

Sustainable Harvest Calculation

Purpose and Need

PROPOSAL

The proposal is to establish a sustainable harvest level for the 2015 to 2024 fiscal year planning decade for forested state trust lands in western Washington.

PURPOSE

The purpose describes what DNR is trying to achieve:

- Recalculate a sustainable harvest level consistent with DNR policies, including the *Policy for Sustainable Forests* and the *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)*, and applicable state and federal laws.

NEED

The need describes why DNR is seeking to accomplish the above purpose:

- RCW 79.10.320 requires DNR to “manage the state-owned lands under its jurisdiction which are primarily valuable for the purpose of growing forest crops on a sustained yield basis insofar as compatible with other statutory directives. To this end, the department shall periodically adjust the acreages designated for inclusion in the sustained yield management program and calculate a sustainable harvest level.”
- RCW 79.10.330 states that “[i]f an arrearage exists at the end of any planning decade, the department shall conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the course of action regarding the arrearage which provides the greatest return to the trusts based upon economic conditions then existing and forecast, as well as impacts on the environment of harvesting the additional timber. The department shall offer for sale the arrearage in addition to the sustainable harvest level adopted by the board of natural resources for the next planning decade if the analysis determined doing so will provide the greatest return to the trusts.”
- The *Policy for Sustainable Forests* states that “[t]he department, with Board of Natural Resources approval, will recalculate the statewide sustainable harvest level, for Board of Natural Resources adoption no less frequently than every ten years.”

OBJECTIVES

The objectives describe how the purpose and need are fulfilled:

- Coordinate with the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy (LTCS) environmental analysis so that the Board of Natural Resources can integrate the effects of the range of Marbled Murrelet LTCS alternatives on the sustainable harvest level and arrearage.
- Incorporate new information into an updated model to calculate the sustainable harvest level. New information includes changes in the land base, changes in forest inventory, information concerning the prior decadal arrearage and its causes, changes in technology, and any updates from the finalized Olympic Experimental State Forest and South Puget HCP Planning Units forest land plans.
- Consider climate change as part of the affected environment, analyze climate change impacts and benefits of the alternatives, and identify possible mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate any identified adverse environmental climate change impacts of the proposal.
- Ensure alternatives analyzed are reasonable, feasible, and consistent with DNR's trust management obligations, existing DNR policies, and applicable state and federal laws.