department's current policy directions and available information. Actual revenues will depend on future policy decisions made by the Legislature, the Board, and DNR, as well as on market and other conditions beyond DNR's control. Listed below are issues that could potentially impact future revenues from DNR-managed lands:
U.S. and Global Economic Crisis. There are still too many unemployed workers, though some have reentered the workforce after having left; the financial and economic crises in Europe are improving, but several European countries remain in deep recession; China's economy has slowed; and the U.S. government has still not implemented a coherent, growth-driven economic policy.

Timber Sales Volume. Although significant curtailments in timber sales volumes were assumed in the June 2013 Forecast, further reductions are possible. These reductions would be due to potential environmental, operational, and policy issues (e.g., riparian management areas, and continued timber harvest deferrals pending implementation of a long-term marbled murrelet conservation strategy). This risk is particularly heavy for FYs 2015-2017.

As events and market conditions develop, DNR will incorporate new information into future Forecasts. At this point, we judge the downside to the overall forecast to be slightly greater than the upside because of the risks to the timber sales volume (and therefore to timber removal volume and revenues) as well as the ongoing weakness and vulnerabilities of the U.S. and world economies that affect the housing market, and therefore stumpage prices.

## Distribution of Revenues

The distribution of timber revenues by trust are based on:

- The volumes and values of timber in the inventory (sales sold but not yet harvested) by trust;
- The volumes of timber in planned sales for FYs 2014 and 2015 by trust, and relative historical timber prices by DNR region by trust; and
- The volumes of timber by trust for FYs 2015-2017 based on provisional output of the sustainable harvest model ${ }^{14}$ and relative historical timber prices by DNR region by trust.

Since a single timber sale can be worth over $\$ 3$ million, dropping, adding, or delaying even one sale can represent a significant shift in revenues to a specific trust fund. Distributions of upland and aquatic lease revenues by trust are assumed to be proportional to historic distributions unless otherwise specified.

Management Fee Deduction. The underlying statutory management fee deductions to DNR as authorized by the legislature are 25 percent or less, as determined by the Board of Natural Resources (Board), for both the Resources Management Cost Account (RMCA) and the Forest Development Account (FDA). In budget bills, the Legislature has authorized a deduction of up to 30 percent to RMCA since July 1, 2005, now in effect through the 2013-2015 Biennium. ${ }^{15}$

At its April 2011 meeting, the Board adopted a resolution to reduce the RMCA deduction from 30 to 27 percent and the FDA deduction from 25 to 23 percent. At its July 2011 meeting, the Board decided to continue the deductions at 27 percent for RMCA (so long as this rate is authorized by the legislature) and at 23 percent for FDA. At its October 2011 meeting, the Board approved a resolution to reduce the FDA deduction from 23 to 21 percent. The Board decided in July 2013 to raise the FDA deduction to 25 percent and the RMCA deduction to 29 percent.

Given this background of official actions by the legislature and the Board, the management fee deductions assumed in this Forecast are:

|  | FY 2014 | FY 2015 |  | FY 2016 |  | FY 2017 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FY 2018 |  | FY 2019 |  |  |  |  |  |
| FDA | 25 | 25 |  | 25 |  | 25 |  |
| RMCA | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 |  | 25 | 25 |
| R | 29 |  | 29 | 29 |  |  |  |

By using 29 percent for the RMCA deduction in FYs 2014-2019, the Forecast assumes that the Legislature will approve RMCA deductions of up to 30 percent for the 2015-2017 Biennium in their biennial budget bills, continuing its practice which started in FY 2006.

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## Revenue Forecast Tables

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 on the following pages provide Forecast details. Table 3.1 focuses on the source of revenues-timber sales and removals, uplands leases, and aquatic lands leases. Table 3.2 focuses on the distribution of revenues to various state accounts-DNR management funds, beneficiary current and permanent funds, and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. Both tables include historical and projected figures.

Table 3.1: June 2014 Forecast by Source (millions of dollars)

|  | Changes are from the February 2014 Forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actuals |  |  |  | Forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Timber Sales | FY 10 | FY 11 | FY 12 | FY 13 | FY 14 |  | FY 15 | FY 16 |  | FY 17 |  | FY 18 |  | FY 19 |  |
| Volume (mmbf) | 730 | 591 | 553 | 495 | 517 |  | 500 |  | 500 |  | 500 |  | 500 |  | 500 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | $(7)$ $-1 \%$ |  | - 0 |  | - 0 |  | - 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Price (\$/mbf) | \$245 | \$339 | \$296 | \$334 | \$357 |  | \$393 |  | \$411 |  | \$407 |  | \$402 |  | \$398 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | \$ $\begin{aligned} & 12 \\ & \\ & \\ & \end{aligned}$ | \$ | 11 $3 \%$ | \$ | 18 $5 \%$ | \$ | $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 2 \% \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Value of Timber Sales | \$ 178.5 | \$200.4 | \$ 163.7 | \$ 165.4 | \$ 184.8 | \$ | 196.2 | \$ | 205.4 | \$ | 203.4 | \$ | 200.6 | \$ | 198.8 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | \$ $\begin{aligned} & \text { \$ } \\ & \\ & \\ & \end{aligned}$ | \$ | 5.4 $3 \%$ | \$ | 9.2 <br> $5 \%$ |  | $\begin{array}{r}3.2 \\ 2 \% \\ \hline\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |


