

# Forest Stewardship & Restoration Updates

Kitsap County Parks 2025



**Meeting Purpose:** Share out updates to the Parks Forest Stewardship and Restoration Policy, 10-year Implementation Plan, and provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about the program.

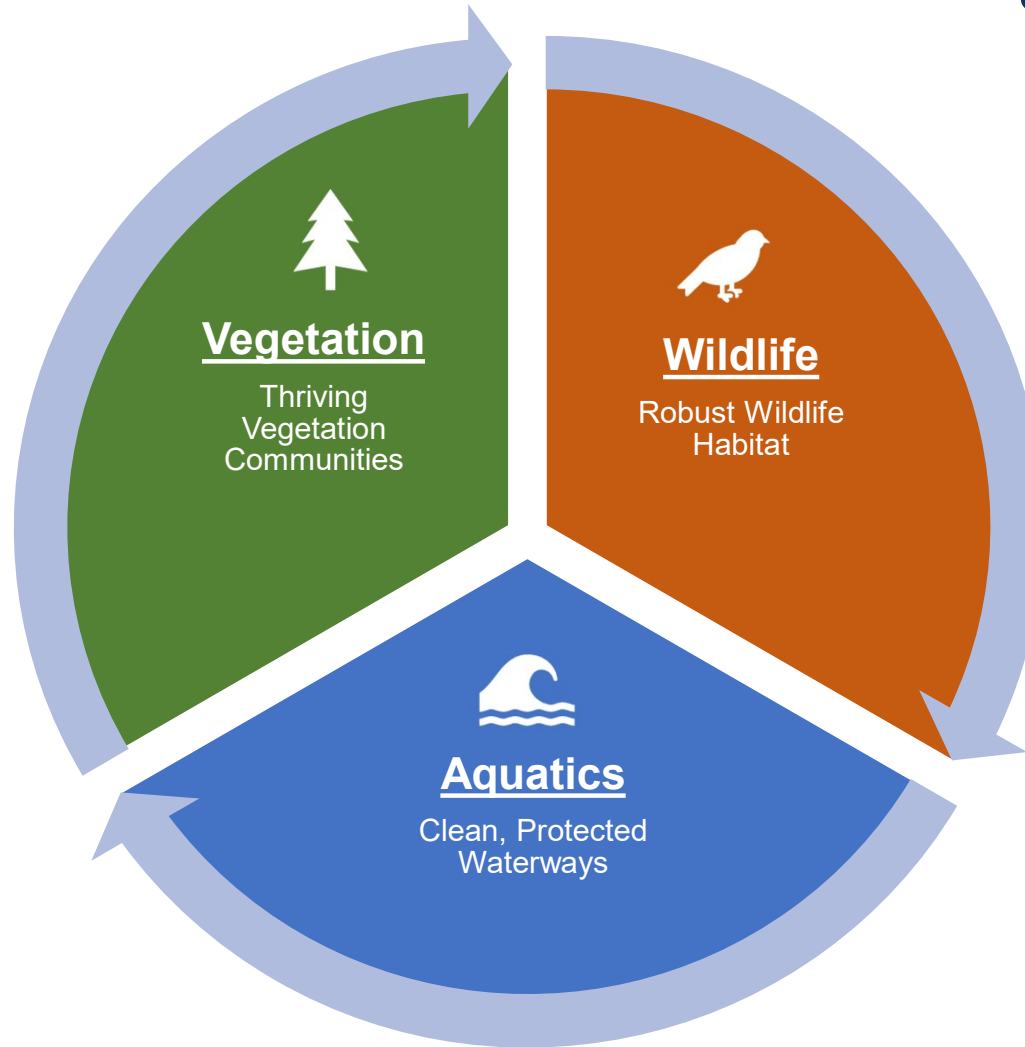
## Agenda

- Short Presentation
  - Staffed Interaction Stations
-

# Introductions

- Irene Weber: Parks Natural Resources Program Supervisor
  - Kevin Ceder: Parks Stewardship Forester
  - Chuck Cuzzetto: Parks Communications Coordinator
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# Integrated Natural Resource Management





# What is Forest Stewardship and Restoration?

A photograph of a calm body of water, likely a lake or bay, with a forested shoreline in the background. Red leaves from a tree are visible in the upper left corner.

## Stewardship

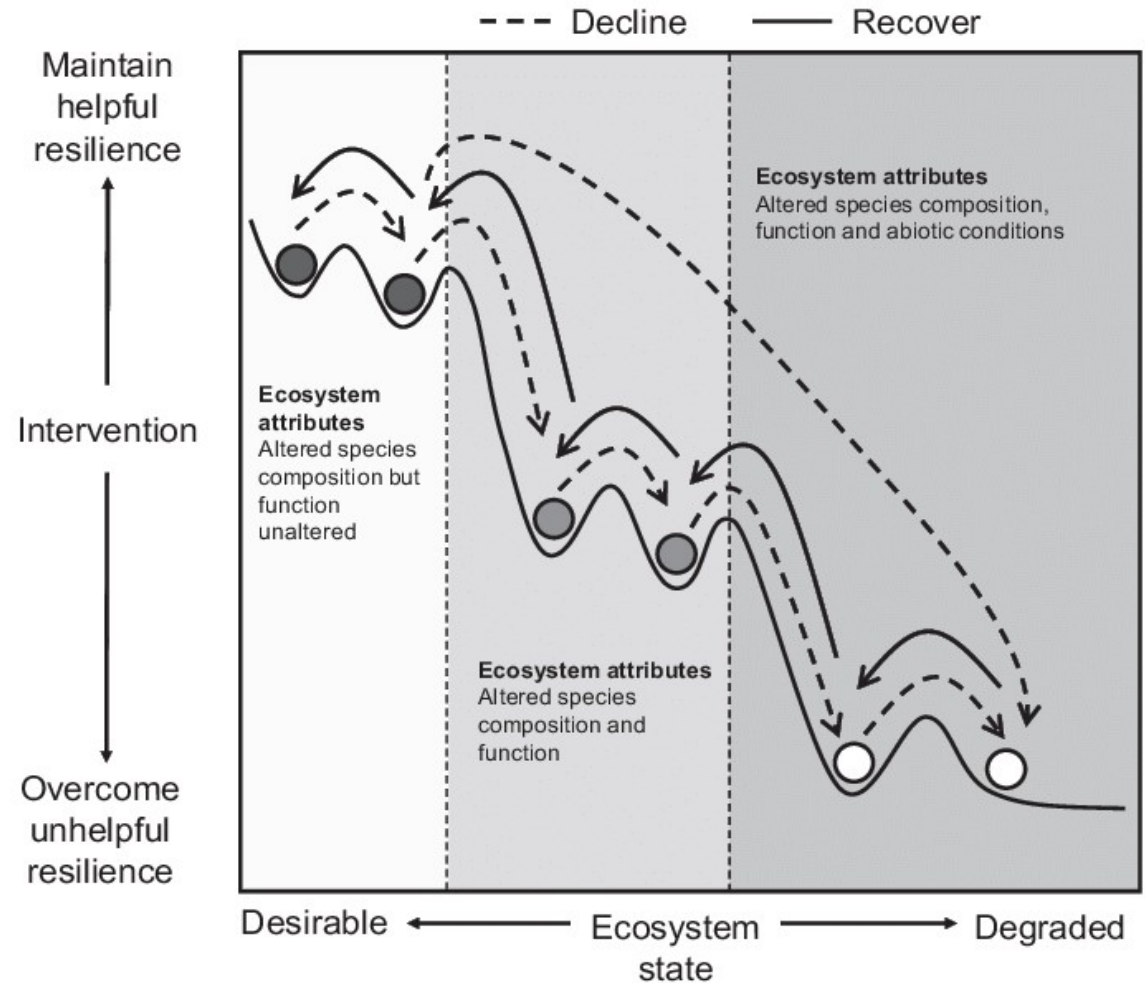
Managing forest and associated resources in a way that enables them to be passed on to future generations in healthy conditions

