

FOREST RESOURCES

Forests on state lands within the planning area are primarily coastal forests. These forests are composed of the black cottonwood-willow, western hemlock, and western hemlock-Sitka spruce forest types. They are typical for Pacific Northwest coastal forests along the Gulf of Alaska. Western hemlock is the predominant species in most of the area. Black cottonwood occupies the riparian areas, particularly on large stream bars.

GOALS

1. Maintain the forest as the dominant ecosystem on the mountain slopes and valley floors to retain the forested characteristic of the area.
2. Maintain forest health at an appropriate level for the age, composition, and spatial distribution of the existing climax forest types typical for local topographic and climatic conditions.
3. Retain the maximum forest coverage in major development sites and require designs of development facilities which emphasize and enhance the aesthetic values of the forest.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

a. Utilization of Forest Resources

Primary forest resources of the planning area are recognized to provide service and amenity benefits such as scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities. Forests in the planning area will also provide round wood for handicrafts, firewood, rustic fences, etc., floral greenery and wild berries. Wood products from public lands will generally come from trees felled during construction activities and ski slope development, and perhaps to the occurrence of natural events such as windstorm or avalanche. Timber harvest is incidental to other uses of the forest. Forest management for the production of logs for further manufacture is not proposed for the planning area. Recreation use of the forest is expected to predominate throughout the life of the plan.

b. Timber Removal

To the extent possible, tree cutting as a result of construction activities and ski slope clearing and maintenance will be minimized. The Division of Forestry will determine if felled trees should be disposed of on-site or removed from the site.

- (1) Commercial timber harvest. The Division of Forestry may sell timber that needs to be removed as a result of building and road construction and ski trail clearing and maintenance.
- (2) Personal use timber harvest. If timber is being removed as a result of building and road construction or ski trail clearing and maintenance, some of this timber will be made available for local personal-use.
- (3) When clearing standing trees for ski trails, islands of trees should be left wherever possible. Uncut areas should have thinned, "feathered" edges and provide uneven, irregular or curvilinear edges with the ski slope.
- (4) Disposal of slash. Unharvested tops and limbs of felled trees must be cut into lengths of less than 4 feet and scattered on the site. In some cases slash will be piled and burned.
- (5) As part of the developer's revegetation plan (see *Resort Development Guideline 3* in this chapter), the developer will work with the DNR Division of Forestry to identify areas to be cleared, appropriate methods of clearing and disposal of timber and slash, and means of maintaining or improving the health of the areas to be left as forest.

c. Insect & Disease Control

The Division of Forestry will monitor forest conditions in order to detect insect or disease occurrences. Response to any occurrence will be developed as appropriate to maintain forest health as funding is available and regulations allow.

d. Additional Guidelines

For additional guidelines relating to Forestry, see *Resort Development Guidelines 3 and 4* in this chapter.