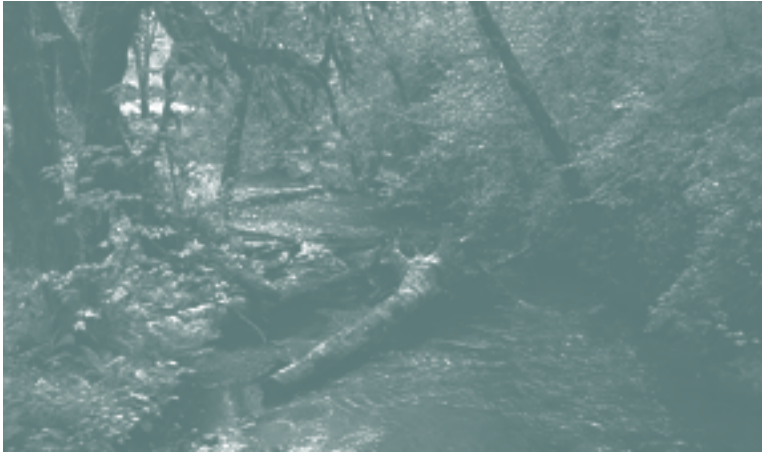


N A T U R A L

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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December 2006

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



# **POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS**

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

DECEMBER 2006





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