

# INDIAN FORESTRY



## The Quinault Reservation Working Forest

Foundation, Challenges,  
Opportunities, Future



Nancy Eldridge, Forest Manager  
Quinault Indian Nation



# INDIAN FORESTRY

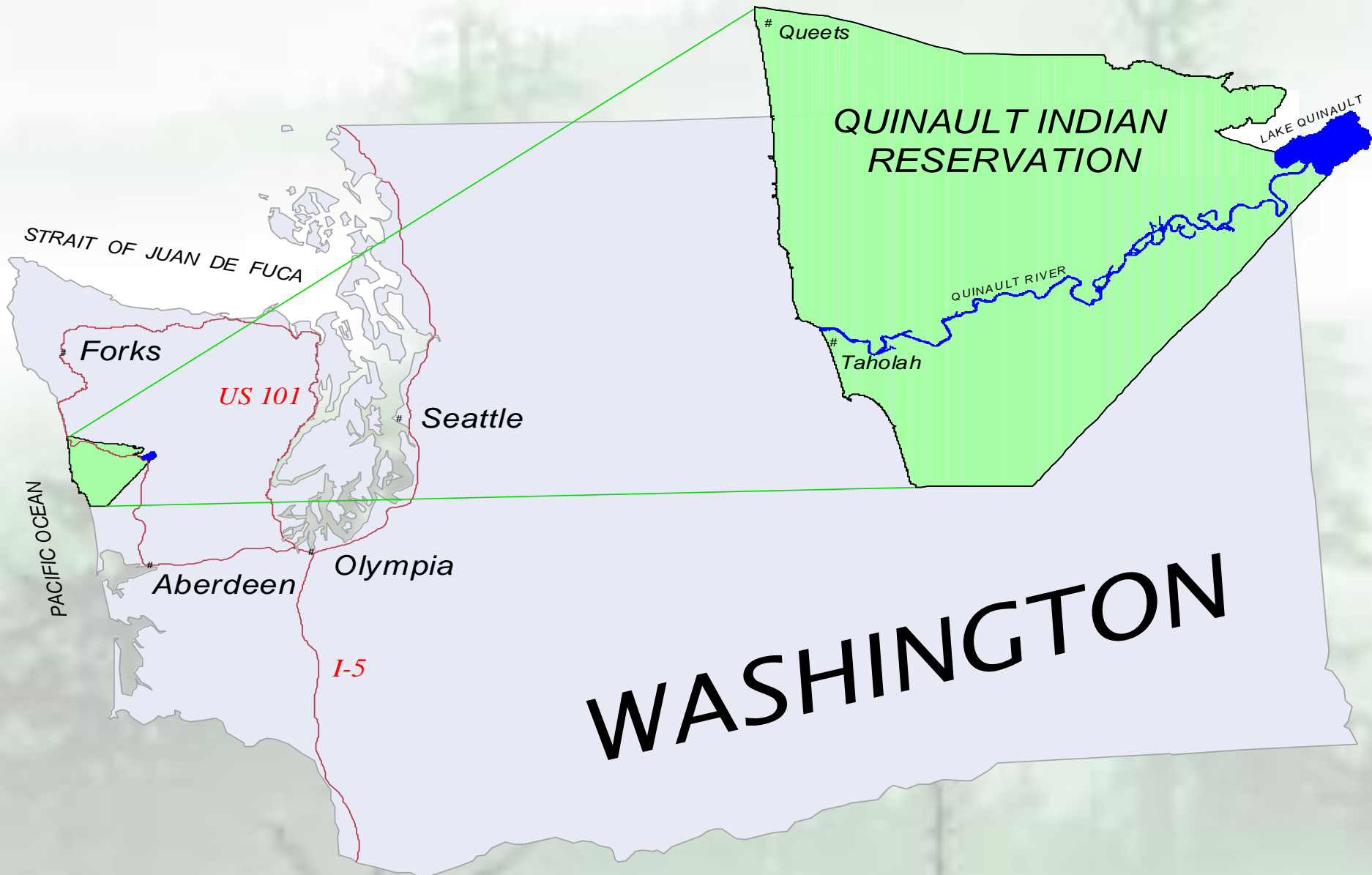


- **Treaty with QUI-NAI-ELTS 1855-1856:**

*“The said tribes and bands hereby cede, relinquish, and convey to the United States all their right, title, and interest in and to the lands and country occupied by them, bounded and described as follows:*

