

N A T U R A L

R E S O U R C E S



POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

DECEMBER 2006



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

Acknowledgements

Policy for Sustainable Forests

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Dear Reader,

As we enter a new millennium, the many benefits that forested trust lands offer to Washington State continue to have enduring importance. In recognition of this, the Board of Natural Resources has launched sustainable forest management in a new direction. Replacing the 1992 *Forest Resource Plan* with the *Policy for Sustainable Forests* represents a critical step on this path, encompassing the Board's direction that will guide the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' management activities on 2.1 million acres of forested state trust lands.

In this suite of policies the Board has created more than just direction for the agency. It has created a vision for forested state trust lands that will lead to healthier, more biologically diverse and structurally complex habitat—all this while enhancing the revenue-producing capabilities of these forests in support of public schools, universities, local hospital and library districts and other trust beneficiaries. The policy direction will assist the agency in meeting many interests—the constant stream of revenue for the beneficiaries, forest health, local economic vitality, research, and public access and recreation use. The Board's adopted policies reflect the delicate balance needed to sustain these multiple benefits.

The Board understands the *Policy for Sustainable Forests* to be a living document, and may, with full public involvement, continue to refine these policies in response to new scientific, technological and other changes or opportunities that occur.

I commend both the leadership provided by members of the Board, and the effort that was devoted to this important project by the agency's team members, divisions and regions, the beneficiaries, the public, Tribes and other interested stakeholders. The two-year process and public involvement have yielded valuable guidance to assist the agency for years to come. The *Policy for Sustainable Forests* will allow us to make great strides in ever more effective management of this state's forested trust lands on behalf of the trust beneficiaries and the people of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Sutherland".

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

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Policies in this document were adopted by the State Board of Natural Resources in September 2004 and July 2006.

DECEMBER 2006



Contents

1	Introduction
3	Development Process
3	Purpose and Policy Objectives
3	Purpose
3	Policy Objectives
4	Policy Organization and Outcomes
5	Economic Performance
5	Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity
6	Social and Cultural Benefits
7	Implementation
9	Background and Context
10	Department of Natural Resources
10	Board of Natural Resources
11	State Trust Lands
11	Federal Grant Lands
12	State Forest Lands
13	Other Trust Lands
14	Legal Framework
14	Federal Enabling Act and State Constitution
14	Trust Duties
15	Trust Mandate
16	Endangered Species Act
18	Public Lands Act (Chapter 79.01 RCW)
18	Forest Practices Act (Chapter 76.09 RCW)
19	Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW)
19	Hydraulic Project Approval (RCW 77.55.100)
19	Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW)
20	Public Records Act (RCW 42.56.001)
20	Shorelines Management Act (RCW 90.58.030)
20	State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW)
21	Surface Mining Act (RCW 78.44.031)
21	Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW)
21	Tribal Treaties

21	Related Plans and Policies
21	Olympic Experimental State Forest
22	Asset Stewardship Plan
23	Policies on Acquiring and Granting Rights-of-Way
23	Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Certification
25	Policies
26	Economic Performance
26	Financial Diversification
27	Financial Assumptions
28	Definition of Sustainability for the Sustainable Harvest Calculation
29	Recalculation of the Sustainable Harvest Level
30	Harvest Deferral Designations
31	Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity
31	Forest Health
32	Catastrophic Loss Prevention
33	Old-Growth Stands in Western Washington
35	Wildlife Habitat
36	Watershed Systems
37	Riparian Conservation
39	Special Ecological Features
40	Genetic Resource
40	Social and Cultural Benefits
40	Public Access and Recreation
42	Visual Impacts
43	Cultural Resources
44	Local Economic Vitality
45	Implementation
45	Forest Land Planning
46	General Silvicultural Strategy
47	Forest Roads
48	Research
49	External Relationships
49	Implementation, Reporting and Modification of the Policy for Sustainable Forests
	Appendices
A	Board Resolution
B	Commissioner's Order on Tribal Relations
C	Glossary of Terms
D	Map of State Trust Lands