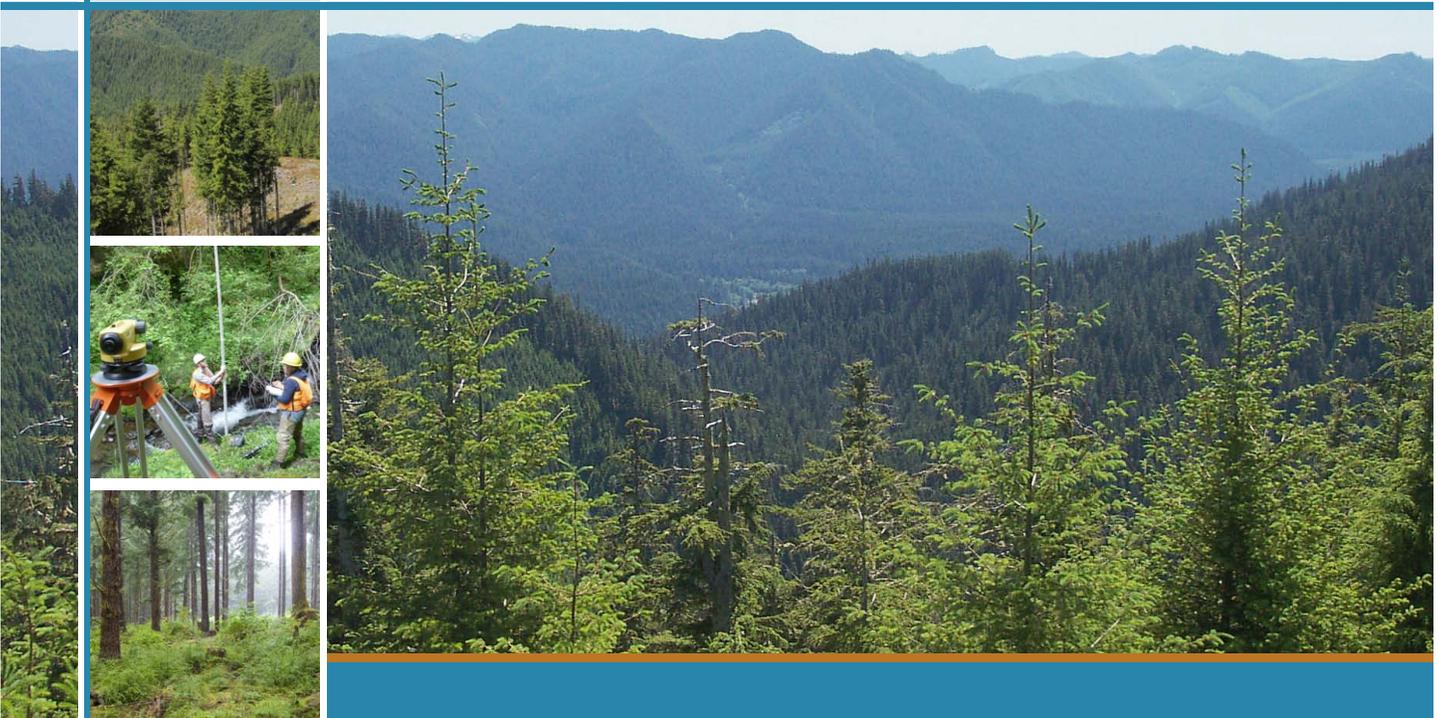


AUGUST 2016

Olympic Experimental State Forest HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan

Final | ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
PETER GOLDMARK | COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

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August 2016

Dear Interested Party,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is completing a forest land plan for the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF). Located on the western Olympic Peninsula, the OESF encompasses more than 270,000 acres of forested state trust lands. These lands are carefully managed to provide a sustainable flow of revenue to trust beneficiaries, primarily through the harvest and sale of timber, and to conserve their ecological benefits, which include healthy streams and forests and habitat for native wildlife species such as northern spotted owls.