| Timber Removals | FY 10 | FY 11 | FY 12 | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 | FY 16 | FY 17 | FY 18 | FY 19 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Volume (mmbf) | 801 | 670 | 517 | 486 | 466 | 600 | 532 | 515 | 499 | 499 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | $(77)$ $-14 \%$ | 47 $9 \%$ | 17 $3 \%$ | 4 $1 \%$ |  |  |
| Price (\$/mbf) | \$221 | \$275 | \$321 | \$310 | \$321 | \$353 | \$382 | \$403 | \$407 | \$402 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | \$ $\begin{array}{rr} \\ & 11.7 \\ & 4 \% \\ \end{array}$ | \$ $\begin{aligned} & 4.7 \\ & \\ & \\ & \end{aligned}$ | \$ $\begin{array}{r}3.7 \\ \\ \end{array}$ | $\$ \quad 11.5$ |  |  |
| Timber Revenue | \$181.0 | \$187.8 | \$ 167.5 | \$149.7 | \$ 149.5 | \$ 211.9 | \$ 203.3 | \$ 207.8 | \$ 203.1 | \$ 200.8 |
| Change <br> \% Change |  |  |  |  | \$ $\begin{aligned} & (18.4) \\ & \\ & -11 \%\end{aligned}$ | \$ $\begin{aligned} & 19.4 \\ & \\ & 10 \%\end{aligned}$ | $\$$ <br>  <br>  <br>  | $\begin{array}{ll}\$ & 7.4 \\ & 4 \%\end{array}$ |  |  |

Note: Timber removal revenue includes FIT (forest improvement timber) sale proceeds, timber sales default settlements, and interest and extension charges (approx. \$1-4 million per year).
Excludes Trust Land Transfer, Real Property Replacement Account, and Land Bank property transactions and interest on property replacement funds.
Excludes fire assessments, permits, and fees.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 3.1: June 2014 Forecast by Source (millions of dollars), cont'd.


| Aquatic Lands | FY 10 | FY 11 | FY 12 | FY 13 | FY 14 |  | FY 15 |  | FY 16 |  | FY 17 |  | FY 18 |  | FY 19 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aquatic Leases | \$ 10.6 | \$ 9.2 | \$ 10.6 | \$ 10.1 | \$ | 10.4 | \$ | 10.5 | \$ | 11.2 | \$ | 11.8 | \$ | 12.1 | \$ | 12.1 |
| Change |  |  |  |  | \$ | (0.3) | \$ | (0.5) | \$ | (0.4) | \$ | (0.3) |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change |  |  |  |  |  | -3\% |  | -5\% |  | -3\% |  | -2\% |  |  |  |  |
| Geoduck | \$ 20.0 | \$ 28.5 | \$ 29.0 | \$ 14.2 | \$ | 22.1 | \$ | 20.6 | \$ | 20.3 | \$ | 20.9 | \$ | 21.5 | \$ | 22.0 |
| Change |  |  |  |  | \$ | 2.7 | \$ | 0.1 | \$ | (0.2) | \$ | 0.6 |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change |  |  |  |  |  | 14\% |  | 0\% |  | -1\% |  | 3\% |  |  |  |  |
| Aquatic Lands Revenue | \$ 30.7 | \$ 37.7 | \$ 39.6 | \$ 24.3 | \$ | 32.5 | \$ | 31.1 | \$ | 31.5 | \$ | 32.8 | \$ | 33.6 | \$ | 34.1 |
| Change |  |  |  |  | \$ | 2.4 | \$ | (0.4) | \$ | (0.6) | \$ | 0.3 |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change |  |  |  |  |  | 8\% |  | -1\% |  | -2\% |  | 1\% |  |  |  |  |


| Total All Sources | \$242.5 | \$257.0 | \$244.0 | \$214.7 | \$ | 223.0 | \$ | 278.8 | \$ | 270.8 | \$ | 276.6 | \$ | 272.8 | \$ | 271.0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Change |  |  |  |  | \$ | (12.8) | \$ | 20.0 | \$ | 8.5 | \$ | 8.2 $3 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change |  |  |  |  |  | -5\% |  | 8\% |  | 3\% |  | 3\% |  |  |  |  |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 3.2: June 2014 Forecast by Fund (In millions of dollars)