*Commencing at a point on the Pacific coast, which is the southwest corner of the lands lately ceded by the Makah tribe of Indians to the United States, and running easterly with and along the southern boundary of the said Makah tribe to the middle of the coast range of mountains; thence southerly with said range of mountains to their intersection with the dividing ridge between the chehalis and Quinatl Rivers; thence westerly with said ridge to the Pacific coast; thence northerly along said coast to the place of beginning.”*

*“There shall however, be reserved, for the use and occupation of the tribes and bands aforesaid, a tract or tracts of lands sufficient for their wants . . . ”*



# Queets

QUINALT INDIAN  
RESERVATION

LAKE QUINALT

QUINALT RIVER

# Taholah

STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA

# Forks

US 101

# Seattle

PACIFIC OCEAN

Aberdeen

Olympia

I-5

WASHINGTON



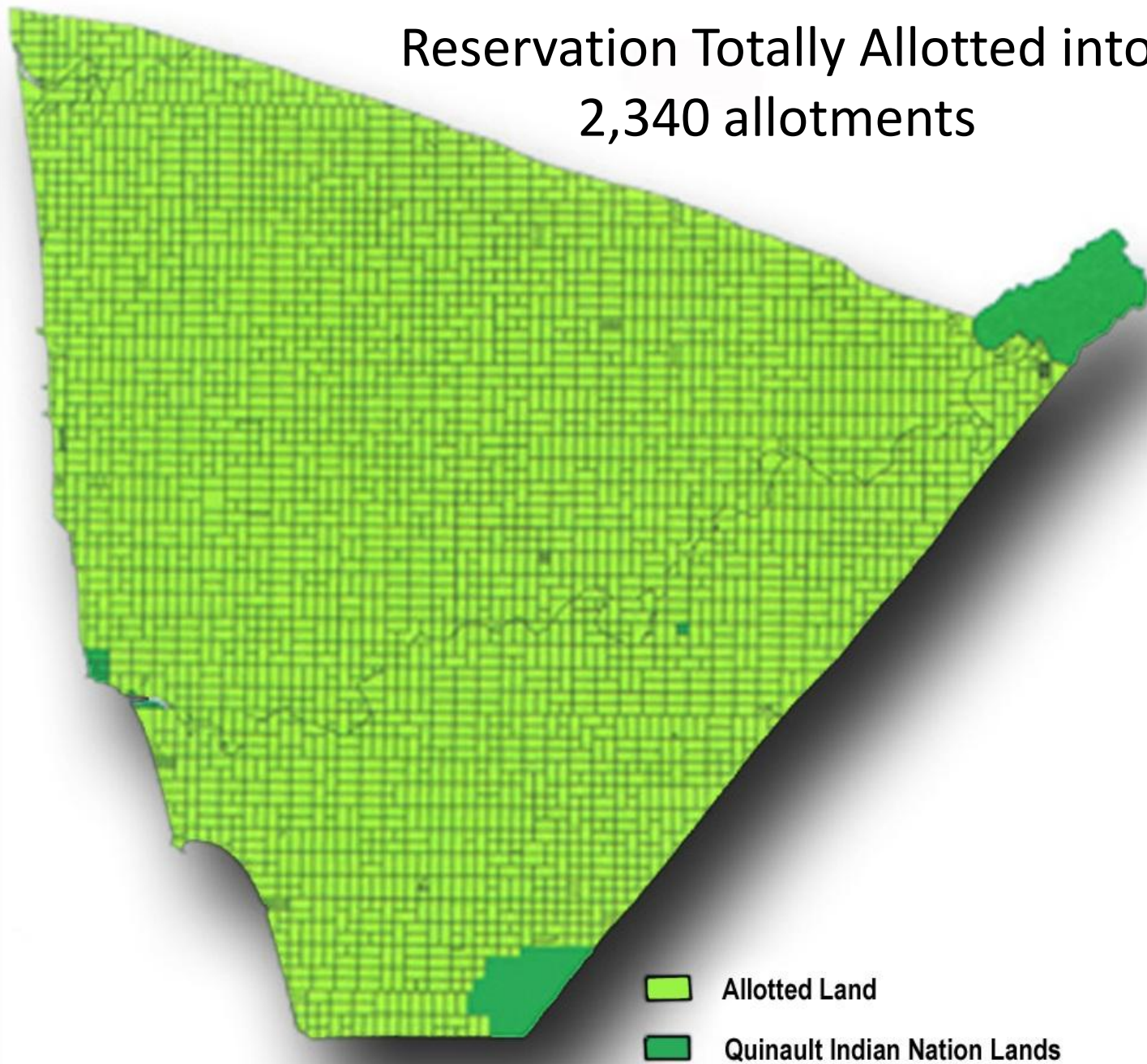
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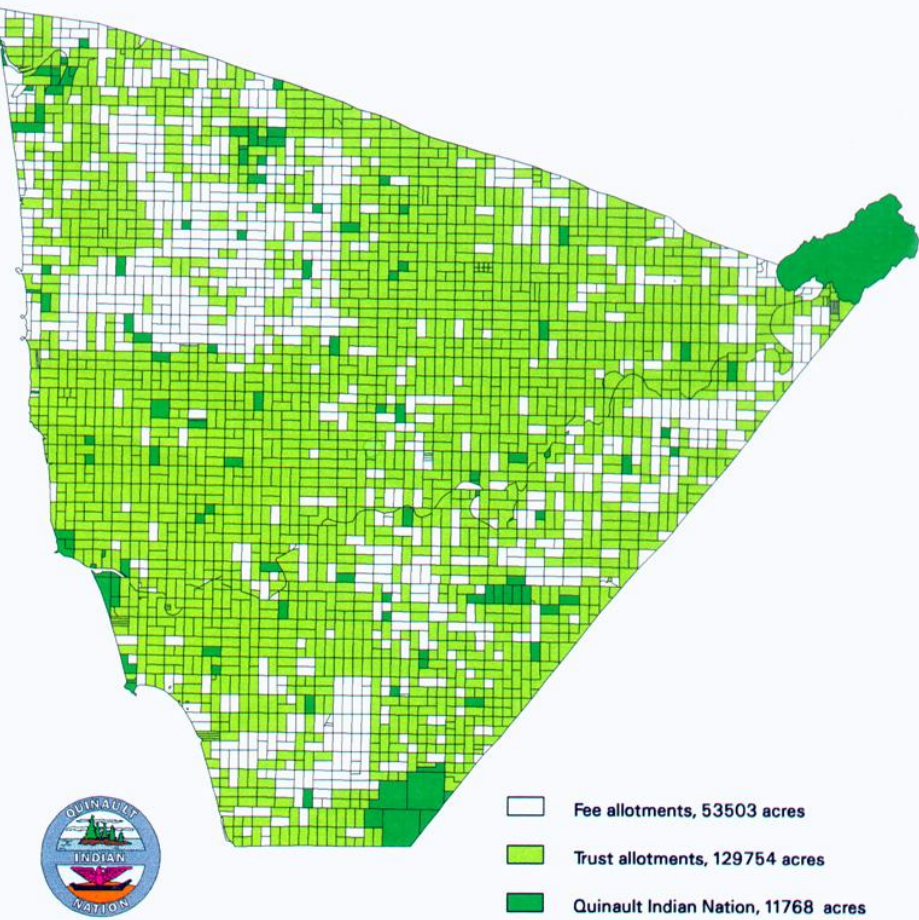
- Dawes Act of 1887 aka General Allotment Act:
  - Authorized the US to divide reservations into allotments for individual Indians.
  - Objective was to assimilate Indians into mainstream American society.
  - Provided that “excess” reservation lands could be sold on the open market.
- Result: FRACTIONATION
  - Administrative nightmare for the BIA
  - Planning and management nightmare for everyone