A photograph of a park area with a wooden bench, a paved path, and trees. A body of water is visible in the background.

## Restoration

The process of altering the conditions of forests that have departed from desired conditions to improve forest health and ecological function

# Restoration helps build and maintain resilient ecosystems



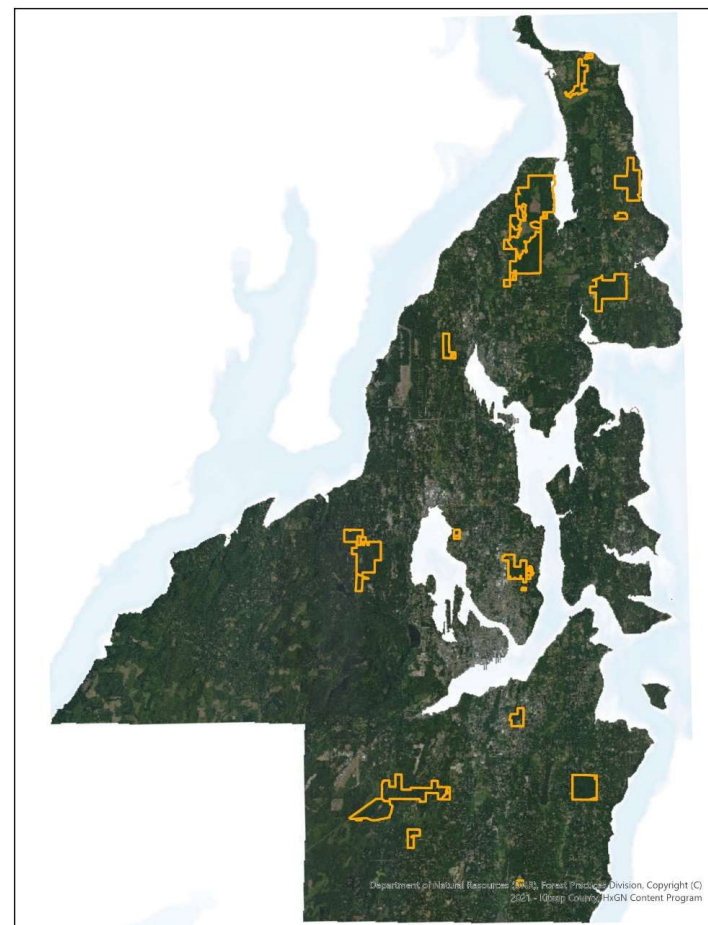
## Program Purpose | To create forests in Kitsap County Parks that:

- Have compositions and structures to facilitate the growth of large, vigorous trees that are resilient to stressors
- Provide high quality habitats that have high ecological function,
- Maintain and enhance soil conditions,
- Allow opportunities for public access and cultural foraging and gathering, and
- Are refugia for wildlife and humans in an increasingly developing and urbanizing environment.



## Forests in Kitsap County Parks

- Large Kitsap County parks acquired from state or private ownership.
  - Former production tree farms
  - Logged at least once
  - Densely replanted with intent to cut again





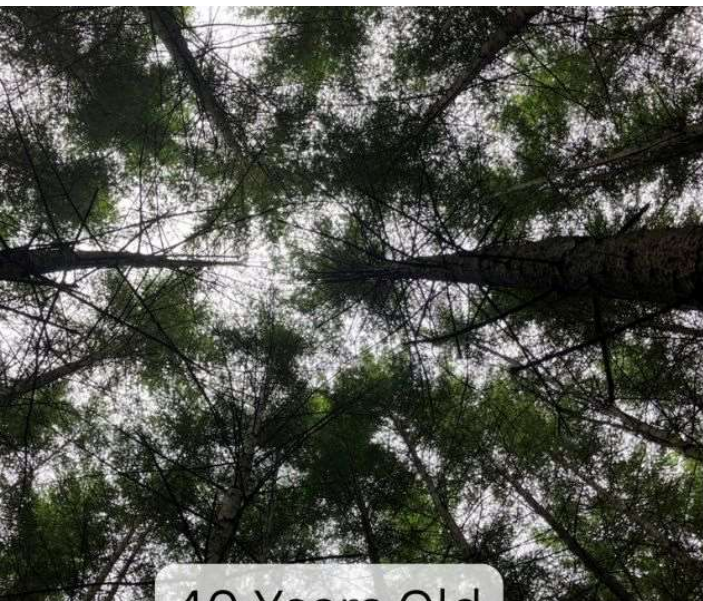
## Forest Needs

Current conditions in many of our forests:

**Trees are stressed with slow growth and low resiliency to insects, diseases, expected climate change, and wildfire**

- Ecological functions (habitats, carbon sequestration, etc.) are reduced
- Trees are susceptible to mortality from competition, insects, and diseases
- Forests are too dense from planting for timber production
- Large trees are lacking

