



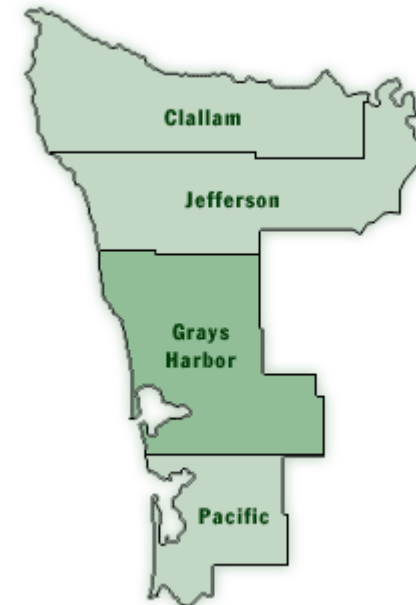
Forest Stewardship Program



What and who are Conservation Districts?

- Also known as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, CDs are subdivisions of state government that provide technical assistance and natural resource management planning to a variety of agricultural producers including: farm, ranch, aquaculture and FORESTLAND.

- Conservation District boundaries typically coincide with county boundaries
- GHCD Established June 1941



Forest Stewardship Program

- The Forest Stewardship Program is a voluntary, free, no Obligation, program offered to Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowners (NIPF) of any acreage in Grays Harbor County and surrounding area.



Forest Stewardship Program

At your request a local Conservation District Service Forester will:

- Make an in-person site-visit.
- Provide forestry technical assistance.
- Assist in the development of a Forest Stewardship/Management Plan

Forest Stewardship Programcont'd

- Provide Tree Farm Certification assistance and information.
- Provide information on and assistance with available cost-sharing programs.
- Provide educational events and/or materials on forestry and related topics.

Forestry Technical Assistance

Resource categories include:

- Forest Inventory/Timber/Wood Products
- Density Management
- Reforestation
- Riparian/Wetland
- Forest Roads
- Forest Health
- Wildlife
- Wildfire
- Special Forest Products
- Recreation



Forest Stewardship Plan



Work with you to create a personalized Forest Stewardship Plan tailored to YOUR goals and objectives, including written management recommendations, and maps.

Management Plans:

- Provide a “road map” to help forest landowners meet their objectives and manage their land sustainably for the future.
- Convey information and guidance to others, including heirs or subsequent owners.
- Help forest landowners meet the “written management plan” eligibility requirement for:

Forest Stewardship Plan

- Cost-share and financial incentive programs.
- Certification by the American Tree Farm System.
- “Current Use” forestry property tax classification.

Forest Stewardship Plan



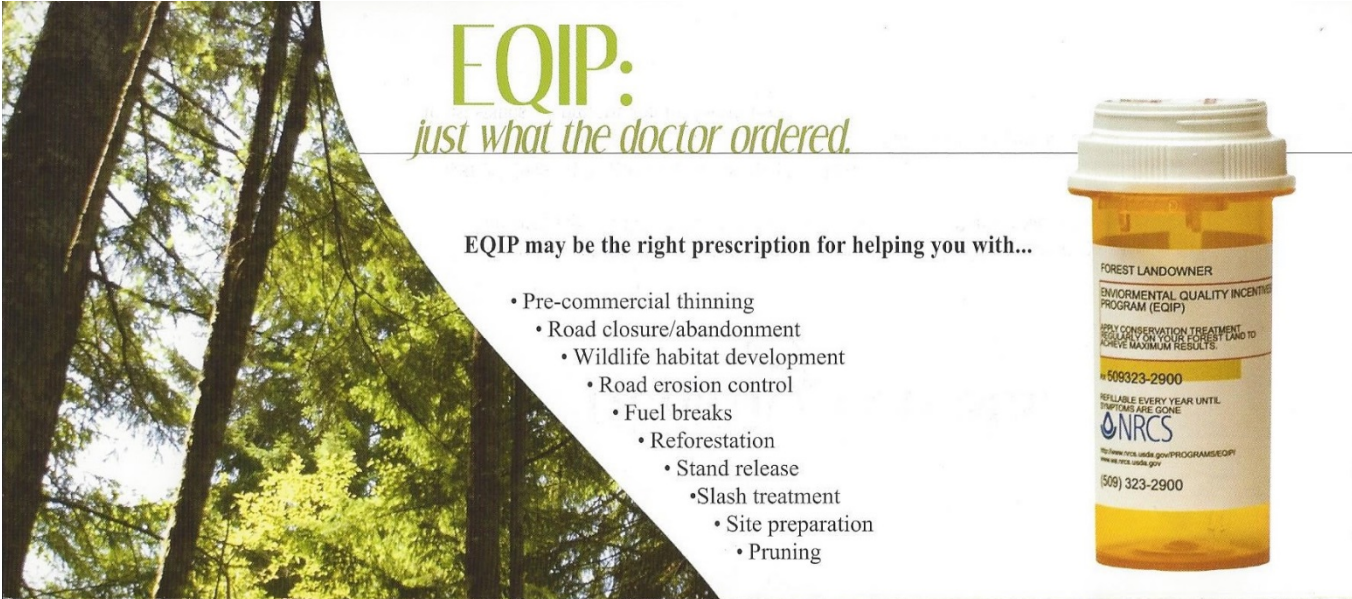
Cost-share and financial incentive programs:

- The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary federal agency that works with private landowners providing both technical assistance as well as *Cost-share and financial incentive programs*.
- Landowners who wish to participate in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-administered financial assistance programs are **required** to have a Forest Management Plan

Forest Stewardship Plan

Cost-share and financial incentive programs:

- Eligible forest landowners may qualify for financial assistance for:



The poster features a background image of a forest with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves. On the right side, there is a large, orange pill bottle with a white cap, labeled with text related to the EQIP program. The text on the bottle includes 'FOREST LANDOWNER', 'ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)', 'APPLY CONSERVATION TREATMENT REGULARLY ON YOUR FOREST LAND TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM RESULTS', '800 69323-2900', 'REFILLABLE EVERY YEAR UNTIL SYMPTOMS ARE GONE', 'NRCS', 'FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS/EQIP', and '(509) 323-2900'.

EQIP:
just what the doctor ordered.

EQIP may be the right prescription for helping you with...

- Pre-commercial thinning
- Road closure/abandonment
- Wildlife habitat development
- Road erosion control
- Fuel breaks
- Reforestation
- Stand release
- Slash treatment
- Site preparation
- Pruning

Forest Stewardship Plan



Certification by the American Tree Farm System:

- The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) is the largest and oldest small private family forestland certification system in America.
- Benefits of ATFS certification include:
 - Ongoing forestry technical assistance provided by a qualified inspecting forester
 - An increase in the marketability of your certified wood products

Forest Stewardship Plan

Certification by the American Tree Farm System:

- Landowners who wish to certify their forestland property are **required** to have a Forest Management Plan.