# Reservation Totally Allotted into 2,340 allotments

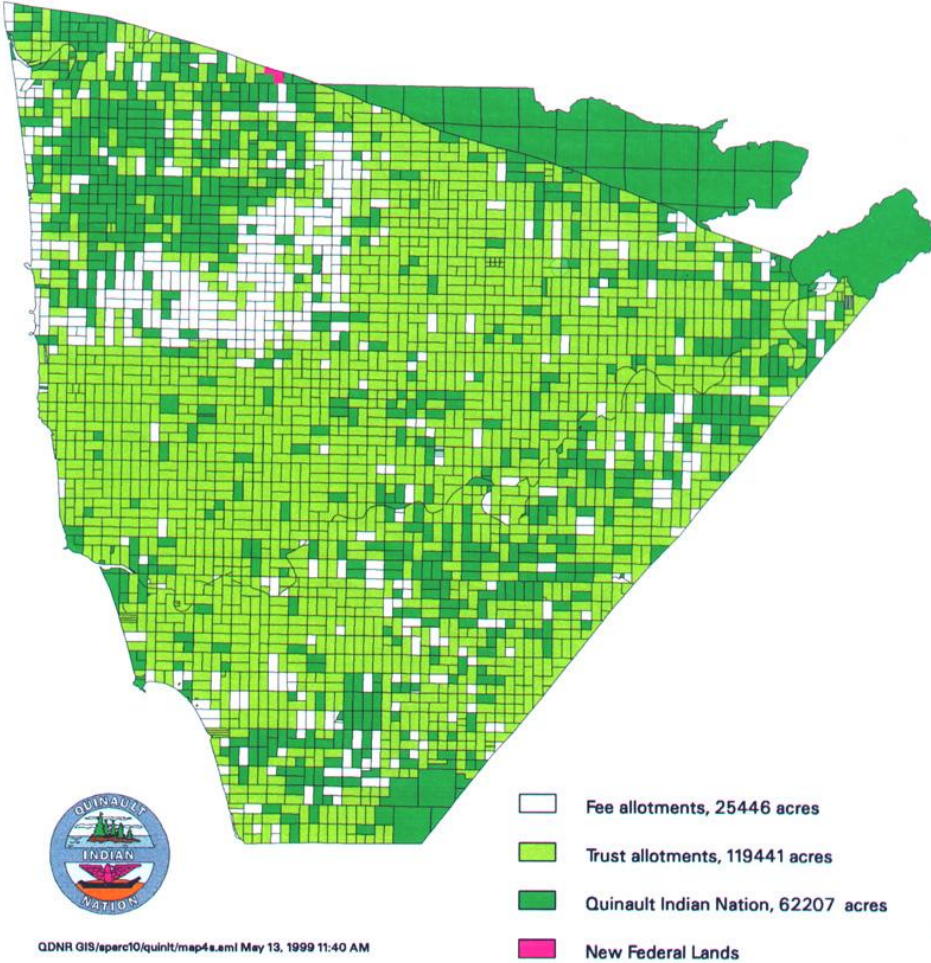


Fee Property on the Quinault Reservation prior to 1988



QDNR GIS/sparc10/quint/map3s.aml May 13, 1999 11:40 AM

Current Property Status on the Quinault Reservation



QDNR GIS/sparc10/quint/map4s.aml May 13, 1999 11:40 AM

**OWNERSHIP BREAKDOWN ON QIR:**

- % in 100% QIN
- % in Individual Indian Trust
- % in non-QIN Fee





# INDIAN FORESTRY



- Other Challenges:
  - Federal restrictions (ESA, NEPA, etc.)
  - Wildfire
  - Place based
- Opportunities:
  - Government to Government negotiations
  - Tribal Forest Protection Act (Stewardship contracts)
  - Anchor Forest concept

# QUINAUT FORESTRY

## Current Structure:

- **BIA Taholah Agency**

Harvest on individual Indian Allotments and administration of individual Indian timber revenue.



- **Quinault Department of Forestry**

Harvest on QIN trust and fee land along with all forest development activities and inventory and planning tasks.