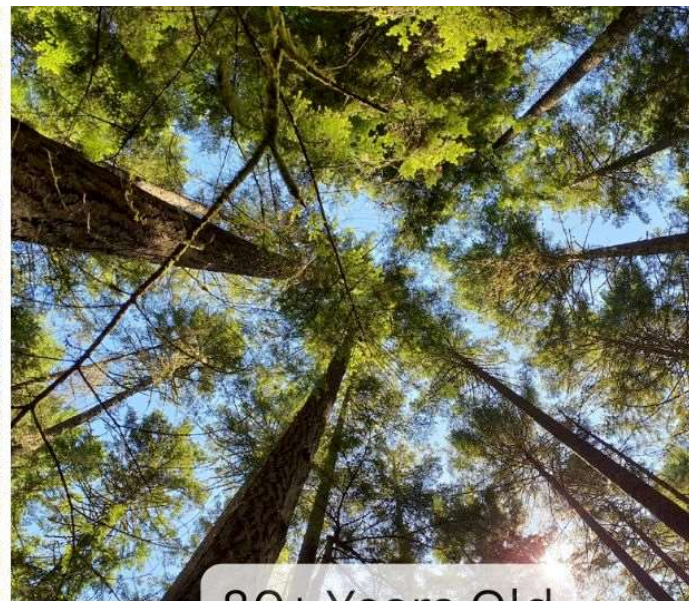




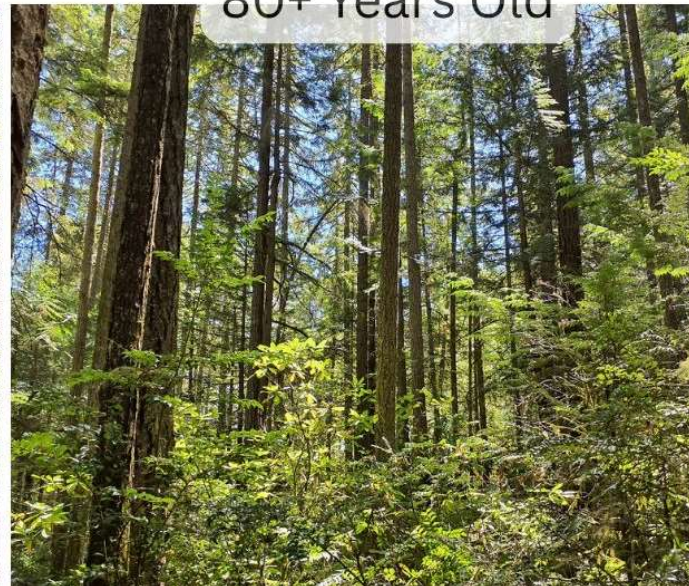
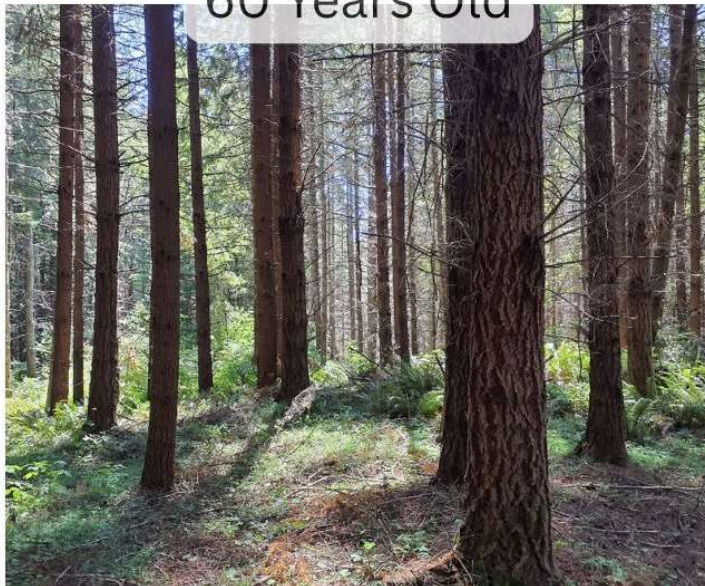
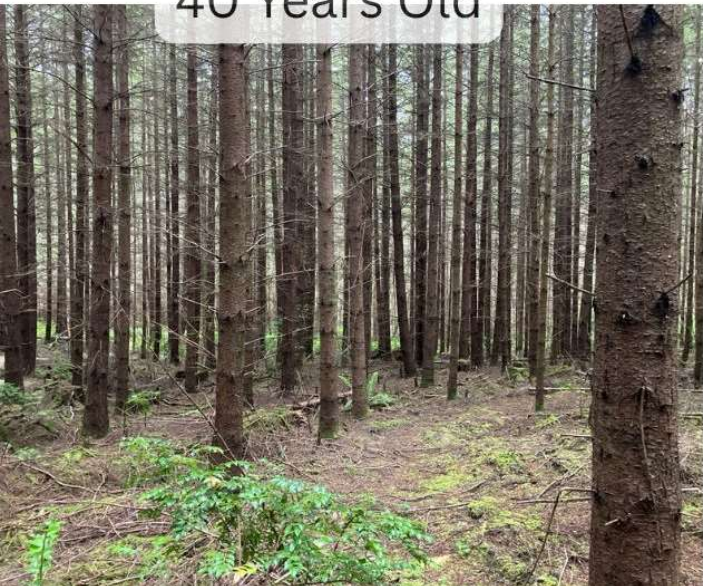
40 Years Old



60 Years Old



80+ Years Old





## Forest Needs

**How do we know:  
What the needs are?  
What actions we should take?**

## Forest Needs

**All activities will be based  
on ecological need.**

If the forest doesn't need treatment  
to meet restoration objectives, it will  
not be treated.

Projects are never implemented  
simply to generate profit.





# Stewardship and Restoration Process

## 1. Assessment

- a. Quantify current and desired conditions
- b. Determine treatment needs

## 2. Planning & Permitting

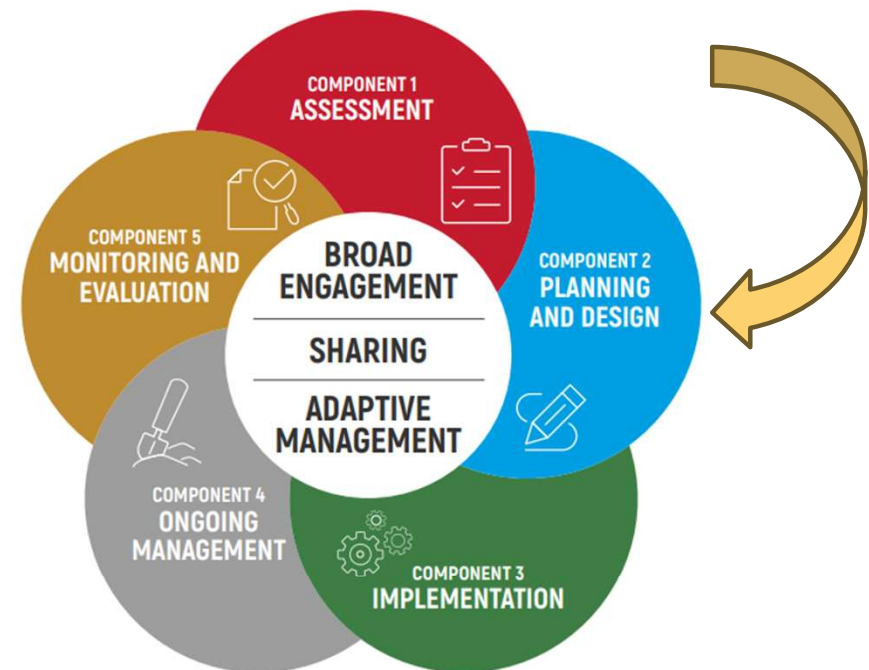
- a. Prescribe stewardship and restoration treatments to address needs
- b. Schedule activities to implement treatments
- c. Acquire needed permits
- d. Weigh treatment need vs park/social impact

