



May 5, 2026

State of the State Lands Part 2

A Presentation to the Board of Natural Resources

Presented by Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Dale Mix, Cameron Crump, Susan Beall,
and Michael Kearney



Agenda

State Uplands: Who we Are
Spotlight on Capitol Forest



DNR Manages Four Types of Lands (Uplands Manages Three)



State Trust Lands

- About 3 million acres
- Granted at statehood through the Enabling Act (federally granted lands)
- Acquired from the counties in 1920s and 30s, purchased, or received as a gift (State Forestlands)



Community Forests

- About 52,400 acres
- Protects lands at risk of conversion
- Self-supporting and managed for watershed protection, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, grazing, and timber production



Aquatic Land

- About 2.6 million acres
- Navigable lakes, rivers, streams, and marine waters
- Revenue used to manage and restore aquatic ecosystems



Natural Areas

- Over 170,000 acres
- Managed for ecological values, not in trust status
- Contributes to ecological goals for state trust lands



State Uplands Creates Value for the People of Washington

Ecological

- Healthy landscapes that provide ecosystem services, including habitat, carbon storage, and clean air and water
- Natural Areas preserved for future generations
- Advancement of scientific knowledge through research

Social

- Abundant opportunities to experience and enjoy Washington's natural landscapes
- Extensive road network for recreation and management access
- Cultural and historical sites protection
- Youth education and outreach programs

Economic

- Sustainable management that generates non-tax revenue for public services
- Support for rural economies and jobs
- Preservation of working forests and farms



Working with Tribes

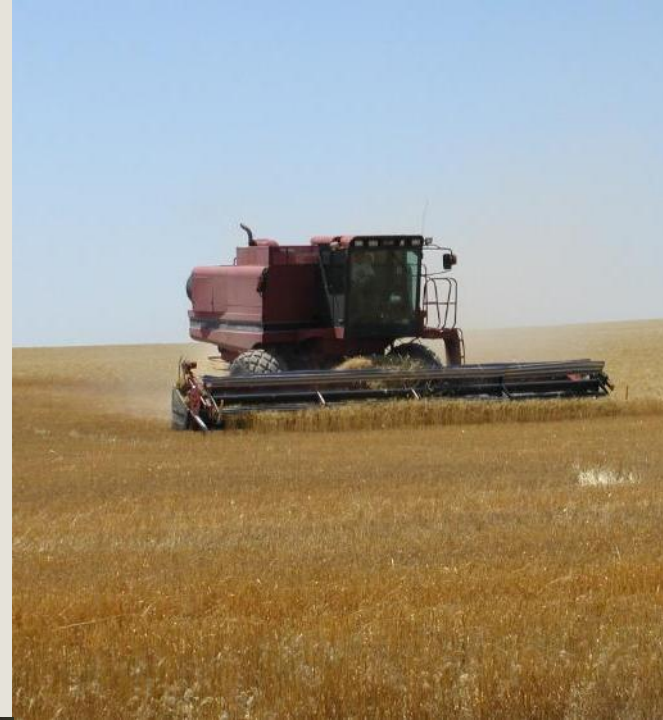
- In treaties signed during the 1850s, Tribes of the Washington Territory ceded millions of acres of land to the federal government. Some of these lands are now the state trust lands, community forests, and natural areas managed by DNR.
- DNR collaborates with tribes in a Government-to-Government relationship and at the staff-to-staff level during our day-to-day management of these lands.



State Uplands: Who We Are

Five divisions, a budget office, and six regions who collectively manage 3 million acres of land statewide for a range of objectives.

State trust lands | Community forests | Natural areas



DNR Regions

- Divisions and programs sets strategic direction.
- Regions implement that direction through on-the-ground management.
- Although most leases and permits are administered by the regions, some are handled by the Product Sales and Leasing Division.



