



Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Working Forests and Recreation

**A policy discussion: When should we change the
ownership of the land?**

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Board of Natural Resources

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Agenda

- Guiding Policy and RCW
- Examples
- Discussion



Key policy question:

When faced with concerns over the impacts of timber sales, when should DNR alter sales and when should we change ownership?

For example: Shifting from Trust Land to Natural Area or Preserve



What guides our decisions?

- **Multiple Use Concept:**

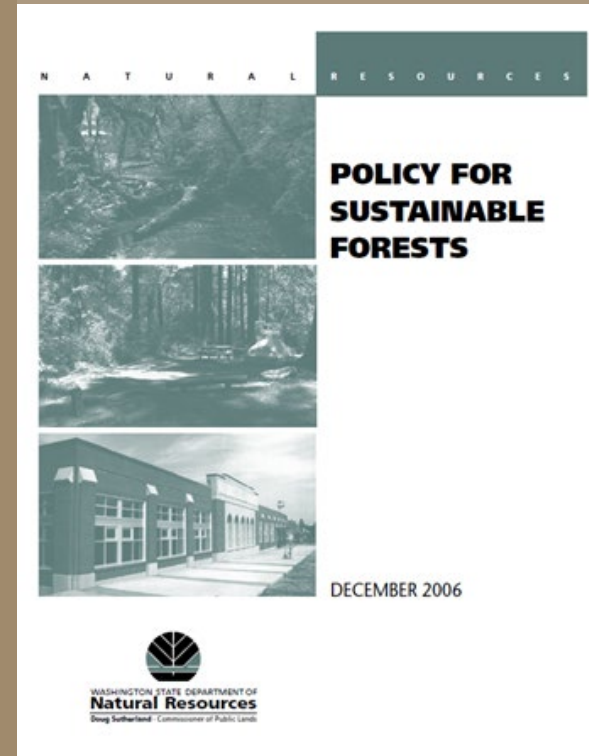
RCW 79.10.120

- This allows for other compatible uses on Trust Lands.
- Recreation use is one of the primary applications of this statute.



What guides our decisions?

- **Policy for Sustainable Forests**
 - When managing public access and recreation use on forested state trust lands, the department will protect trust interests and seek to balance economic, ecological and social concerns by evaluating the following on a landscape or case-by-case basis:
 - The physical condition of the area in a landscape context, including neighboring landowners;
 - The characteristics of the users, including their degree of organization;
 - The reasonable availability of financial, staff and other resources for sustainable, long-term management; and
 - Cost and benefit to the trust(s).



How do we apply policy and legislative intent?

- Usually timber and recreation work well on the same landscape
 - Programs work together through highly professionalized staff
 - Regular stakeholder engagement
 - Landscape planning for public access
- What happens when we hear concerns?



Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan

April 2010



Best Management Practices (BMP)

When a private organization or citizens comes to DNR and express interest in a piece of State Trust Land:

Work with them and assess if we can alter our management

Examples: Timing, sale layout, enhancements



Best Management Practices

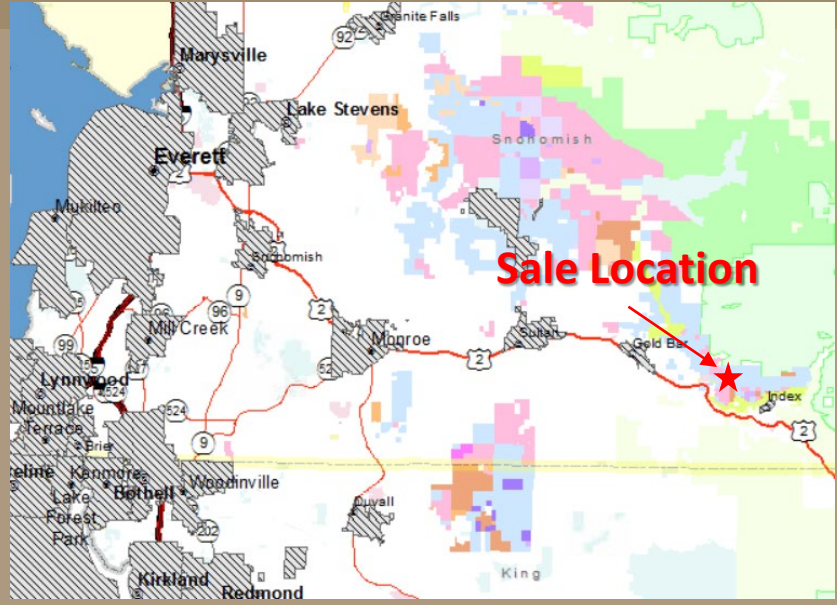
When a government agency comes to DNR and expresses interest in a piece of State Trust Land:

Work with them to change the ownership



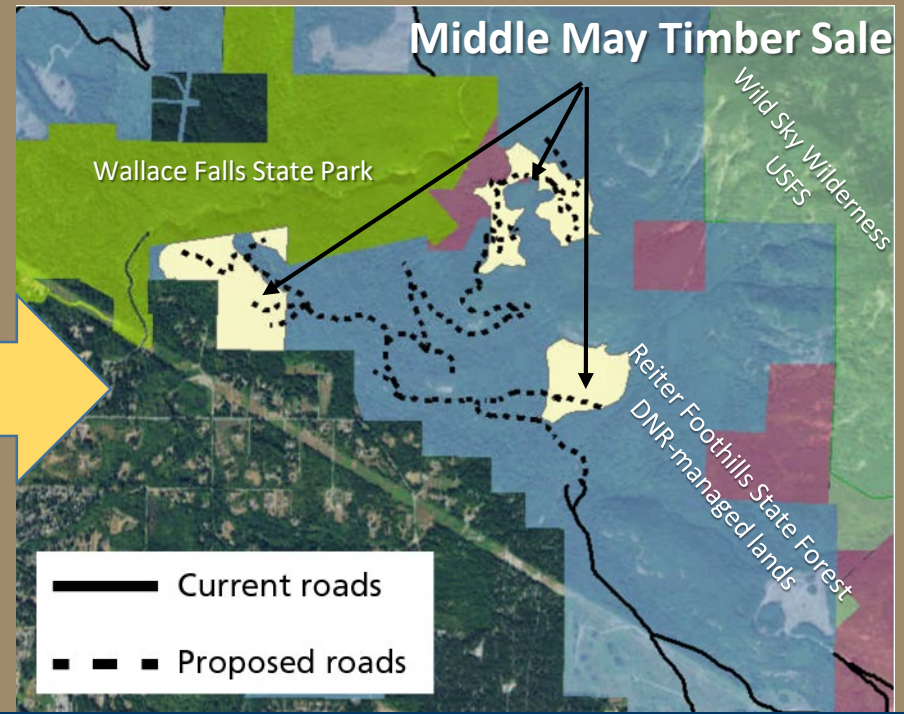
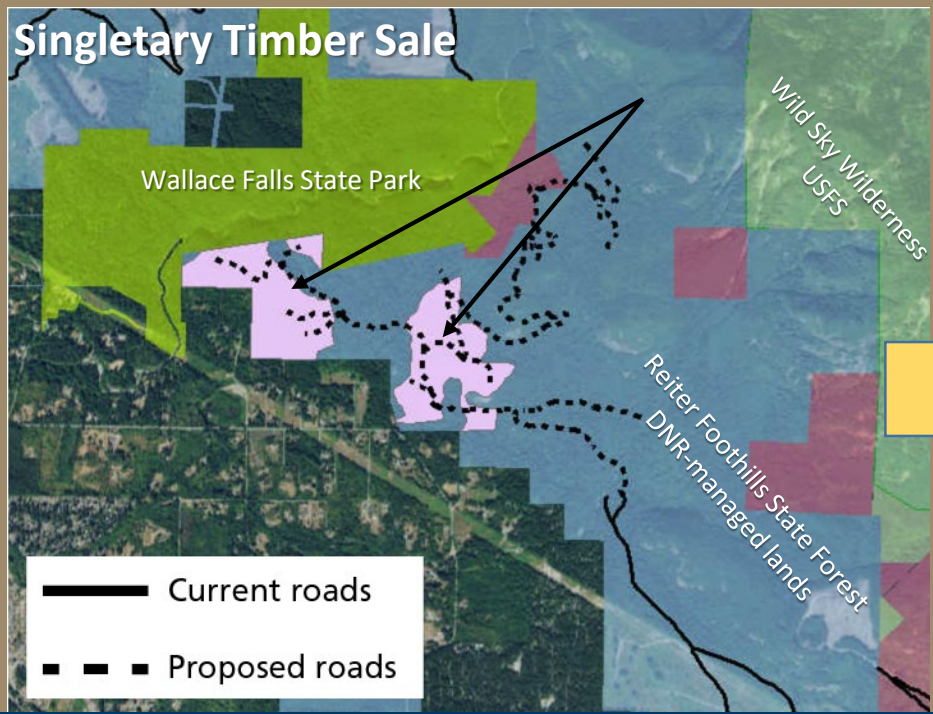
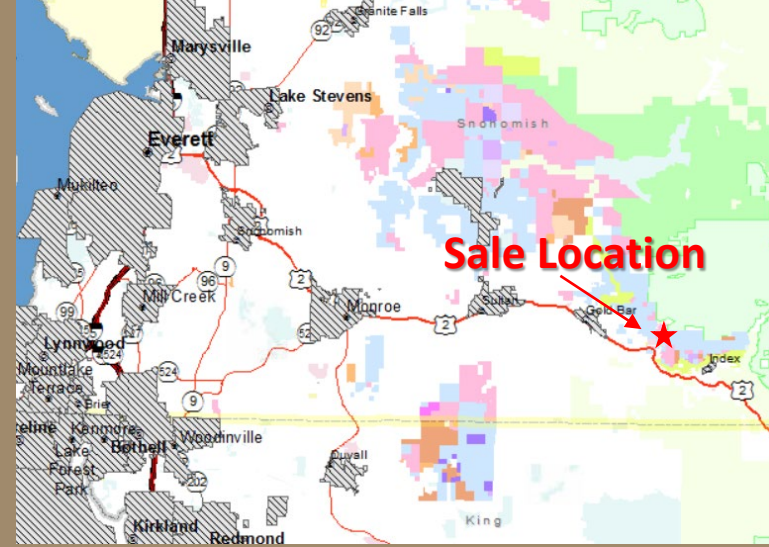
BMP Example