## 3. Implementation & Management

- a. Perform stewardship and restoration treatments

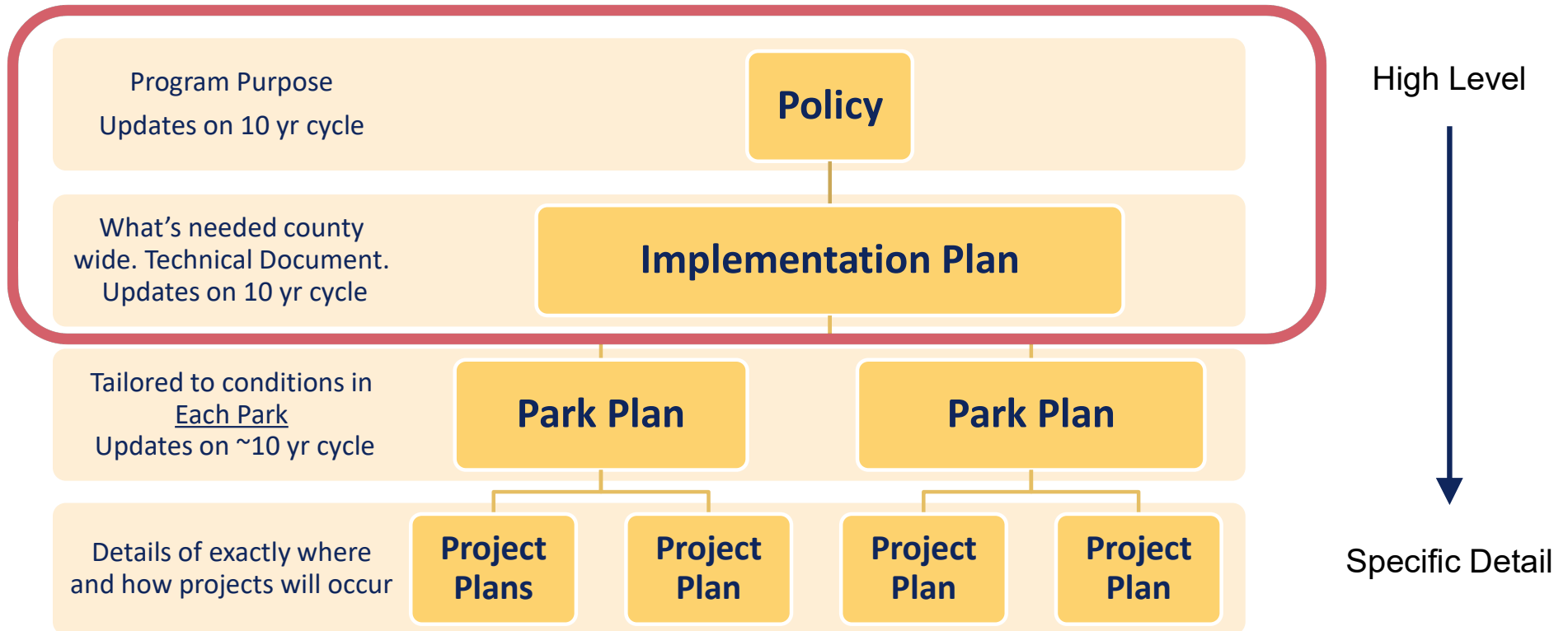
## 4. Monitoring & Evaluation

- a. Quantify post-treatment conditions
- b. Evaluate progress toward desired conditions
- c. Adjust techniques as needed