Forest Stewardship Plan

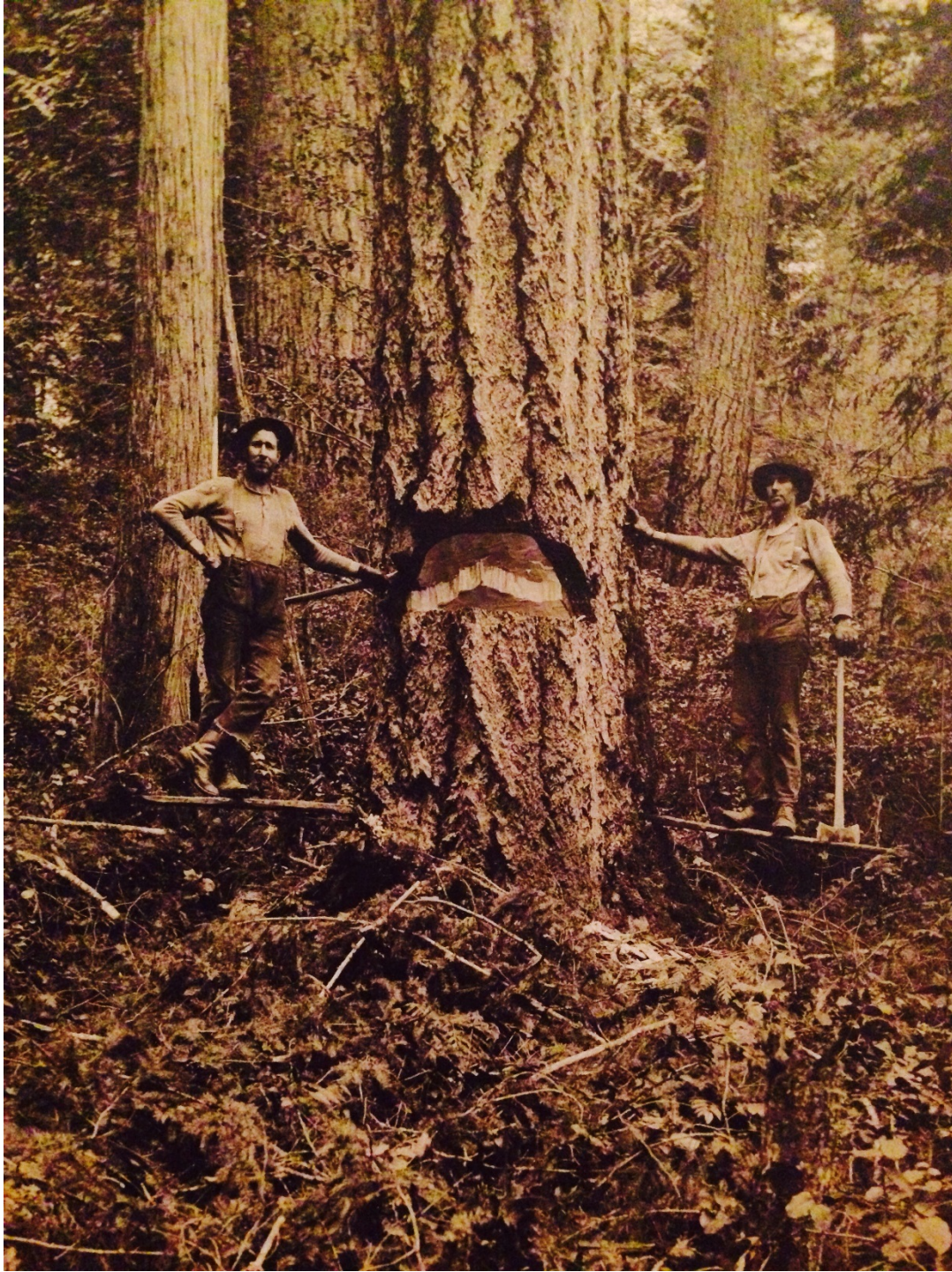


“Current Use” forestry property tax classification:

A *Timber Management Plan*, described in (RCW 84.34.041) and approved by the County Assessor, is a requirement for eligibility for “current use” forest property tax programs.

