



Summary of Input for the Development of a Forest Land Plan for the Olympic Experimental State Forest

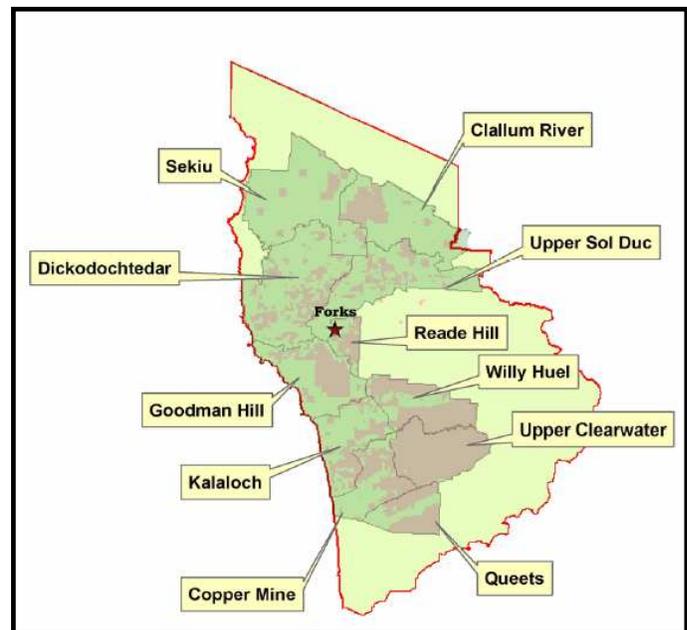
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The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving forward with developing a forest land plan for forested state trust lands in the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) Habitat Conservation Plan planning unit, which includes state trust ownerships throughout western Jefferson and Clallam counties. The OESF has eleven landscapes within the planning unit, as shown on the maps below.

**OESF Habitat Conservation Plan
Planning Unit**



**Landscapes Within the OESF Habitat
Conservation Plan Planning Unit**



One focus meeting was held in May and three public meetings were held in June. At these meetings, attendees were invited to share their local knowledge about resource issues in the OESF as a whole, and more specifically for each of the eleven landscapes. Information was gathered on large maps, which will assist DNR in the development of specific management strategies for these areas. Information was gathered from over 50 participants, including the trust beneficiaries, Tribes, local governments, stakeholders, and the public. The following is a summary of the comments that DNR has received to date. Each comment was placed in one of five categories: Economic Performance; Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity; Social and Cultural Benefits; Implementation; and Other Comments.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

The Economic Performance category includes comments related to DNR's economic management of forested state trust lands and the production of sustainable revenue for each trust beneficiary, i.e. revenue production and financial performance, including activities and commodities to be considered in producing revenue from forested state trust lands.

- Special forest products are a significant economic resource in the OESF, and specifically in the Upper Sol Duc landscape planning unit, coastal foothills, and spruce tip weevil areas outside of the Sol Duc. Policies and a special forest products management plan could be developed to realize the value of these special forest products and to provide ongoing management of them.
- Reliable, sustainable funding of junior taxing districts, such as Hospital District #1, that rely on non-operating funds to support and expand services is important to provide needed services, such as healthcare.
- Overlaying junior taxing districts on landscape planning unit maps to facilitate assessment of potential revenue by taxing district would be helpful for local planning.
- Stable and predictable revenue flows for the next 20 years from the Reade Hill, Goodman Hill, and Willy Huel landscape planning units will be necessary to pay off the currently planned Quileute Valley School District bond proposal.
- Increased harvests are needed on Clallam County lands. Smaller sales would help to provide a stable cash flow to the county.
- Stable and sustainable harvest levels are needed to provide sources of wood supply to support local mills.
- Alternatives to the sale of logs are needed to ensure the survival of public schools, hospitals, fire districts, etc., without the additional income from the sale of logs.
- Alternatives to cable thinning need to be considered to achieve economic objectives.
- Care needs to be taken where cable thinning is done to prevent windthrow.
- Efficient marketing and sale of blowdown is important.
- Large trees have been left in Section 1, Township 28N, Range 2W and many (a large percentage) have blown down. Harvest of large trees is important to avoid blowdown.
- Even-aged management supported by longer rotations based on maximizing mean annual increment, not on interest rate sensitive discounted cash flow, is important is for DNR as a leader.

FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

The Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity category includes comments related to DNR's management and maintenance of the ecological health of forested state trust lands, i.e. elements of the forest ecosystem that are important to ecological objectives and long-term health and productivity of trust assets.

- Not allowing over-harvesting of wildlife forage, in particular deer and elk forage, is important in the management of DNR's special forest products program. Elk in the OESF have the lowest body fat of any other herd in the state, and this affects pregnancies, calving and survival of yearlings over winter. Inventorying and mapping issuance of special forest products permits would be helpful.
- The timber industry, regulated and with minimal development, is better for fish than real estate, and better than urban/suburban development in particular.
- Working collaboratively with the county, Tribes and others to proactively map and eradicate noxious weeds, especially knot weeds, is important.
- Prohibiting motorized vehicles, timber harvesting, hunting and fishing, development, and allowing limited access to sensitive areas, i.e., beaches, streams and lakes, is important.
- Protected habitat for wildlife and a designated carbon dioxide "green" filtration area is needed.
- Storms, topography, ground saturation and stand conditions are all important considerations when factoring in the influence of wind on stands and forest development.

- It is important to specifically include “fish” anywhere “wildlife habitat” is mentioned.
- Working with the Tribes in efforts to restore spawning sockeye habitat to the tributaries of Lake Ozette is needed.
- Sockeye habitat and fish populations are degraded, which are an ancestral traditional subsistence fishery of the Makah Tribe.
- It is important to consider instream habitat that is significant to the Hoh Tribe when determining restoration priorities in the Upper Clearwater landscape planning unit.
- Instream and adjacent to in-stream habitat areas are important to the Makah Tribe, because they need restoration to address degraded fish habitat, such as Chinook and resident cutthroat.
- Collaboration with other parties on design and implementation of in-stream and adjacent to in-stream restoration projects in the Clallam River and Sekiu landscape planning units should be emphasized. It is important that these occur in areas that are not current sales and conducted as adaptive management and pilot projects.
- It is important to review and consider the Sol Duc, North Fork Calawah and East/West Dickey watershed analyses when proposing DNR planning and management activities.
- It is important to consider the relevancy of watershed analyses conducted by all stakeholders, in particular the assessments, syntheses, causal mechanisms, hazard calls, prescriptions, restoration recommendations, and other pertinent information, to the OESF planning process.
- It is important to organize, schedule and track permitting of special forest product harvesting in light of potential impacts to wildlife foraging areas.
- It is important to consider existing maps of instream habitat in the Hoh River for the Willy Huel landscape planning unit to determine restoration projects.
- It is important to consider the relationship between DNR’s 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the Federal northern spotted owl recovery plan? Would any changes in the Federal recovery plan prompt any changes in DNR’s HCP, e.g. if the United States Forest Service were to change current areas dedicated to the northern spotted owl or pull back on some areas currently dedicated to the northern spotted owl, would this lead to changes in DNR’s HCP? How do conservation support areas mesh with the Federal recovery plan?
- Red alder has been treated in the past as a weed species and needs more attention. Alder management in terms of species diversity and commodity production along riparian areas and flats adjacent to riparian areas is important.
- Red alder, as part of a desired species mix, is important to consider.
- It is important to recognize the contribution of off-site plantings to the spread of swiss needle cast.
- A long-term strategy for managing the spread of swiss needle cast by matching species to the site to inhibit spread is needed. Favoring sitka spruce and western hemlock in thinning these areas is also an important consideration.
- Unhealthy stands are more susceptible to shifts in climate. A strategy for a thriving, healthy forest and diversity of species is needed.
- The importance of water resource management, including sources of snow accumulation and melt needs to be considered. There are concerns about the availability of water and population increases.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BENEFITS

The Social and Cultural Benefits category includes comments related to the direct role that forested trust lands play in the lives of Washington’s residents, i.e. public access and recreation, cultural resources, visual impacts, and local economic vitality.