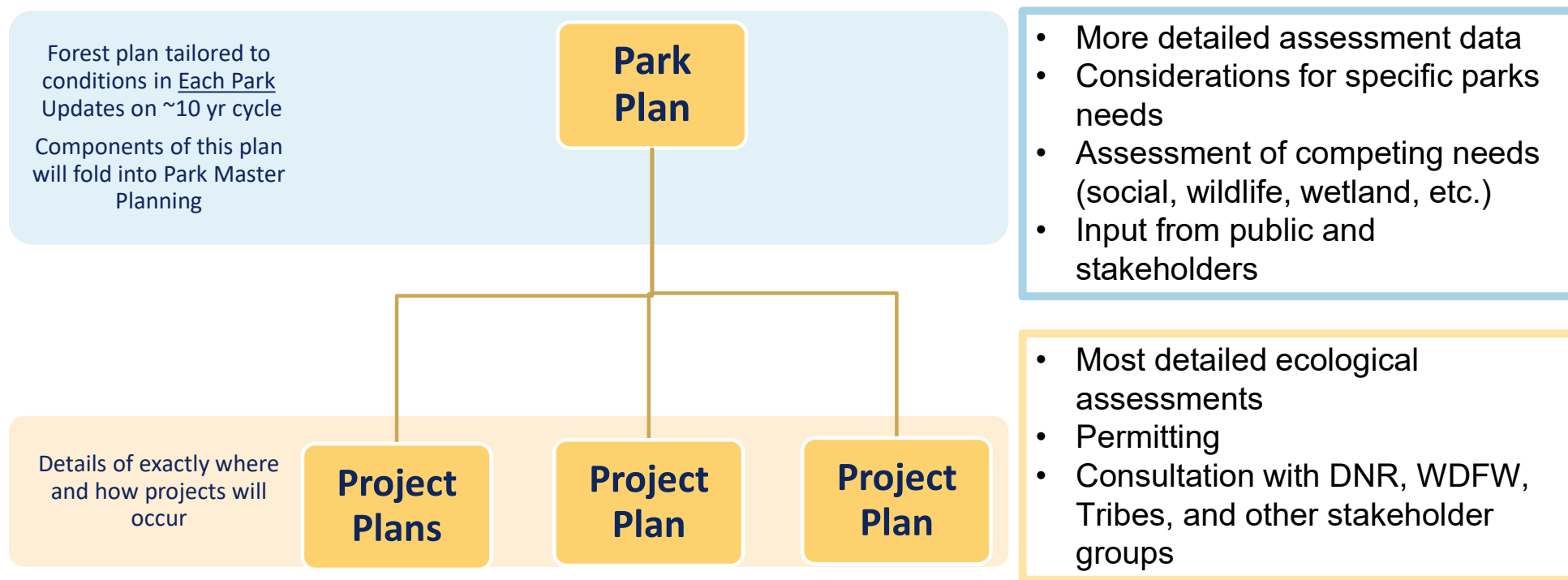


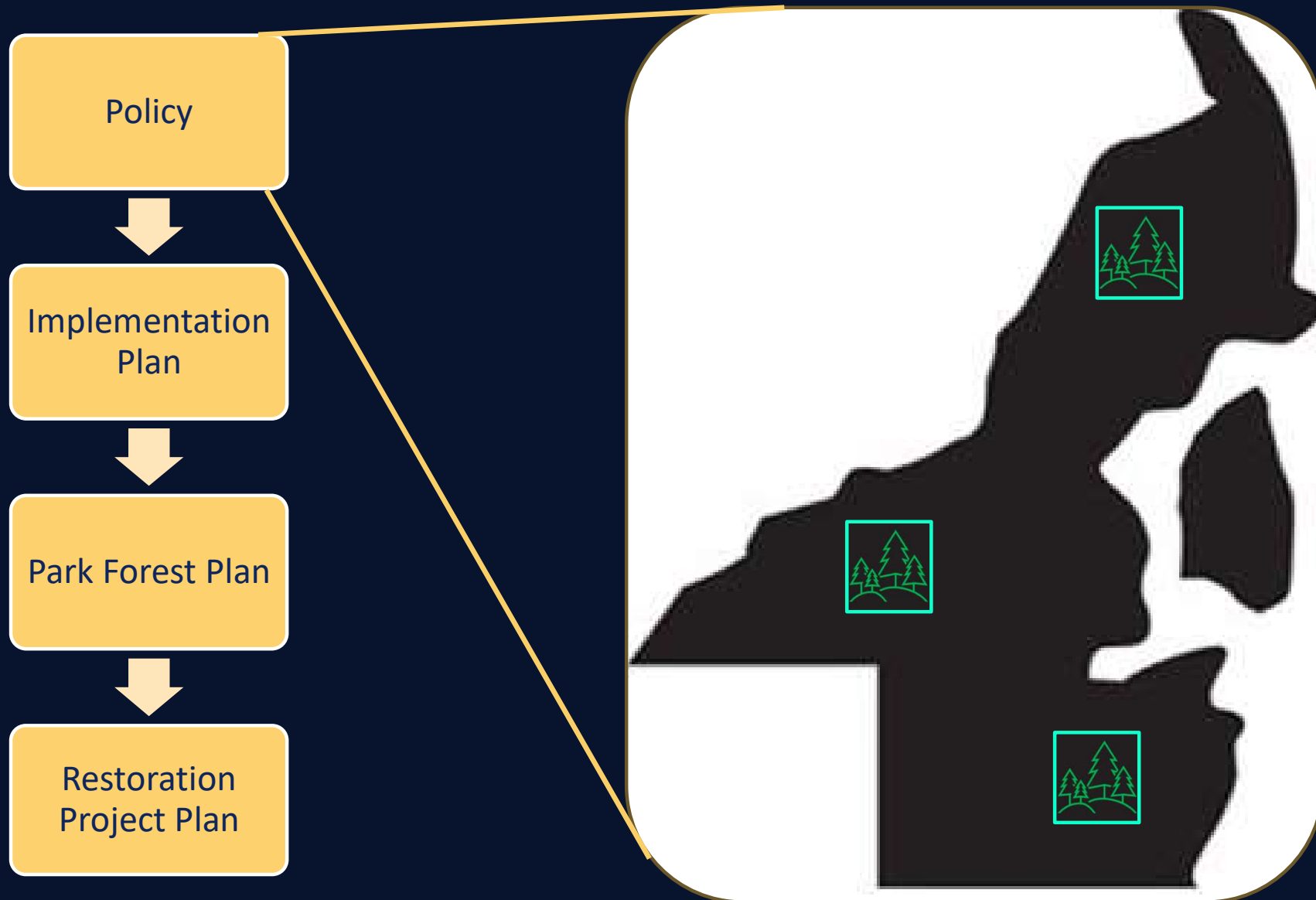
From SER: STANDARDS OF PRACTICE TO GUIDE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030.