- Pathfinder Timber Sale
 - Sale footprint and layout
 - Directional cutting of trees
 - No equipment on trail
 - Slash pile placement



BMP Example

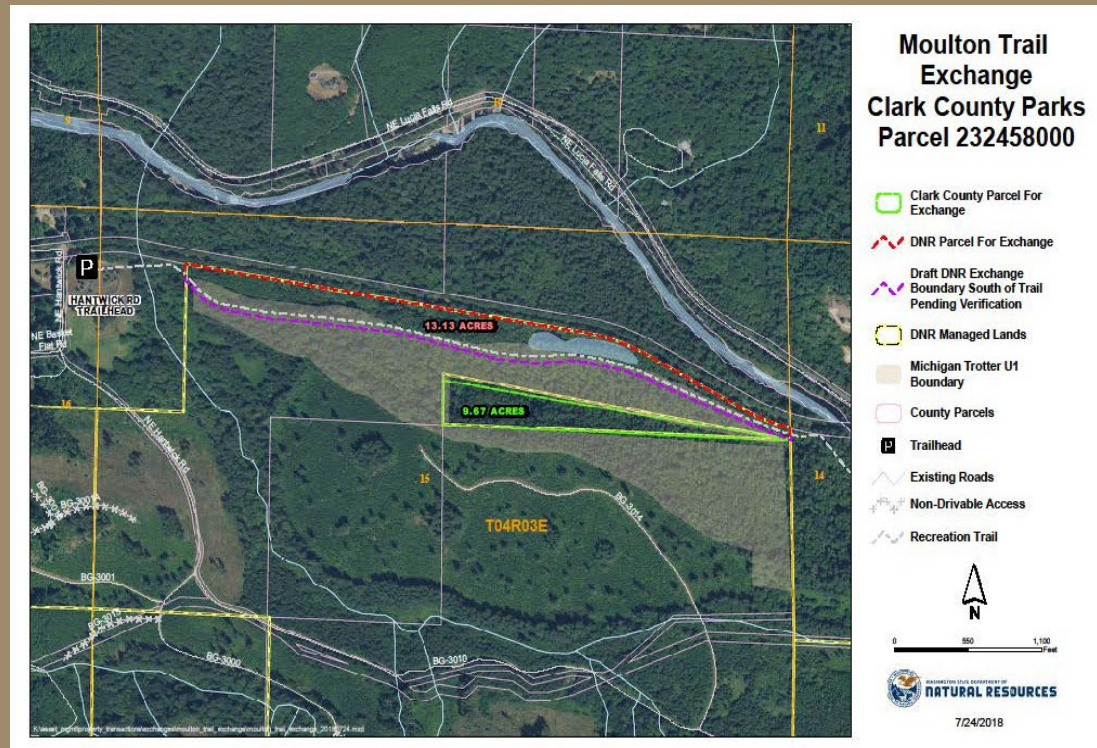
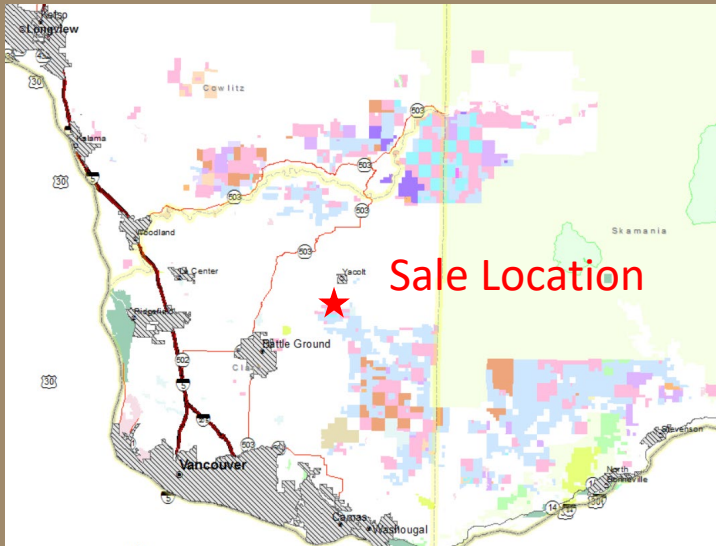
- Reiter Foothills
 - History of Sale
 - Current Status



BMP Example

- Michigan Trotter Timber Sale

- History of Sale
- Current Status of Sale/Landscape
- Options for changing designation
 - Trust Land Transfer
 - Reconveyance
 - Direct Transfer
 - Easement or Lease



Discussion

When conflicts arise between recreation and working forests, is our policy guidance adequate?