|  | Changes are from the February 2014 Forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actuals |  |  |  | Forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Management Funds | FY 10 | FY 11 | FY 12 | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |  | FY 16 |  | FY 17 |  | FY 18 |  | FY 19 |  |
| 041 RMCA - Uplands | \$ 31.8 | \$ 33.9 | \$ 29.7 | \$ 30.3 | \$ 32.4 | \$ | 39.7 | \$ | 39.9 | \$ | 41.1 | \$ | 39.7 | \$ | 39.9 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \$ \\ & \\ & \end{aligned} \begin{gathered} (2.6) \\ -7 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.5 \\ & 7 \% \end{aligned}$ | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.3 \\ & 3 \% \end{aligned}$ | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.4 \\ & 3 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |
| 041 RMCA - Aquatic Lands | \$ 13.9 | \$ 17.5 | \$ 18.4 | \$ 10.7 | \$ 14.7 | \$ | 14.0 | \$ | 14.1 | \$ | 14.6 | \$ | 15.0 | \$ | 15.3 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline \$ \\ \\ \\ \hline \end{array}$ | \$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.1) \\ -1 \% \end{gathered}$ | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & (0.2 \\ & -2 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.2 \\ 1 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |
| 014 FDA | \$ 25.9 | \$ 25.8 | \$ 20.9 | \$ 16.6 | \$ 19.1 | \$ | 27.0 | \$ | 25.7 | \$ | 26.7 | \$ | 26.4 | \$ | 26.1 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | \$(1.4) <br>  | \$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2.7 \\ 11 \% \end{array}$ | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.1 \\ & 4 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.8 \\ 3 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Total Management Funds | \$ 71.6 | \$ 77.1 | \$ 69.0 | \$ 57.6 | \$ 66.2 | \$ | 80.6 | \$ | 79.7 | \$ | 82.3 | \$ | 81.1 | \$ | 81.3 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | $\$$ $(2.7)$ <br> $-4 \%$  | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.1 \\ & 7 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.2 \\ 3 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.3 \\ 3 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |



[^13]Table 3.2: June 2014 Forecast by Fund (In millions of dollars), cont'd

| Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account | Changes are from the February 2014 Forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actuals |  |  |  | Forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | FY 10 | FY 11 | FY 12 | FY 13 | FY 14 |  | FY 15 |  | FY 16 |  | FY 17 |  | FY 18 |  | FY 19 |  |
| 02R | \$ 16.8 | \$ 20.2 | \$ 21.2 | \$ 13.6 | \$ | 17.8 | \$ | 17.1 | \$ | 17.4 | \$ | 18.2 | \$ | 18.6 | \$ | 18.9 |
| Change \% Change |  |  |  |  | \$ | 1.1 $7 \%$ | \$ | (0.3) $-2 \%$ | \$ | $(0.3)$ <br> $-2 \%$ | \$ | 0.1 $1 \%$ |  |  |  |  |



Note: Excludes Trust Land Transfer, Real Property Replacement Account, and Land Bank property transactions and interest on property replacement funds.
Excludes fire assessments, permits, and fees.
Totals may not add due to rounding.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ "Marginally attached" workers are individuals who were not in the labor force, but wanted and were available for work. However, they were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for employment in the four weeks prior to the survey.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ The labor market participation rate is the total workforce as a percentage of the working-age population.

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ The Fed calls this program "Large-Scale Asset Purchases". However, the term "quantitative easing" is used here because it is a more widely used and recognizable term for the program.

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ Information adapted from OECD Economic Surveys: China, March 2013.

[^4]:    ${ }^{5}$ As shown in Figure 1.8, the Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate prices were essentially the same until late 2010 when the WTI price started tracking below Brent Crude. The difference in price has developed because unusually large stockpiles of crude oil have built up in the middle of the North American oil supply system and there is a higher price to move this landlocked surplus to market. The Brent Crude price remains more important to the overall U.S. economy as it is the predominant crude oil price benchmark in the world economy.

[^5]:    ${ }^{6}$ Other definitions of "shadow inventory" include other residential properties such as those with less seriously delinquent mortgages that will become seriously delinquent, condos that were converted to apartments and that are expected to be converted back in the next few years, investor-owned rental properties, and homes that owners want to sell but that are not yet on the market.

[^6]:    ${ }^{7}$ The Housing Market Index is produced monthly by the National Association of Home Builders and Wells Fargo. An index of above 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor. http://www.nahb.org

[^7]:    8 "Southland home prices soar 24.7\% in May from a year earlier", Los Angeles Times, June 11, 2013.

[^8]:    ${ }^{9}$ Capacity utilization is the percentage of potential capacity that is actually used by a mill, or effective capacity divided by potential capacity. Currently, most mills are operating well below their potential capacity by idling machinery and running fewer shifts than they are capable of.
    ${ }^{10}$ FEA Quarterly Timber Forecast Service, Q3 2013

[^9]:    ${ }^{11}$ This updated price outlook is the basis for the timber revenue changes discussed in the next section.

[^10]:    ${ }^{12}$ The anticipated removals can differ from the purchasers planned removals because the purchaser's survey excludes sort sales and purchasers with little volume.

[^11]:    13 "Other" is composed of smaller miscellaneous revenue sources including habitat and conservation leases, trespasses, assessment payments, pass-through power charges, biomass, and others.

[^12]:    ${ }^{14}$ DNR and the Board of Natural Resources have not yet determined the sustainable harvest level for the FY 2015-2024 biennium.
    ${ }^{15}$ The Legislature most recently authorized the RMCA deduction of up to 30 percent, making it effective through the entire 2013-2015 Biennium, in the FY13-15 operating budget, Sec. 1001, 2ESSB 5034.

[^13]:    (Continued)