# Forest Restoration Planning Structure



## Forest Restoration Planning Structure







Policy



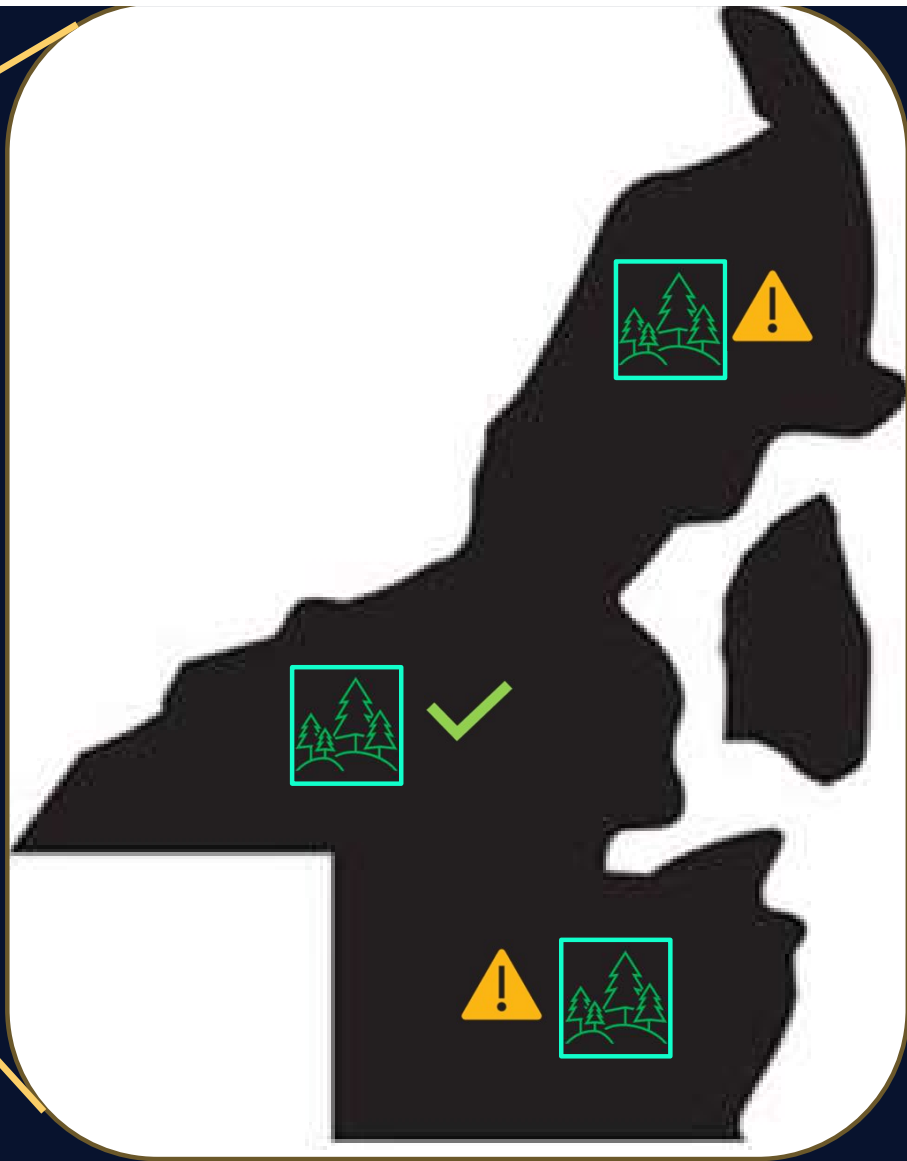
Implementation Plan

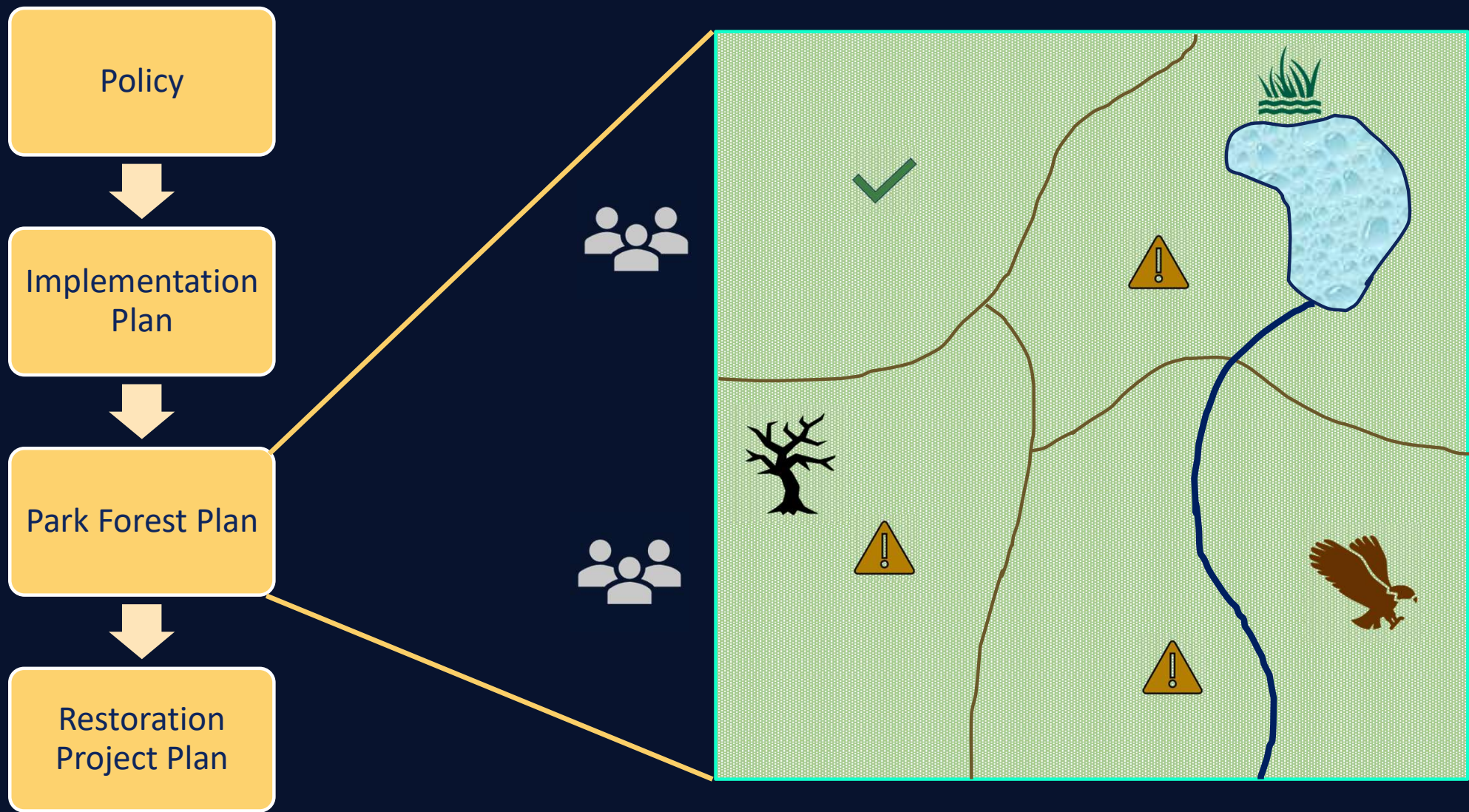


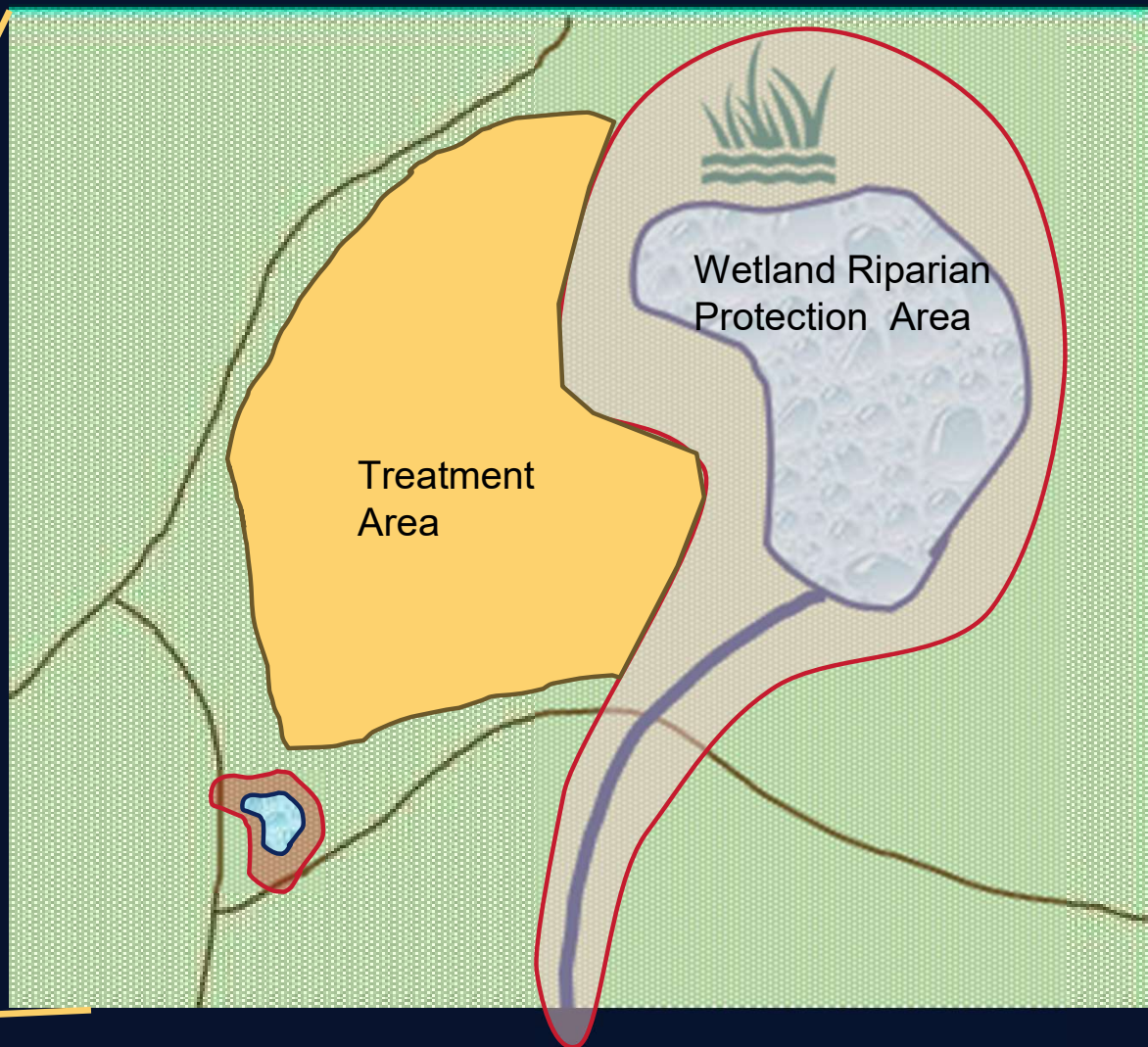
Park Forest Plan



Restoration Project Plan









The background of the slide is a photograph of a coastal town. In the foreground, there is a body of water with a small boat. The middle ground shows a densely forested hillside with houses scattered throughout. In the background, there are more hills and a cloudy sky.

## Forest Stewardship and Restoration Policy

This policy document describes why Stewardship and Restoration activities are needed in Kitsap County Parks and how they would be accomplished.

It outlines the purpose and need, goals and objectives, and high-level guidance for the program based on the scientific literature and accepted best practices.



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## Forest Stewardship and Restoration Implementation Plan

Plan is a technical document that provides a high-level, system-wide plan to **implement** the updated Forest Stewardship and Restoration Policy for the next 10 years – 2025 through 2034. It includes:

- Projected actions needed in the focus parks including assessment, monitoring, planning, permitting, implementation, and management.
- Analysis of past financial performance and future sustainability of the program.

# Plan Updates

This update is a revision and expansion of current (2013) implementation plan

- Incorporates and implements updated Forest Stewardship and Restoration Policy
- Leverages updated science and data
- Integrates additional park areas
- Proposes needed stewardship and restoration activities for the coming decade
