Sustainable Harvest Calculation

For Forested State Trust Lands in Eastern Washington

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently calculating the sustainable harvest level for approximately 680,000 acres of forested state trust lands located east of the Cascade Crest. The sustainable harvest level is the volume of timber scheduled for harvest during a planning decade.

State trust lands are managed to provide revenue to specific trust beneficiaries like counties and schools, primarily through timber harvest, and for wildlife habitat and other ecological objectives. Through the sustainable harvest calculation process, DNR ensures it can provide timber for current and future generations of trust beneficiaries while safeguarding the many ecological services these forests provide.

Project Phases

The four phases of this project include the following:

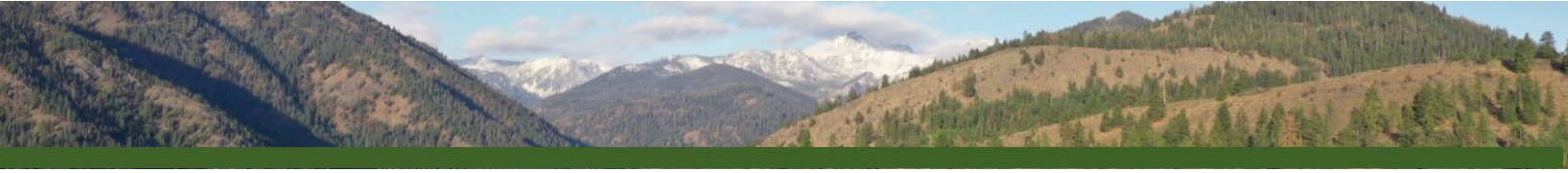
- **Phase 1, Scoping**: Issue determination of significance and conduct scoping
- **Phase 2, Alternatives and model**: Develop alternatives and computer models
- **Phase 3, Draft EIS**: Run models and prepare and publish the draft environmental impact statement (EIS)
- **Phase 4, Final EIS and decision**: Respond to comments on the draft EIS, finalize the EIS; the sustainable harvest level is set by the Board of Natural Resources

(Outreach to Tribes, stakeholders, and the public will occur in all phases)

Phase 1

DNR has issued a "determination of significance" under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for the sustainable harvest level, which means that the project could have significant, adverse environmental impacts. For that reason, DNR is required to develop an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this project.

The first step in the EIS process is to conduct scoping. In this step, DNR publishes a scoping report that describes its need, purpose, and objectives for the project and gathers ideas for alternatives. Alternatives



are different, feasible ways to meet the need, purpose, and objectives. Scoping is one of the ways DNR provides the public, other government agencies, and tribes an opportunity to participate in the EIS process.

Phase 2

In this phase, DNR develops reasonable alternatives and determines possible ways to mitigate potential environmental impacts. DNR also builds the advanced computer models it will use for this project.

Phase 3

During Phase 3, DNR runs models to estimate the timber volume and number of acres that would be harvested under each alternative, based on the laws and policies that govern timber harvest on state trust lands. DNR also analyzes the alternatives for potential environmental impacts and summarizes the results in the draft EIS, along with a description of potential mitigation. Once the draft EIS is published, the public, other agencies, and tribes are invited to submit comments.

Phase 4

In the final phase, DNR responds to comments received on the draft EIS and prepares the final EIS. Comment responses are included in the final EIS. After the final EIS is published, the Board of Natural Resources reviews it and sets the sustainable harvest level for the next planning decade.

How can I learn more about this project?

Public outreach will occur throughout the project. Visit the Eastern Washington SHC Website on DNR's website for background information, factsheets, technical reports, presentations, announcements, and more. Additionally, quarterly presentations are given at the BNR meetings which you can attend in person or virtually. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month except August.

Stakeholder outreach will also occur throughout the project. During all project phases, DNR will hold meetings and consultations with key stakeholders, including Tribal governments, recreation groups, environmental organizations, timber industry representatives, and overburdened communities.

How can I get involved?

You can sign up to provide comments on the project at a BNR meeting. Public comment periods are held at the start of every meeting. You may also submit comments on the draft EIS during the public comment period that will be announced on the Eastern Washington SHC Website.

For questions, contact Duane Emmons, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands, at Duane.Emmons@dnr.wa.gov or Sarah Ogden, Trust Outreach Specialist, at Sarah.Ogden@dnr.wa.gov.