



MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2005

SEPA File No. 05-041501

TO: All interested parties

FROM: Rochelle Goss, SEPA Center Manager

SUBJECT: **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) ON THE
POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-360 and WAC 197-11-455, the Department of Natural Resources has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the following:

The purpose of this proposal is the adoption of new policies that will replace the 1992 *Forest Resource Plan* for forested lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources. Twenty-six policies are proposed for four major categories:

Economic Performance: Three policy subject areas make up this category: Financial Diversification, Financial Assumptions, and Land Classifications. These policy subject areas will provide direction to the department for decisions that directly affect the trust obligation of generating sustainable revenue from the management of forested state trust lands. The alternatives span levels of risk that the Board of Natural Resources is considering in pursuing new markets for forest and other products. They cover the frequency and approach to reviewing financial assumptions, as well as what trust lands are available or deferred from harvest.

Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity: Nine policy subject areas make up this category: Forest Health, Wildfire and Catastrophic Loss Prevention, Genetic Resource, Special Ecological Features, Older Forests and Old Growth, Wildlife Habitat, Watershed Systems, Riparian Management Zones, and Wetlands. These areas will provide direction to the department for management decisions that directly affect the health and productive capacity of forest ecosystems on forested state trust lands. The overall ecological condition of the forest asset directly impacts the economic, ecological and social values that these lands can provide. Each of the environmental elements covered in these policy subject alternatives is considered integral to the total health of the forest ecosystem. As such, the emphasis is placed on the need to provide landscape-scale mitigation measures over the life of these policies.

Social and Cultural Benefits: Four policy subject areas make up this category: Public Access and Recreation, Cultural Resources, Visual Management, and Local Economic Vitality. These policy subject areas will provide direction to the department for management decisions that directly affect social and cultural benefits derived from forested state trust lands. The adverse environmental impacts and mitigation of impacts to both the natural and built environment are considered within a range of policy alternatives that meet state and federal law and trust objectives

Implementation: Ten policy subjects make up this category: Forest Land Planning, General Silvicultural Strategy, Forest Land Transactions, Roads, Acquiring Rights of Way, Granting Rights of Way, Research, External Relationships, SEPA Review, Implementation, Reporting, and Modification. These policy subject areas provide a coordinated and comprehensive framework for implementation of the *Policy for Sustainable Forests*. Their emphasis is on ensuring efficiency in implementation and correction, when necessary, to achieve the policy objectives and outcomes described in the *Policy for Sustainable Forests*. They focus on landscape-scale approaches to analyze and mitigate potentially significant adverse environmental impacts and target landscape-scale enhancements of the forest asset. Cooperation and coordination with partners is emphasized to ensure stakeholder involvement and mitigation of impacts in department plans and decisions.

Notice of Public Hearings

May 3, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Lacey Community Center at Woodland Creek
Community Park – Banquet Room A
6729 Pacific Avenue SE, Lacey, WA 98509

May 4, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Peninsula College, Room J47
1502 East Lauridsen Blvd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362

May 5, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Best Western Cotton Tree Inn &
Convention Center – Fidalgo Room
2300 Market Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

May 9, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Cowlitz County PUD Auditorium
961 12th Avenue, Longview, WA 98632

May 10, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Bellevue Community College – Room C-120 A &
B
3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA 98007

May 11, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Central WA University – Black Hall, Room 152
400 E University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926

May 12, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn – Granite Room #2
9015 West Highway 2, Spokane, WA 99224

A copy of the DEIS has been posted to our agency website. You may download or review this and other SEPA documents related to this file at our web address:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>

The lead agency will consider all written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that are received by 5:00 p.m. **May 16, 2005**. Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center, at P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 or by email to: sepacenter@wadnr.gov for distribution to the responsible official. *Please include the file number listed above on all comments.*