- Assesses past program performance and future financial sustainability



Forest Stewardship Pilot Program  
Implementation Plan

October 1, 2013

# What is a Healthy Forest?

- **Large Trees (>24" DBH)**
- Species Composition
- Canopy Layers
- Understory Vegetation
- Large Snags
- Large Downed Logs
- Wildlife Trees



Figure 12. Multiple age classes of Douglas fir trees within the same stand are common in the old forests within the Puget Trough. Point Defiance Park in Tacoma has trees up to 240 cm in diameter with charcoal on the bark, yet also has large and old trees with none.



# What is a Healthy Forest?

- Large Trees (>24" DBH)
- **Species Composition**
- **Canopy Layers**
- Understory Vegetation
- Large Snags
- Large Downed Logs
- Wildlife Trees



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# What is a Healthy Forest?

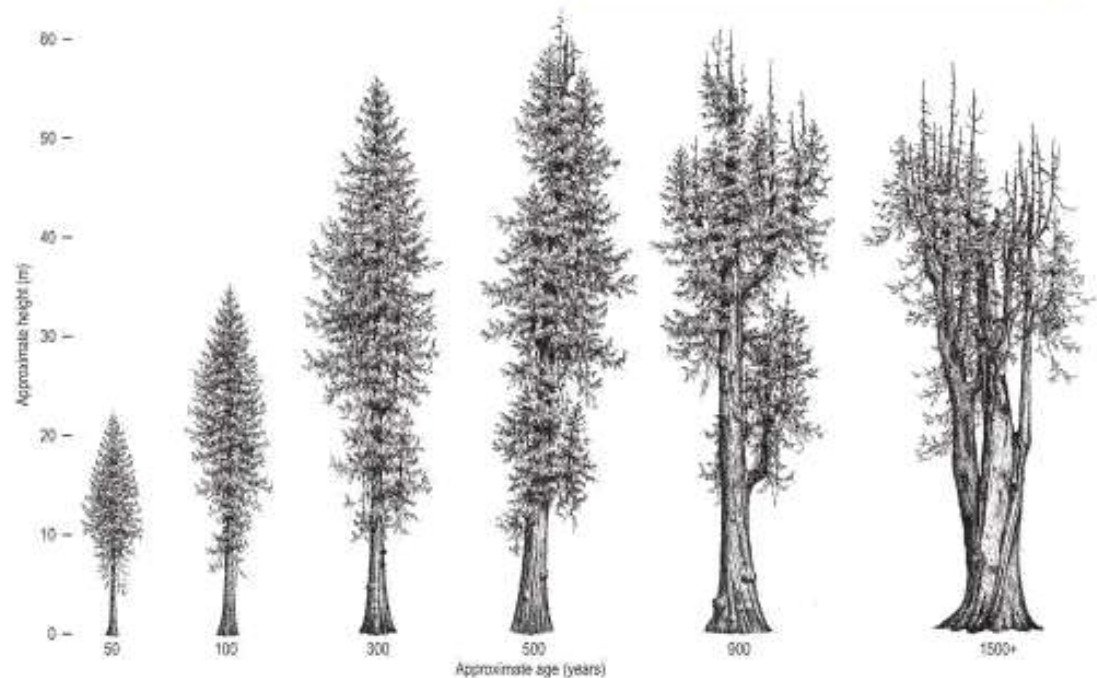
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- **Large Downed Logs**
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Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Western Washington

# What is a Healthy Forest?

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- **Wildlife Trees**





# MAKING ROOM FOR BIGGER TREES!



Port Gamble Ranger Corridor

**This forest has too many trees!**

- Trees are stressed and growing very slowly
- Dense canopy is suppressing understory vegetation
- Wildlife habitats are degraded
- Trees are dying creating potential hazards



For more information  
contact [parks@kitsap.gov](mailto:parks@kitsap.gov)



Port Gamble 1000 Road

**This restoration project will remove some trees to:**

- Increase the growth and health of the largest trees
- Revitalize the understory vegetation
- Improve wildlife habitats
- Reduce potential hazards to park users