Grays Harbor County

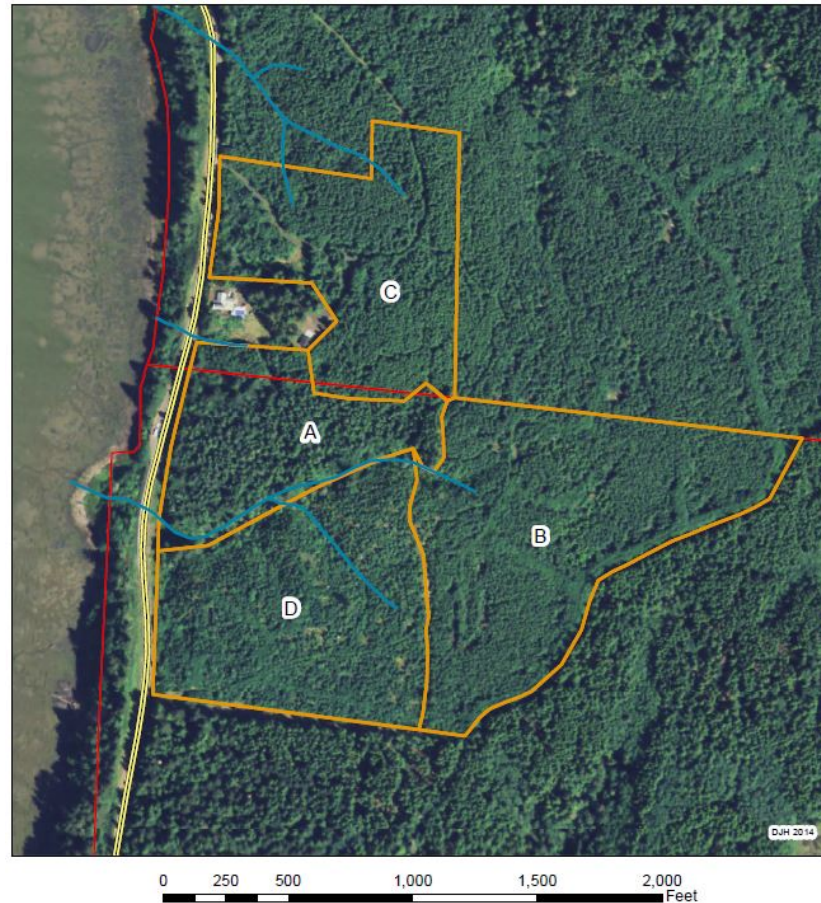




*David Houk
Service Forester
Grays Harbor Conservation District
330 Pioneer Avenue W
Montesano, WA 98520
(360) 249-8532
ghcdforester@gmail.com*



Late Thinning Option for High Density Coastal Mixed Conifer Stand



Proposed Question:

Given current stand conditions, what management options are available to improve the health and available wildlife habitat of Stand C?



Management Objectives:

- Increase forest health and tree vigor across the ownership through active management including reforestation, density management and vegetation control.
- Diversify forest structure by enhancing and promoting a mix of both tree size, composition and well-developed layers of shrubs and forbs.
- Maintain and promote long-term forest health to ensure the continuation of timber products and ecosystem services such as clean water, clean air and wildlife habitat.

Resource Concern(s):

- Overstocking
- Areas of wind damage
- Lack of understory vegetation (shrub and herbaceous layer non-existent)

Stand Level Data:

- 10 acres
- Total Age: 20
- Predominantly western hemlock, Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce
- Trees per acre: 800 +/-
- Average Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): 5"
- Average total height: 65'
- Average Live Crown Ratio (LCR): 35%







Management Opportunities

- **Option 1:** A no management approach considering the potential for significant wind damage as a result of thinning.
- **Option 2:** An alternative thinning regime including multiple light thinning entries separated by a period of 2-4 growing seasons.

Thinning From Below

- Winter 2013-2014 this stand was pre-commercially thinned to approximately 400 trees per acre.
- Trees with the largest Live Crown Ratio (LCR) were retained whether WH, DF, SS or RA.
- All cut material was felled to the ground and in some cases cut smaller in order to increase decomposition.
- Habitat piles were constructed utilizing larger slash at a density of around 1/acre







So Far So Good

- This stand will be evaluated for another reduction in stocking within the next 2-4 years. Depending upon diameter of residual trees the next thinning may be a commercial thinning.
- Openings within this stand created by windthrow will be managed for additional wildlife habitat.

Pros:

- Commercial thinning...sorta (Harvest of oyster stakes)
- Increase tree vigor and overall forest health
- Increase understory vegetation
- Increase nesting habitat (habitat piles)
- Maintain tree cover (ecosystem services, recreation and aesthetics)

Cons:

- Multiple entries
- More expensive, labor intensive
- Increased risk of wind damage to residual stand.

Promoting Stand Structural Diversity Through Timber Harvest



Proposed Inquiry:

Generate income from sale of timber products but do so in a way that will improve the structural diversity of the forest.

Management Objectives:

- Harvest timber to provide income for the management of the forest and property, property taxes and other related expenses.
- Consider an **individual and/or group type harvest system** with an emphasis on retaining known wildlife habitat features.
- Capture mortality of declining timber stand and actively seek opportunities for wildlife enhancements throughout ownership.

Resource Concerns:

- Stem decay (heart rot); Red Ring Rot/White Speck
- Wind damage



Daedaloid shaped pores on conk of *P. pini*

Stand Level Data:

- 15 acres
- Total Age: 50-75
- Predominantly Sitka spruce, scattered western hemlock and cedar
- Trees per acre: 165 +/-
- Average Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): 19"
- Average total height: 115'









Management Opportunities

- Selective and/or group type harvest that will promote future vertical and horizontal stand structure (patch cuts).
- Capture mortality of declining stand, harvest prescription mimicking a wind disturbance.
- Where applicable retain snags and other known wildlife features.
- Restock with a mix of western hemlock and western red cedar. Sitka spruce will naturally reseed.



