

# Alternatives for Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level

for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington

Draft | ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT



December 2016



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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December 2016

Dear Interested Party,

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is establishing a sustainable harvest level for the fiscal year 2015 to 2024 planning decade for over 1.4 million acres of forested state trust lands in Western Washington. Once set by the Board of Natural Resources (Board), this level will ensure the sustainable management of state trust lands consistent with the economic, ecological, and social objectives contained within the *Policy for Sustainable Forest*. Included in these objectives is meeting the commitments of the *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan*, and complying with all applicable state and federal laws.

The fiscal year 2015 to 2024 sustainable harvest level will address three key issues facing DNR uplands: marbled murrelet conservation, arrearage, and riparian area thinning. The marbled murrelet conservation strategy alternatives are analyzed by DNR in a separate DEIS released in 2016. The strategies designate varying amounts of state trust lands for marbled murrelet conservation. Different amounts of state trust lands in conservation status shift the total of land available for harvesting and therefore have the potential to increase or decrease the decadal harvest level. In addition, DNR is required to address an arrearage that occurred during the previous decade (fiscal year 2005-2014). When and how the arrearage is addressed may also impact the sustainable harvest level. Finally, lower than expected levels of thinning in riparian areas contributed to the previous decade's arrearage. How much volume to expect from riparian areas will also impact the harvest level.

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement evaluates four sustainable harvest level alternatives, along with a no action alternative that reflects the previous level set by the Board in 2007. Each alternative combines a murrelet conservation strategy, arrearage approach and riparian area thinning level as a basis for calculating a sustainable harvest level. The result is that the alternatives analyzed in this document provide a wide range of sustainable harvest levels for consideration by the Board.

I invite you to provide comment on this DEIS through March 1, 2017. Further information is posted at [www.dnr.wa.gov/shc](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/shc).

Thank you for your interest in the sustainable management of state trust lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Peter Goldmark".

Peter Goldmark  
Commissioner of Public Lands

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# DRAFT

## Environmental Impact Statement

on

## Alternatives for Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington

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Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
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Olympia, WA 98504

**Prepared by:**

DNR Forest Resources Division

**Published:**

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# Fact Sheet

**Title: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Alternatives for Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington**

**Description of Proposal:** This proposal involves setting a sustainable harvest level for the fiscal year 2015–2024 planning decade for forested state trust lands in Western Washington. Five alternatives, including a no action alternative, are analyzed. The alternatives propose a range of harvest levels for forested state trust lands in Western Washington.

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### **Date of Issuance of DEIS**

December 2016

### **Next Actions**

March 1, 2017: End of 90-day comment period

Late 2017 (project, subject to change):  
Publication of the Final EIS and adoption of a sustainable harvest level by the Board of Natural Resources

### **Final Action**

The final action is the adoption of a sustainable harvest level by the Board of Natural Resources following the release of the Final EIS.

### **DEIS Comment Period**

The comment period for this Draft EIS is December 2, 2016, through March 1, 2017. Comments are due to the SEPA Center no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Comments may be submitted electronically via email or attachments sent to [sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov), or mailed to the address listed under “Contact.”

### **Public Meetings**

January 10, 2017 (6-8 p.m.)  
NW Region Office – NW Conference Center  
919 N Township  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

January 12, 2017 (6-8 p.m.)  
Whitman Middle School – Auditorium  
9201 15th Ave NW  
Seattle, WA 98117

January 17, 2017 (6-8 p.m.)  
Port Angeles High School – Commons/Lunch Room

304 E Park Ave  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

January 19, 2017 (6-8 p.m.)  
Julius A Wendt Elementary School –  
Multipurpose Room  
265 S 3rd St  
Cathlamet, WA 98612

January 26, 2017 (2-3 p.m.)  
Webinar – link will be available at:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/shc](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/shc)

### **Location, Availability, and Cost of Copies of This DEIS and Supporting Documents**

This DEIS is posted online at:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/shc](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/shc).

CD copies also are available to read at selected public libraries. These libraries are listed in Appendix K.

CD copies also are available at no charge. Requests for CDs may be mailed to the address listed under “Contact.” Hard copies will be available for the cost of printing, per RCW 42.17.

This DEIS incorporates the following documents by reference:

- *Final (Merged) Environmental Impact Statement: Habitat Conservation Plan*
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Issuance of Multiple Species Incidental Take Permits or 4(d) Rules for the Washington State Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan*
- *South Puget HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement*

- *Olympic Experimental State Forest HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Draft Environmental Impact Statement on a Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet*

Copies of these documents and the following supporting documents—*Policy for Sustainable Forests, State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan, Olympic Experimental State Forest HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan*, and Washington forest practices rules—are available for review at the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington Street, Olympia. These documents can also be found online at [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov).



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Appendix A: Sustainable Harvest Calculation Scoping Report

Appendix B: Areas of Long-Term Forest Cover

Appendix C: Arrearage Report

Appendix D: Settlement Agreement

Appendix E: Board of Natural Resources Resolution 1239

Appendix F: Model

Appendix G: Sustainable Harvest Levels for Each Sustainable Harvest Unit by Alternative

Appendix H: Rare Plants on State Trust Lands in Western Washington

Appendix I: Fish Distribution in Western Washington

Appendix J: Appendix J. Wildlife Species and Associated Habitats in Western Washington

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