

1.5. Vision, Goals and Objectives

1.5.1. Tribal Forest Vision

The Skokomish Reservation forest has traditionally provided the Skokomish community with many materials and plants important to daily life. The diversity and sustainability of the forest has naturally been maintained for thousands of years through periodic forest fires, creating disturbances and opportunities for a succession of various tree and plant associations. The management principals of the tribal forestry program, including timber production, forest products, and cultural and environmental resources, are based on the concepts of maintaining a sustainable and diversified forest ecosystem.



Mature cedar and Douglas fir stand on lower slopes adjacent to Hwy 101.

1.5.2. Goals & Objectives

Maintaining a viable forestry program is important to sustaining a homeland that provides materials, income and livelihood to tribal members. Therefore the Tribe shall pursue:

- a. Land Reclamation: The Tribe shall seek the opportunity to acquire: (1) fee land within the reservation boundaries; (2) non-Indian and undivided interests in allotments and undivided interests in each of the “multiple ownership” allotments; (3) non-indian lands adjacent to the reservation.
- b. Stewardship: The Tribe shall influence land use activities by implementing the Skokomish Environmental Protection Act (SKEPA).
- c. Livelihood: The Tribe will provide forest-based livelihood and employment opportunities for Tribal members. Budgetary provisions shall be made annually to provide the opportunity to train, certify, and enhance the skills of Tribal members working with the tribal forestry program or related activities.
- d. Sharing: The Tribe will open their forest and share their silvicultural experience with the public in order to disseminate research-based information on sustainable forestry in the southwestern Puget Sound of WA.

Silvicultural Objectives

The forest shall be managed for a broad array of goods and ecosystem services extending from high quality timber to wildlife habitat to cultural resources. Silvicultural prescriptions for particular forest types will be based on the components and elements of a sustainable, biologically and structurally diverse forest ecosystem. Therefore the following objectives apply:

- a. Enhancement and restoration of the forest’s biological and structural diversity.
- b. Semi-annual timber harvest, based on a sustainable yield model.
- c. Optimize the value of non-timber forest products.
- d. Conservation and enhancement of soil productivity to insure long-term soil health and future wood production.

- e. Reducing the need for chemical use through silvicultural and manual labor methods.
- f. Consideration of naturally occurring disturbance patterns (e.g. fire, wind) in the forest landscape when designing silvicultural prescriptions.
- g. Reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic fire.

Other Natural Resources Objectives

Management of forestlands shall be optimized by providing the best combination of multiple uses and by addressing the needs of the Tribal members.

- a. Fish and wildlife habitat, groundwater, streams, and springs will be protected.
- b. Garbage dumping will be prevented and access limited to the forest.
- c. Chemical use will be limited, and non-chemical forest management methods prioritized.
- d. A variety of wildlife habitats will be maintained.
- e. Old growth habitat and individual old growth trees will be conserved.
- f. Archeological and cultural resources will be protected.

Economic Objectives

Most forest goals throughout the Skokomish Tribe's forests will require active management including thinning, creation of gap openings within closed stands, and the removal, upgrading, and/or maintenance of forest roads. While some logs will be left on-site to achieve ecological objectives, the tribe anticipates the removal of significant volumes of timber from these activities, particularly in the short term as initial thinning takes place in order to moderate high stand densities. This work can provide revenue for tribal members and local communities alike, supporting living-wage jobs, particularly through winter months when forest-related employment opportunities are often very limited.

- a. The forest will be managed to generate sufficient revenue to cover all management costs.
- b. Both full time and part time jobs will be created and sustained through forest revenue.
- c. Periodic *forest dividend* payments will be made to the allotment owners when a timber sale occurs on their allotment.

1.5.3. Forest Stewardship Council® Certification

The Skokomish Indian Tribe is committed to managing its forests to the highest silvicultural standard in the world as, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®). The Tribe believes certification is an important forest conservation tool because it:

- a. Provides assurances to tribal members and public stakeholders that both environmental and socio-economic values/concerns are incorporated into forest management activities;
- b. Ensures that any active management on tribally-owned and managed lands is consistent with and meets an internationally recognized standard of management;
- c. Provides independent verification and monitoring of forest management and forest products chain of custody practices; and,
- d. Creates opportunities for branding and market recognition of forest products harvested from well-managed lands.