0 250 500 Feet

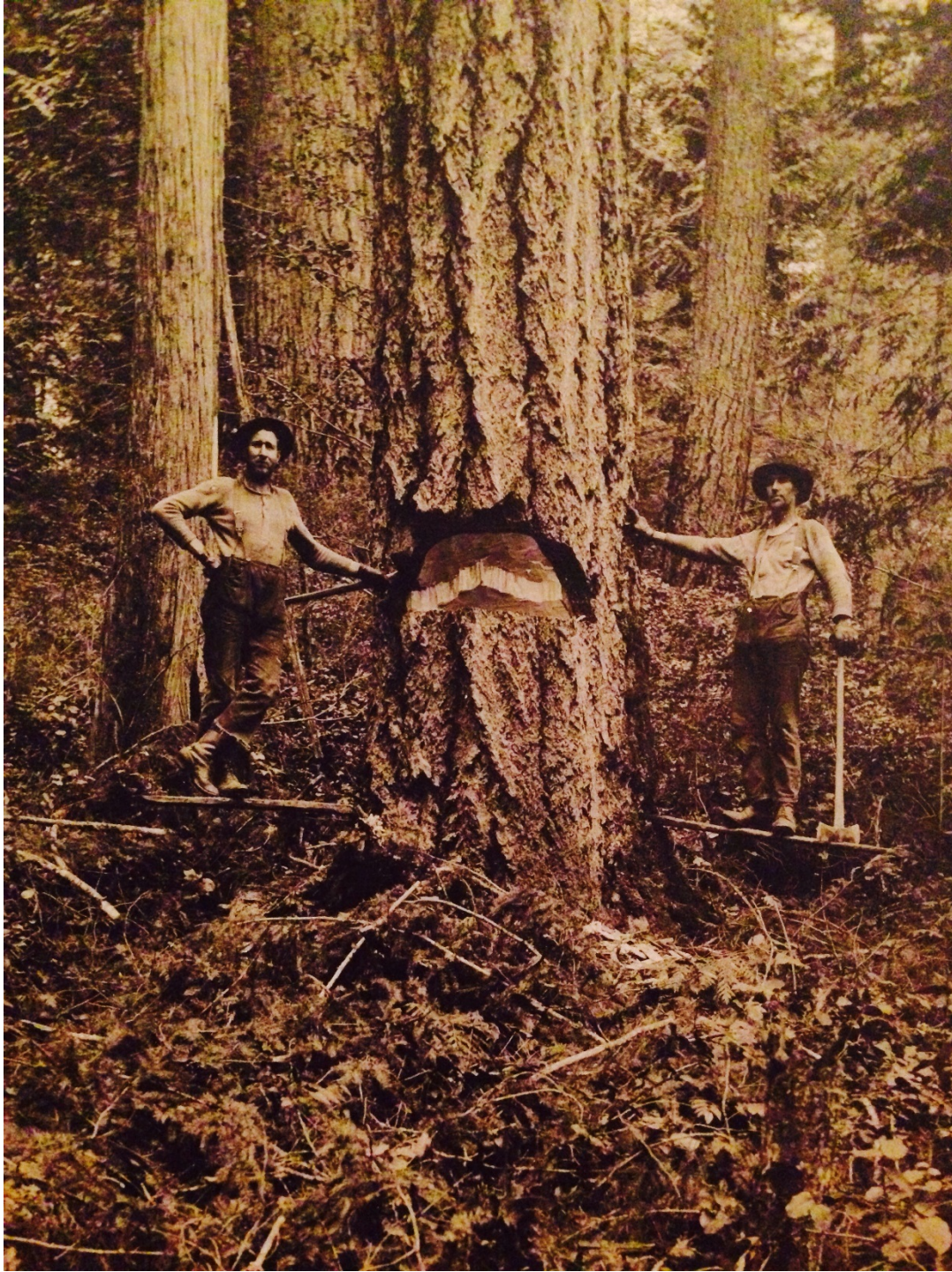
- Logging scheduled to occur July 2016 (shovel)
- Replant Winter 2016-2017
- Evaluate for pre-commercial thinning 2027-2032

Pros:

- Income from timber sale to help pay for management of the property and taxes
- Increase forest structural diversity and available wildlife habitat in the form of stand openings, additional understory shrub layer and large woody debris.
- Capture mortality of declining stand before it occurs naturally

Cons:

- Often difficult to find an operator
- Less net harvestable acres (economy of scale)
- Visual impacts from harvest operations



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Service Forester

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