The forest land plan will provide foresters and managers the practical information they need to meet DNR policy objectives in the context of “integrated management.” Integrated management is based on the principle that a forested area can be managed to provide both revenue and ecological benefits.

Completion of the forest land plan will be a major milestone in the management of the OESF and the culmination of many years of discussion, sharing, and thoughtful collaboration with a wide range of organizations and individuals.

DNR published a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for the OESF forest land plan in October 2013. After a careful review of the comments received on the RDEIS, DNR added a new action alternative for the OESF called the “Pathways Alternative.” The Pathways Alternative, which is DNR’s preferred alternative, was developed to improve how DNR manages northern spotted owl habitat under current policy. The Pathways Alternative is described and analyzed for potential environmental impacts in this Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The next and final step in this process will be to adopt the proposed forest land plan. If you have questions, contact Heidi Tate, Forest Land Planning Program Manager, at 360-902-1662.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Blum". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kyle Blum
Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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AUGUST 2016

Olympic Experimental State Forest HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan

Final | ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by the
Forest Resources Division

Forest Informatics and Planning Section
Heidi Tate, Forest Land Planning Program Manager

Responsible Official
Loren Torgerson, Northeast Region Manager



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
PETER GOLDMARK | COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

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Fact Sheet

Title

Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Planning Unit Forest Land Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

Description of Proposal

The action proposed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to develop and implement a forest land plan for the management of state trust lands in the OESF. The OESF is located in western Clallam and Jefferson counties on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State.

DNR also will update existing procedures as needed and develop a new procedure for salvage of timber after natural disturbance events.

A forest land plan is a document that defines what DNR wishes to achieve and how it will achieve it. Forest land plans include goals, objectives, and the management strategies that will be used to meet them.

The No Action Alternative represents current management practices. The Landscape Alternative features the use of a forest estate model to assist with planning, automation of the 12-step watershed assessment process in a forest estate model, a new procedure for responding to natural disturbance, and formal research and monitoring and adaptive management programs. The Pathways Alternative is based on the Landscape Alternative but includes the application of management “pathways” to each landscape.

Project Proponent and Lead Agency

DNR

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Date of Issuance of FEIS

August, 2016

Final Action

The final action is adoption of a final forest land plan for the OESF.

*No longer with DNR

Future Environmental Review

The forest land plan is part of a phased review in accordance with WAC 197-11-060 (5)(c)(i). Another phase of environmental review will occur to address site-specific activities as they are proposed in this planning unit.

Location, Availability, and Cost of Copies of this FEIS and Supporting Documents

This FEIS is available for free download on the internet at:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/non-project-actions>

or

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

[state-environmental-policy-act-sepa](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/state-environmental-policy-act-sepa).

CD copies also are available to read at select public libraries. These libraries are listed in Appendix N.

CD copies also are available at no charge.

Requests for CDs may be mailed to the address listed under "Contacts." Hard copies will be available for the cost of printing, per RCW 42.17.

Copies of the DEIS, RDEIS, and the supporting documents upon which the alternatives are based—*Policy for Sustainable Forests*, *Final EIS for Sustainable Forest Management*, *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan*, *Washington Forest Practices Rules*— are available for review at each of the five Westside DNR Region Offices in Washington, and at the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington Street, Olympia. These documents can also be found online at www.dnr.wa.gov.

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Acronyms

DEIS	Draft environmental impact statement
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
EIS	Environmental impact statement
FEIS	Final environmental impact statement
FEMAT	Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team
GIS	Geographic information system
GNN	Gradient nearest neighbor
HCP	<i>State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan</i>
MMBF	Millions of board feet
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
OESF	Olympic Experimental State Forest
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
PFMC	Pacific Fisheries Management Council

RCW	Revised code of Washington
RDEIS	Revised draft environmental impact statement
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
USBLM	United States Bureau of Land Management
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOJ	United States Department of the Interior
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WAC	Washington administrative code
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WFPB	Washington Forest Practices Board

Other Terms

Ecology	Washington Department of Ecology
Federal Services	USFWS, NOAA Fisheries
Board	Board of Natural Resources