Both offices work with QIN Department of Environmental Protection.





# QUINALT FORESTRY



## Forest Management Inventory and Planning a Statutory Requirement:

- CFR 163.11 requires FMPs on all Indian forest lands.
- National Indian Forest Resources Management Act of 1990.

**Prudent Management!**



# QUINAULT FORESTRY



## Quinault FMP Goals:

- Meet the economic, social, and cultural needs of the landowners in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- Sustain timber harvesting for employment and economic return to the landowner(s).
- Protect water quality and fish habitat.
- Sustain or enhance wildlife habitat.
- Enhance traditional and cultural values.



# QUINALT FORESTRY



## Environmental Assessment (4 alternatives):

### Timber

- Number of harvestable acres
- Timber volume per acre (MBF)

### Water Qualify

- Stream temperature

### Fisheries

- Riparian function and/or salmon habitat

### Wildlife

- Acres in conservation status
- Clearcut size
- Road density

### Cultural Resources

- Damage or loss of known archaeological sites
- Damage or loss to cultural resources through inadvertent discovery





# QUINAULT FORESTRY



## **Alternative 3.1: Modified No-Action with Riparian Forest Management Corridors**

Actively manage riparian areas to restore (enhance) floodplain processes, improve wildlife habitat, and improve fish habitat while providing economic return to the landowner.

### Objectives:

- Restore or improve riparian area conditions to support fish and wildlife habitat;
- Maintain water quality for fish and wildlife;
- Maintain or enhance the Quinault Indian Reservation's flow of forest products and economic return to the landowner.









# QUINAULT FORESTRY



## ESA Section 7 Consultation

### Inherent Conflict: Trust Responsibility vs General Public Policy

- **Quinault Indian Nation Constitution** (sovereign authority to manage resources) states:

*“It shall be the duty of the Quinault Business Committee (QBC) to govern all people, resources, lands, and waters under the jurisdiction of or reserved to the Quinault Nation.”*

- **Endangered Species Act purpose:**

*“... prevent extinction, promote recovery, conserve ecosystems, fulfill international commitments.”*

**ESA is *inconsistent and incompatible* with the QIN’s objectives.**





# QUINAULT FORESTRY



## Inherent Conflict

### **QIN and ESA (similar goals; different approach)**

- **ESA Approach:** Manage the specific species/habitat
- **QIN Approach:** Manage the function; holistic approach

FMP would consider ecological function over species specific management (Salmonid habitat rather than bulltrout)

Unfortunate Irony . . . Upper Quinault Restoration



# QUINALT FORESTRY



## **ESA Section 7 Consultation will employ SO3206**

Initiated Government to Government Consultation with the NW Regional Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in February 2012.

- They know and understand the intent of SO3206.
- They will work with us and consider SO3206 during the Section 7 Consultation process.
- They worked with us during the creation of the Biological Assessment.
- They will consider the Foundational Principals of SO3206 when developing the Terms and Conditions of the BiOp.



# QUINALT FORESTRY



## **QIN FMP (Alt 3.1)**

**DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION** (100s of years into the future): The RFMCs are a mosaic of stand structures with different species mixes and age classes.

- These areas provide complex aquatic and terrestrial habitats in various stages of successional riparian forest development.
- RFMCs contain species-rich biological communities that support and service the cultural and other value-based needs of the QIN and Individual Trust Landowners.





# QUINALT FORESTRY



## **QIN FMP (Alt 3.1) CONCEPTS**

- Mitigate for prior forest practices (1950s-1980s) and damage to salmonid habitat by repairing and restoring fish and wildlife habitat forming processes.
- Active management within RFMCs to restore ecological processes and improve salmonid habitat. Site specific considerations to invasives, etc.



# QUINALT FORESTRY



## **QIN FMP (Alt 3.1) CONCEPTS**

- Systematic and coordinated approach to timber management supporting fully functional ecological processes.
- Protection/enhancement for aquatic and riparian-dependent species.
- Maintain/enhance economic viability of the QIR's timber industry.