DNR Divisions: Breadth of Responsibilities



Forest Resources



Engineering



Asset Management



**Recreation and
Conservation**



**Product Sales and
Leasing**



Forest Resources

Cameron Crump, Division Manager

- Silviculture
- Webster Nursery
- Seed Plant and Orchards
- HCP and Scientific Consultation
- OESF Research and Monitoring
- Informatics

Engineering

Dale Mix, Division Manager

- Title and Records Office
- Rights-of-way
- Forest Roads
- Land Surveys
- Public Lands Survey Office
- Photogrammetry

Asset Management

Susan Beall, Division Manager

- Land Acquisition and Divestitures
 - Trust Land Transfer
 - Urban Transition Lands
- Land Appraisals
- Projects and Planning
 - Sustainable Harvest Calculation



Recreation and Conservation

Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Division Manager

- Recreation
- Natural Heritage
- Natural Areas
- Conservation Acquisitions
- Youth Education and Outreach

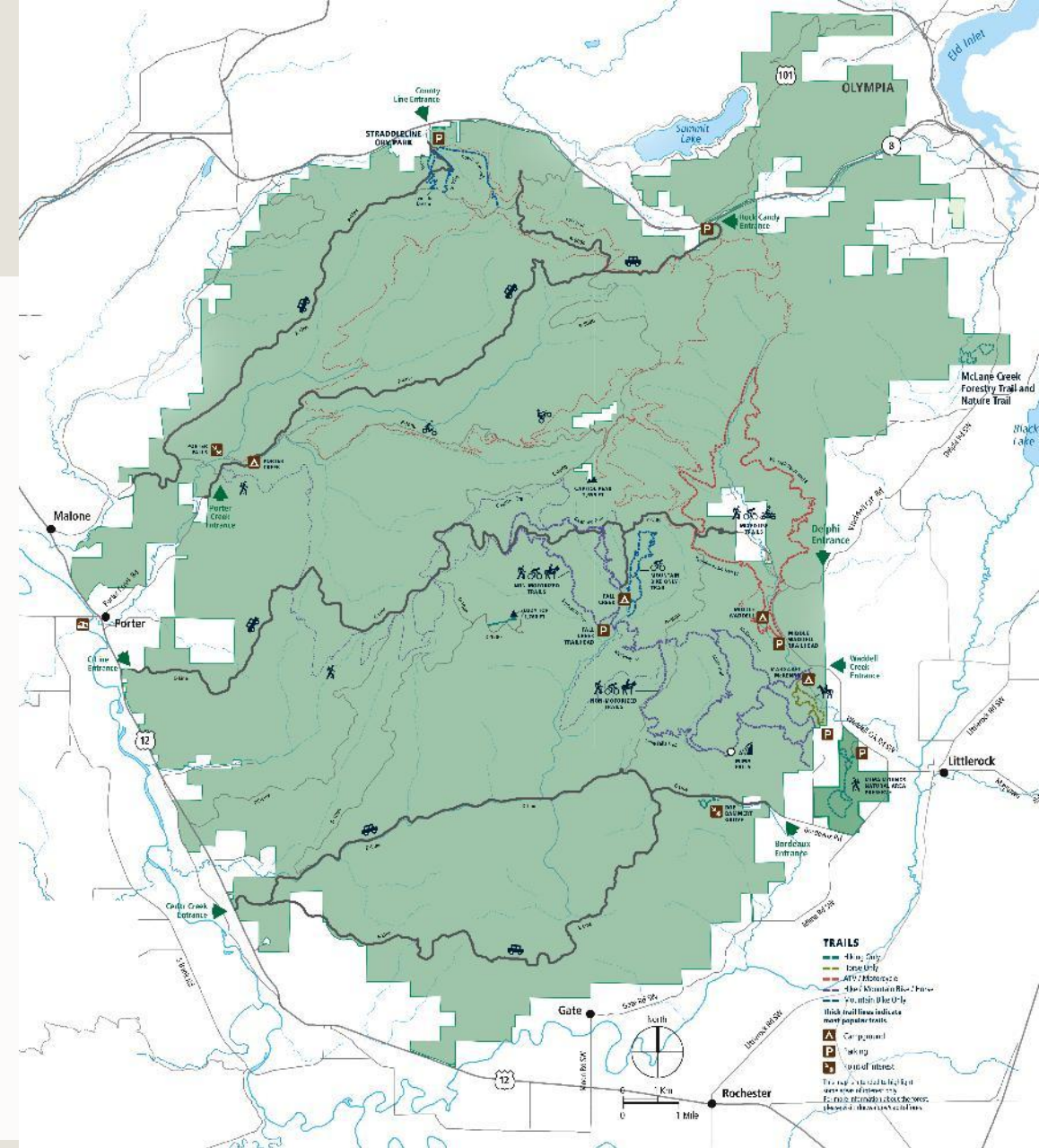
Product Sales and Leasing

Michael Kearney, Division Manager

- Product Sales
- Agriculture and Grazing
- Water Resources
- Commercial Real Estate
- Leasing and Business Management

