





Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation Update

April 2, 2024

A Presentation to the Board of Natural
Resources

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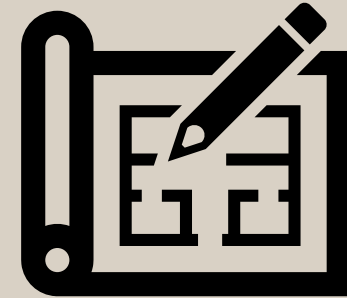


Agenda

- Scoping Summary
- Purpose, Need and Objectives of the Eastside Sustainable Harvest Calculation
- Progress Update



Eastern Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation 2024 Scoping Summary



- Initial scoping completed in November 2021.
- Second Scoping Notice issued on January 8, 2024, opening a public comment period until February 22, 2024.
- Public webinar held live on January 24, 2024, 6-7 p.m.
- Published Scoping Report on March 20, 2024
- 8 commenters

Comments received from:

- American Forest Resource Council
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Individual Citizens
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

Description of proposal: The proposal is to establish a sustainable harvest level for the 2025 to 2034 fiscal year planning decade for forested state trust land in eastern Washington.

Proponent: Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Location of proposal: All forested state trust lands located east of the Cascade Crest in Washington State (refer to attached map).

Lead agency: DNR

Determination: *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required.* The lead agency has determined this proposal potentially will have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared.

Deadline for comments: Thursday, February 22, 2024 by 5:00 pm

Eastern WA Sustainable Harvest Calculation 2024 Scoping Summary

The scoping notice requested public comment on:

- Purpose, Need, and Objectives
- Probable, significant environmental impacts
- Key Environmental Issues
- Alternatives for consideration
- Mitigation measures
- Additional information to consider
- Elements of the environment
- Environmental justice considerations

Comments were also received in these areas:

- Arrearage
- Carbon and Climate Change
- Data and Analysis
- DNR Policies
- Trust Duties
- Wildfire and Forest Health



Purpose:

- Recalculate a sustainable harvest level.

Need:

- RCW 79.10.30 – Update the SHC with new information and recalculate no less frequently than every 10 years.
- RCW 79.10.330 – Conduct an end of decade arrearage analysis.
- RCW 79.10.520 - Reduce wildfire hazards and losses from wildfire; reduce insect infestation and disease; and achieve cumulative impact of improved forest health and resilience at a landscape scale.



Objectives:

- Incorporate new information into the model
- Consider climate change and analyze climate change impacts and benefits of the alternatives
- Support forest health treatment strategies and plans
- Ensure alternatives are reasonable and consistent with DNR's trust management obligations, existing policies, HCP and Amendments, and applicable laws



Project Progress Phase 1 & 2

Phase 1: Project Initiation and EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) Scoping

- Draft project need, purpose, and objectives
- Issue SEPA Determination of Significance and Scoping Notice
- Engage with the public and stakeholders and receive scoping comments
- Complete scoping report
- Finalize project problem statement

Phase 2: Alternative and Model Development for DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement)

- Engage with the Board to develop alternative management scenarios (alternatives) to be analyzed through the EIS process
- Finalize growth and yield model and stratified yields
- Develop forest estate model
- Complete validation contracts for stratified yields and forest estate model
- Continue to engage with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Project Progress Phase 3 & 4

Phase 3: DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement)

- Generate final forest estate model outputs (harvest levels) for each alternative
- Analyze the impacts of the alternatives on elements on the environment
- Write the DEIS and conduct internal reviews
- Complete a financial analysis
- Complete a socioeconomic impact analysis
- Publish the DEIS

Phase 4: FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) and Board Decision

- Respond to public and stakeholder comments on the DEIS
- Revise the DEIS based on public and Board feedback
- Publish the FEIS
- Finalize the financial analysis and socioeconomic impact analysis
- Board adopts a harvest level from within the range of alternative harvest levels

Questions?