# QUINALT FORESTRY



## **QIN FMP (Alt 3.1) BASIC APPROACH: Actively manage RFMCs to establish or increase conifer component.**

- Accelerate colonization by conifers
- Accelerate achievement of late successional stand condition
- Increase potential for natural ecosystem processes including:
  - ✓ LWD recruitment
  - ✓ shade
  - ✓ Improved water quality





# QUINAULT FORESTRY



**TYPE D:** Major rivers and Lake Quinault.

- RFMC = Flood plain + CMZ + 100' RMZ

**TYPE H:** All waters not designated as Type D that are presumed to provide fish habitat.

- RFMC = Flood plain + CMZ + 80' RMZ

**TYPE O:** All other streams with a defined channel not classified as Type D or H.

- Perennial Inside RFMC: Buffer = 50' entire length
- Perennial Outside RFMC: Buffer = 50' 1<sup>st</sup> 300' or half its distance
- Intermittent: Buffer = none



# QUINALT FORESTRY



- **Shade Requirements:** Segmented buffer shade reduction method requires restricting active management into the RFMC to 600' of the corridor with 1200' up and down stream.
- Goal of establishing approximately **~60% conifer** in the conversion area.
- In areas of adequate stocking, **conifer may be removed** (~from below) with the following densities targeted (includes terraces):
  - Age 40 to 70: ~100 TPA
  - Age 70+: ~60 TPA
- Harvesting in RFMCs will be restricted from areas where the **stream channel is actively moving** into the area of consideration.
- Dead and downed material >24" in diameter will be retained as **nurse logs** (spruce and hemlock).



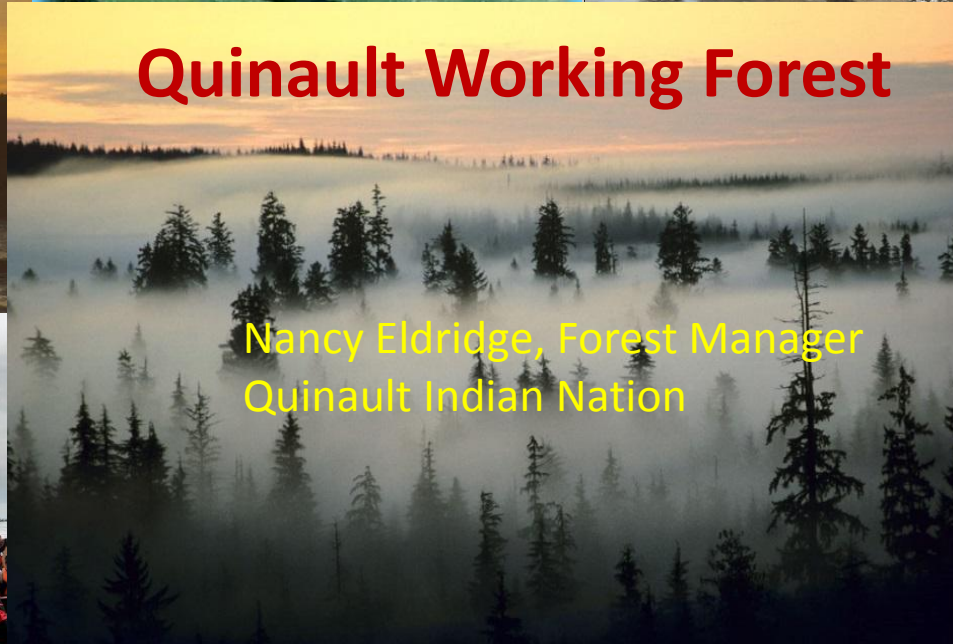
# QUINAULT FORESTRY



## **QIN SUPPORTING POLICY**

- **Ecosystem Management Policy of 1995**
- QIN Resolution 07-90-86 designating the **restoration of Quinault sockeye (blueback salmon) as a National priority** and directing the creation of a Salmon Habitat Restoration Program.
- **Upper Quinault River Salmon Habitat Restoration Plan**
- QIN Resolution 13-280-92 directing the creation of a **salmon habitat restoration working group**.
- QIN Resolution 13-265-92 selecting **Alternative 3.1 as the preferred alternative**.





# Quinault Working Forest

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