Spotlight on Capitol Forest

- About 100,000 acres.
- Easily accessible to over 300,000 people in Thurston County.
- Managed for conservation, outdoor access/recreation, and revenue generation.
- Research installations contribute knowledge for science-based decision making and adaptive management.
- Certified under the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C012959) Forest Management Standard and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) 2022 Forest Management Standard.



The Forest that Came Back

- **1933:** First 33,000 cut-over acres purchased for a new state forest.
- **1936:** First non-federal tree nursery in the western U.S. established near Cedar Creek to grow seedlings for replanting.
- **1957:** Tree nursery moved to its present location outside Tumwater (Webster Forest Nursery).

By the 1970s, **more than 11 million seedlings** had been planted in Capitol Forest. Today's Webster Forest Nursery grows over **8 million seedlings per year** for DNR and other land managers.

1951



2019



Conservation



- Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve/Natural Resource Conservation Area
- Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve
- Riparian buffers that support habitat for multiple species, including salmon
- Old growth reserves
- Gene pool reserves

Research and Demonstration Sites

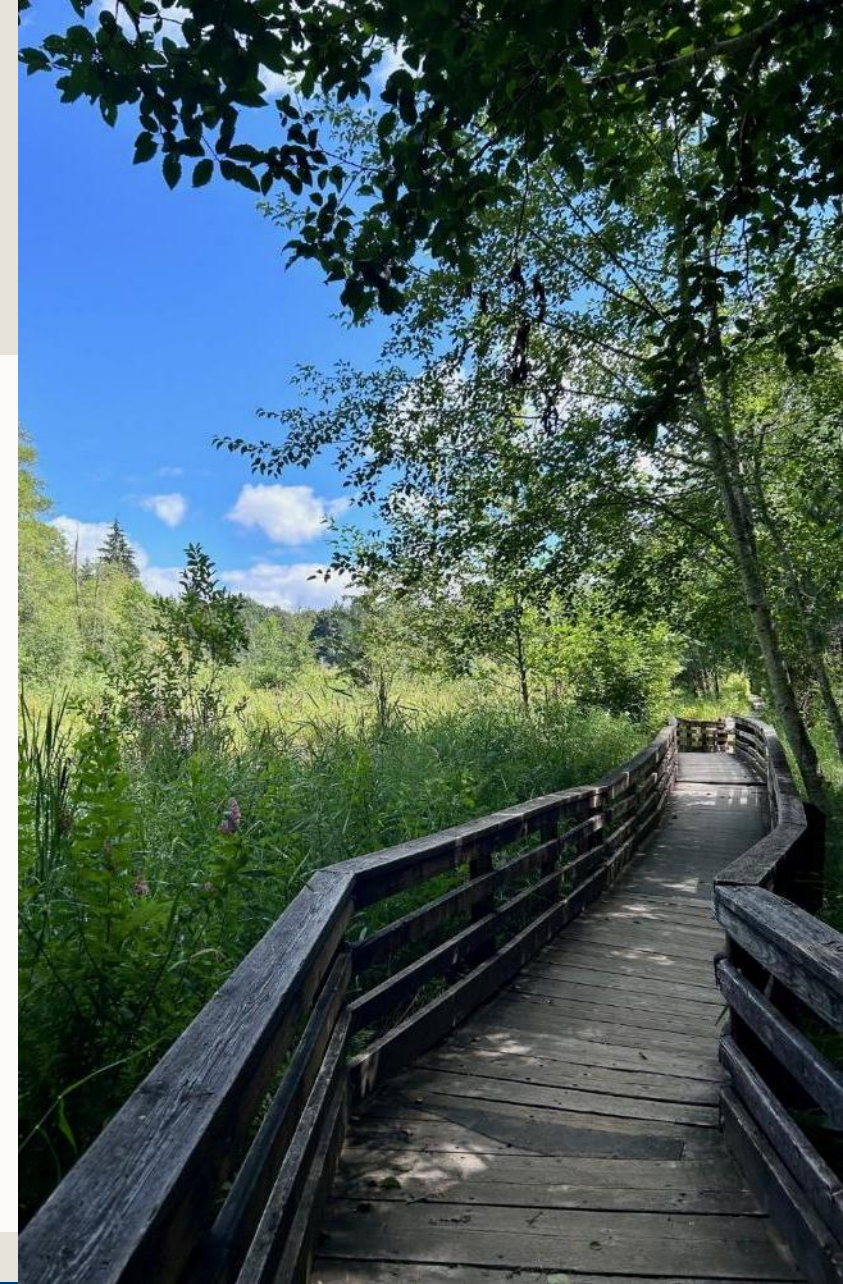
- Silviculture Options Study with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS): 20-year measurements completed in 2024.
- Alternatives to herbicide study with Oregon State University: Planted in 2022, nearly complete.
- Douglas-fir seed source trial: Planted in 2022, ongoing
- Characterization of prairie-forest edge habitat (“Yalaqwm”) at Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve as part of the cultural landscape in South Puget Sound prairies (Evergreen State College graduate student): 2025.