- Garbage is being left behind by salal harvesters. A strategy/education program for salal harvesting is needed.
- Stable and sustainable timber harvest levels are needed to provide sources of wood supply to support family wage jobs.

- Beauty strips along roads are dangerous in the OESF and particularly in the Queets landscape planning unit. Recommend leaving no beauty strips.
- Providing some areas where All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are accommodated is necessary. Recommend coordinating with the United States Forest Service to manage the ATV use on Federal lands.
- Construction of multiple use trails for all recreation types is needed.
- Developing trails for mountain bike users is important.
- Gates and tank traps should be constructed in a way that allows for horse bypass.
- Concerned about recreational horse trail access and limitations/regulations on the use in the OESF, and particularly in the Dickodochtedar landscape planning unit. Recommend that DNR does not limit the size of participants in a group ride. It is very detrimental to the group and is too restrictive.
- Provide an access agreement for non-motorized use across DNR lands for the Olympic Discovery Trail to continue from Port Townsend to Forks.
- Concerned that trails will be eliminated after logging. Recommend that trails be identified and protected, or reestablished after logging.
- Review and consideration of the reports submitted regarding the social and economic impacts of the timber decline in the Olympic Region from 1989-2003 and consideration of these issues when developing the OESF Forest Land Plan are important.
- It is important to educate the public regarding the need for water retention.
- Leadership in supporting even-aged management by explaining how longer rotations, reducing clear-cut size and artificial edge boundaries can result in harvesting only 1% of an area on a 100 year cycle, or .05% on a 200 year cycle, etc. per year is important.
- Efforts to appease the public's aesthetic objections to even-aged forestry are harmful to forest production, fire control, and almost every goal of forest management, and are probably not successful in calming protestors of cutting trees.
- Partnering with the Olympic Timber Town on the development of an Olympic Timber Town Museum, a working museum located on the west end of Port Angeles is recommended.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Implementation category includes comments related to carrying out key elements of forested state trust lands management and implementing practices on the ground, i.e. research and monitoring, silviculture, roads and transactions.

- Previous research in the OESF, particularly in the Copper Mine landscape planning unit, should possibly be replicated or used to establish monitoring sites. Research on status and trends should be considered using these research sites.
- A failing culvert on an abandoned road off of the Merrill and Ring 3600 Road in the Clallam Bay landscape planning unit needs to be pulled.
- Development of short documentaries and media productions that have examples of integrated silviculture is needed.
- Models save time and money and are ideal for projections in a number of arenas. It is important that models used for analysis fit the OESF and that model results also be ground-truthed.
- It is important to consult governments in advance of public and stakeholder meetings.
- A definition of "best available science" needs to be articulated.
- Leadership in supporting even-aged management by reducing clear-cut size and artificial edge boundaries, i.e. straight lines on curved land is important.
- Even-aged forestry is almost universally nature's way. Forestry experiments reinforce that concept.
- A DNR easement is needed on City of Forks property in the Dickodochtedar landscape planning unit.

- Isolated parcels are hard to manage in the Upper Sol Duc landscape planning unit. Recommend transferring or exchanging these parcels to block-up DNR ownership.
- The Dickodoctedar landscape planning unit needs to be blocked-up. Recommend developing a strategy for blocking up this landscape.
- If lands are exchanged out of the Dickodoctedar landscape planning unit, it is important that the exchange include lands to be replaced in the Dickodoctedar.
- Recommend transferring the small block of land in the Kalaloch landscape planning unit to the Hoh Tribe.

OTHER COMMENTS

The Other Comments category includes comments related to public meetings.

- It is important to establish regulations for public meetings, i.e. have time limits for comments and start the program on time.
- It is important to analyze and disclose the cost of public meetings (staff time, materials, etc.) for the public to determine if the meetings are necessary.