

Western Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation

Purpose and Need

PROPOSAL

The proposal is to establish a sustainable harvest level for the 2025 to 2034 fiscal year planning decade for forested state trust lands in western Washington.

PURPOSE

The purpose describes what DNR is trying to achieve.

- The purpose of the proposed action is to recalculate a sustainable harvest level consistent with DNR policies, including the [Policy for Sustainable Forests](#), the [1997 HCP](#), and applicable local, state, and federal laws.

NEED

The need describes why DNR is seeking to accomplish the purpose:

- Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [79.10.320](#) requires DNR to “manage the state-owned lands under its jurisdiction which are primarily valuable for the purpose of growing forest crops on a sustained yield basis insofar as compatible with other statutory directives. To this end, the department shall periodically adjust the acreages designated for inclusion in the sustained yield management program and calculate a sustainable harvest level.” This RCW is reflected in the Policy for Sustainable Forests ([Policy on Recalculation of the Sustainable Harvest Level](#)) with a specific requirement to “recalculate the statewide sustainable harvest level, for Board of Natural Resources adoption no less frequently than every ten years.”
- RCW [79.10.330](#) states that “[i]f an arrearage exists at the end of any planning decade, the department shall conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the course of action regarding the arrearage which provides the greatest return to the trusts based upon economic conditions then existing and forecast, as well as impacts on the environment of harvesting the additional timber. The department shall offer for sale the arrearage in addition to the sustainable harvest level adopted by the Board of Natural Resources for the next planning decade if the analysis determined doing so will provide the greatest return to the trusts.” This RCW is reflected in the department’s policy on arrearage ([Policy on End of Decade Analysis: Arrearage](#)), a 2019 addition to the Policy for Sustainable Forests.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives describe how the purpose and need are fulfilled:

- Objective #1: Incorporate new information into an updated forest estate model to calculate the sustainable harvest level that will inform the Board of Natural Resources when setting the decadal harvest level. New information includes changes in the land base, changes in forest inventory (including requirements of [2SHB 1168](#)), information concerning decadal arrearage and its causes, and changes in technology.
- Objective #2: Consider climate change as part of the affected environment, analyze climate change impacts and benefits of the alternatives, and identify possible mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate any identified adverse environmental climate change impacts of the proposal.
- Objective #3: Ensure alternatives analyzed are reasonable, feasible, and consistent with DNR's trust management obligations, existing DNR policies, and applicable local, state, and federal laws.