

Example Aesthetics and Recreation Sections (Resource Category 8)

Aesthetics and Recreation Example 1

Resource assessment

Our woods are an important part of our recreation. We enjoy walking in the woods and observing the plants and wildlife. We have one well-defined trail that traverses the top of the ridge on our property. There are also presently deer and elk trails throughout the forest, though they can have fallen branches that need to be maneuvered around. The woods, have a lot of partially fallen trees and thickets which detract from some of the beauty and maneuverability in the woods

Management recommendations

We would like to clear any barriers in the existing trail system and develop a few quad trails, particularly one that can traverse to the lower areas of the property. Thinning and pruning lower branches from trees will open up view corridors through the woods.

Trails will be kept as natural, low-impact, native-tread trails paths using material found on-site where fill is needed. Thinned trees could be chipped or ground into a consistency suitable for covering trails; bigleaf maple leaves might also be mulched and laid on trails. At strategic places along the trails, sites for resting or reflection may be placed in the form of a bench or tree stump. Decorative images may be hung in trees or placed along the trail.

Aesthetics and Recreation Example 2

Resource assessment

We find great value in the beauty of the forest in varied seasons and weather and treasure both the flora and fauna. Few people have the opportunity to steward timber and wildlife property for five continuous generations as we have. For us, there is a magic on the property and in the small end of the farming valley that engenders a sense of peace and restoration. It is quiet enough to hear the wingbeats of the birds flying overhead, hear the rustle of leaves in a light breeze, and watch the tall Doug-firs, hemlock, and cedars sway in the wind. We watch “our” coyotes and do not mind sharing pears and apples with the occasional bear in the fall. This year one bear clawed our upside-down tomato containers; we were very excited. We actively feed birds in the fall, winter, and spring which brings the woodpeckers, chickadees, juncos, gold finches,

towhees, jays and others into our view from the house. The property has an excellent view across the valley to the forested foothills and the snow-topped mountains of the Cascade Range to the east. We watch the moon rise over the mountains and pause to take-in the beauty of the sunset's pink glow on the snow at dusk.

Management recommendations

We plan to monitor forest, riparian, and wildlife habitat health regularly and take the outlined steps to ensure the continued health of each. The recommended native plantings cited in previous sections of the plan will also move the forest to a more natural state, which will further enhance forest aesthetics. We would like to walk more easily through the forest. To that end, we will put in footpaths through the forest using the skid trails. We will research appropriate trail-building approaches to ensure minimal impact on the environment. We also plan to maintain open moved grassy areas for family use, e.g., playing catch, volleyball, etc.

Aesthetics and Recreation Example 3

Resource assessment

We bought our land specifically to live in a natural setting, among the trees, with a view of Puget Sound and the Olympics. As such we will do all that is possible to maintain the health of the forest and to enjoy all that it brings us – tranquility, wildlife, privacy, and beauty.

Management recommendations

As previously mentioned, we will build a walking trail through the property to appreciate the calm and beauty of the forest. This trail will include benches at several points for rest and contemplation.

We will also preserve the western view of Puget Sound and the Olympics by pruning and harvesting trees on the higher eastern half of the property, where our residence will be located, to create a view corridor. Within this corridor we will plant small-size trees, carefully planning for variety, growth, and projected lifespan of trees to ensure that culling will be regular and modest, thus minimizing any impact on the territorial view, forest, and wildlife.

Our intention is to maintain the forest in a natural state, to include leaving fallen trees and limbs where they lie. At the same time, we will take steps to enhance the biodiversity of the forest and provide a welcome habitat for wildlife. We hope to improve the forest aesthetic by introducing several native varieties of trees, including bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, paper birch, Pacific madrone, and bitter cherry.