Region and division silviculturists and Webster Nursery staff dig up month-old seedlings planted in a Capitol Forest common garden in June 2023 to assess initial root growth.

Recreation and Roads

- Capitol Forest provides trails, picnic areas, interpretive sites, and campgrounds, and opportunities for dispersed recreation such as hunting and target shooting.
- The forest is managed under its own management plan and the overarching ***Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation Strategic Plan***.
- DNR manages 1,235 miles of roads in Capitol Forest that provide DNR management access, 380 miles of which can be driven by the public for recreation access. Many roads can also be used for hiking and bike riding, except during active timber sales.



Revenue Generation

Providing non-tax revenue while also providing social benefits.

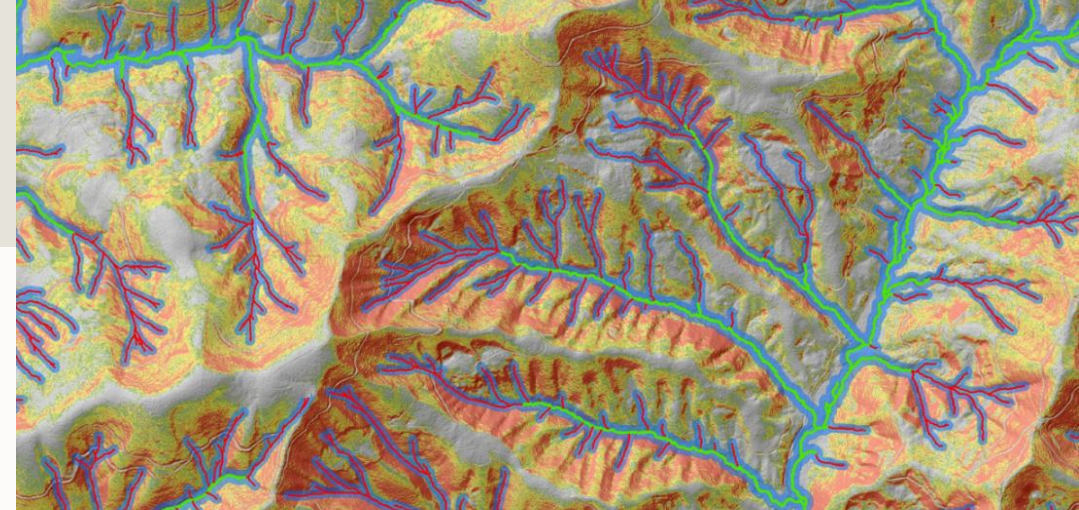
- Cedar Creek Correctional Facility ground lease
- Brush and salal harvesting permits
- Communication site leases
- Timber harvest



Forest Informatics Support

Provides data, systems, applications, GIS tools and analyses for monitoring and planning in Capitol Forest, including:

- Supported system to edit and track forest management activities
- Forest inventory estimates
- Mobile data recorder application to collect data
- Modelled tools such as:
 - Riparian stream types and locations
 - Structurally complex forest detections



In Conclusion

Through sustainable, science-informed management, Uplands maintains healthy, productive forests that provide a multitude of benefits for present and future generations of Washingtonians.



Questions?