\*Printed on recyclable and biodegradable waterproof paper



Younger Forest

Older Forest

1 day after treatment

8 years after treatment

1 year after treatment

8 years after treatment

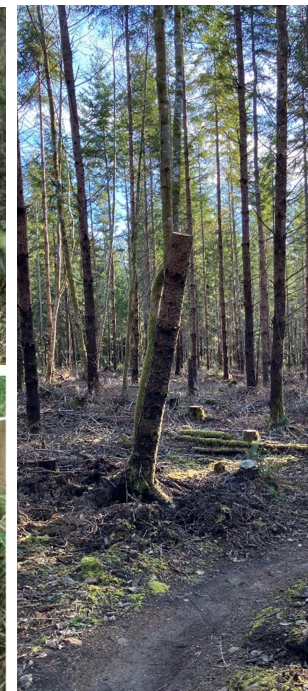




# Habitat Enhancement

Wildlife habitat enhancement will be coupled with thinning and young stand thinning

- Use smaller wood to create wildlife habitat structure
- Mimic important habitat elements that are lacking
- Opportunities to engage community in stewardship and restoration projects





# Species Diversity Plantings

Where needed and appropriate, planting may be used to improve tree and vegetation diversity

- Post-treatment assessments and plant association data guide planting need
- Opportunities to engage community in planting projects



## Who else is restoring forests?



Pierce County



WHATCOM COUNTY  
WASHINGTON



JEFFERSON  
LAND  
TRUST



King County



Seattle



## Foreseeable Activities 2025-2034

Activity Type	Acres
Assessment/ Monitoring & Evaluation	9,394
Planning	9,394
Permitting	1,445
Management/Implementation-Thinning	1,445
Management/Implementation- Young stand thinning	655

# Financial Sustainability

## **All activities will be based on ecological need.**

If the forest doesn't need thinning to meet restoration objectives, it will not be thinned. Projects are never implemented simply to generate profit.

Some ecologically necessary thinning activities generate marketable timber products. These will be sold to help recoup costs of the Forest Stewardship and Restoration Program as has been done for the past 10 years.

Much of the treatments needed in the next 10 years will generate little to no profit. We are seeking grants and other funding options to cover costs.



# Preliminary Treatment Needs 2025-2034

Preliminary assessments using publicly available data and field visits suggest treatments are needed over the next 10 years to improve forest growth and health:

- Approximately 1,445 acres of thinning
  - Merchantable trees would be removed
  - Some net revenue is expected
    - Depends on log markets
  - Preliminary schedule treats parks sequentially
    - Order based on ecological need and accessibility
    - Subject to change following public outreach and planning
- Approximately 655 acres of young stand thinning
  - No merchantable trees are removed
  - Will require investment
  - Cost-share programs may defray some of the cost

## Thinning

Year(s)	Park(s)	Thinning acreage	Road mileage	Estimated Net Revenue
<b>2025</b>	Port Gamble Forest	110	Minimal	\$66,000
	Rude Road Site	20	Minimal	\$30,000
<b>2026-2028</b>	Banner Forest	426	3	\$691,000
<b>2029-2034</b>	Eglon Forest, North Kitsap, Newberry Hill, Gordon Park, Bandix Dog Park	897	5.5	TBD

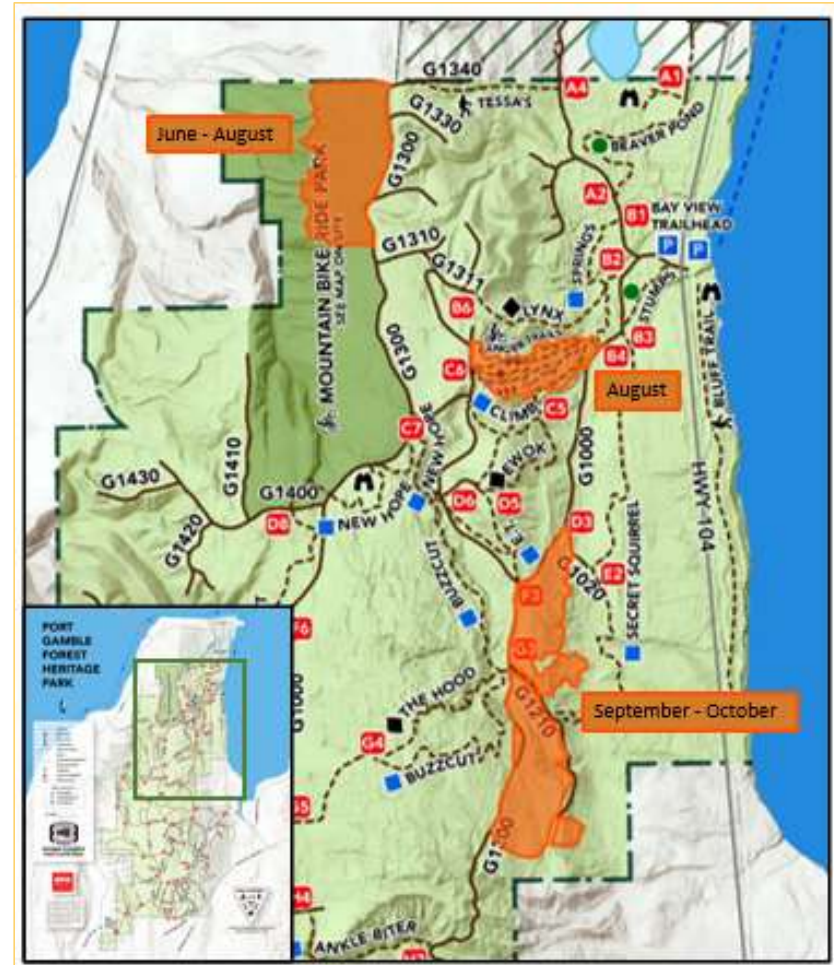
## Young Stand Thinning

Years	Park(s)	Acreage	Estimated investment
<b>2026-2029</b>	Banner Forest	93	\$27,900 - \$69,750
	Eglon Forest	98	\$29,400 - \$73,500
	North Kitsap	127	\$38,100 - \$95,250
	Newberry Hill	83	\$24,900 - \$62,250
	Coulter Creek	44	\$13,200 - \$33,000
<b>2030-2034</b>	Port Gamble Forest	78	\$23,400 - \$58,500
	Rude Road Site	132	\$39,600 - \$99,000

# 2025 Ongoing Projects

## Port Gamble

- Approximately 100 acres of thinning
- Planted following harvesting in 1980s
- Excessively dense with stressed trees
- Suppressed understory
- Degraded wildlife habitat
- Timing: June-November



## 2025 Kitsap County Parks Forest Stewardship and Restoration Outreach Form



### FOREST RESTORATION SITE VISITS

- **Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park** – Monday, July 28 | 5–6:30 PM  
Theme: Forestry Present  
Meet at Bayview Trailhead (47.840016, -122.587606)
- **Newberry Hill Heritage Park** – Tuesday, July 29 | 5–6:30 PM  
Theme: Forestry Past  
Meeting location: Klahowya Entrance (47.6352028, -122.755664)
- **Banner Forest Heritage Park** – Wednesday, July 30 | 5–6:30 PM  
Theme: Forestry Future  
Meet at main Banner parking lot off Banner Rd SE (47.489050, -122.545850)

