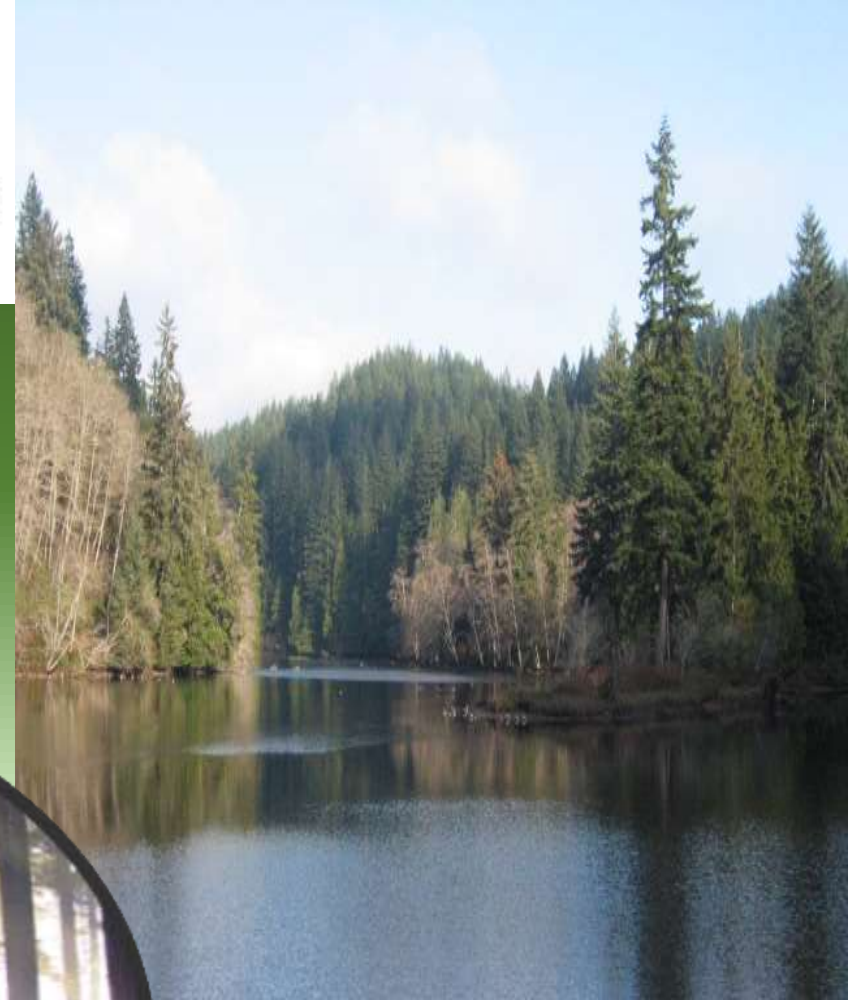




City of Montesano

Home of the Tree Farm

City Forester: John Bull





City of Montesano
Home of the Tree Farm

Overview/Management of our City Forest



Tree farm acreage: gross 5,550, net manageable: 4,300
Rotation length- 50 years average

While other cities in Washington state have forestland dedicated to protecting the city's watershed, the City of Montesano's Chapin Collins Memorial Forest also serves the role of providing revenue and recreational opportunities. The expense of \$12,000 by the city for the purchase of 5,493 acres of cut-over timberland in 1931 has yielded an investment that annually contributes 15 percent to the city's revenue



- Planting density: 300 trees Per Acre, 70% Douglas Fir, 30% Western Red Cedar (1-1 Transplant stock)
- Precommercial thinning (PCT) at age 10 to regain initial planting density of 300 trees per aces
- Commercial thinning (CT) tractor ground at age 25-30 to 160 trees per acre (about 50% of total tree farm acreage can be CT')
- Regeneration clear cut harvest at average age 50 (age 40-45 for non-CT 'stands, age 50-55 for CT stands.)

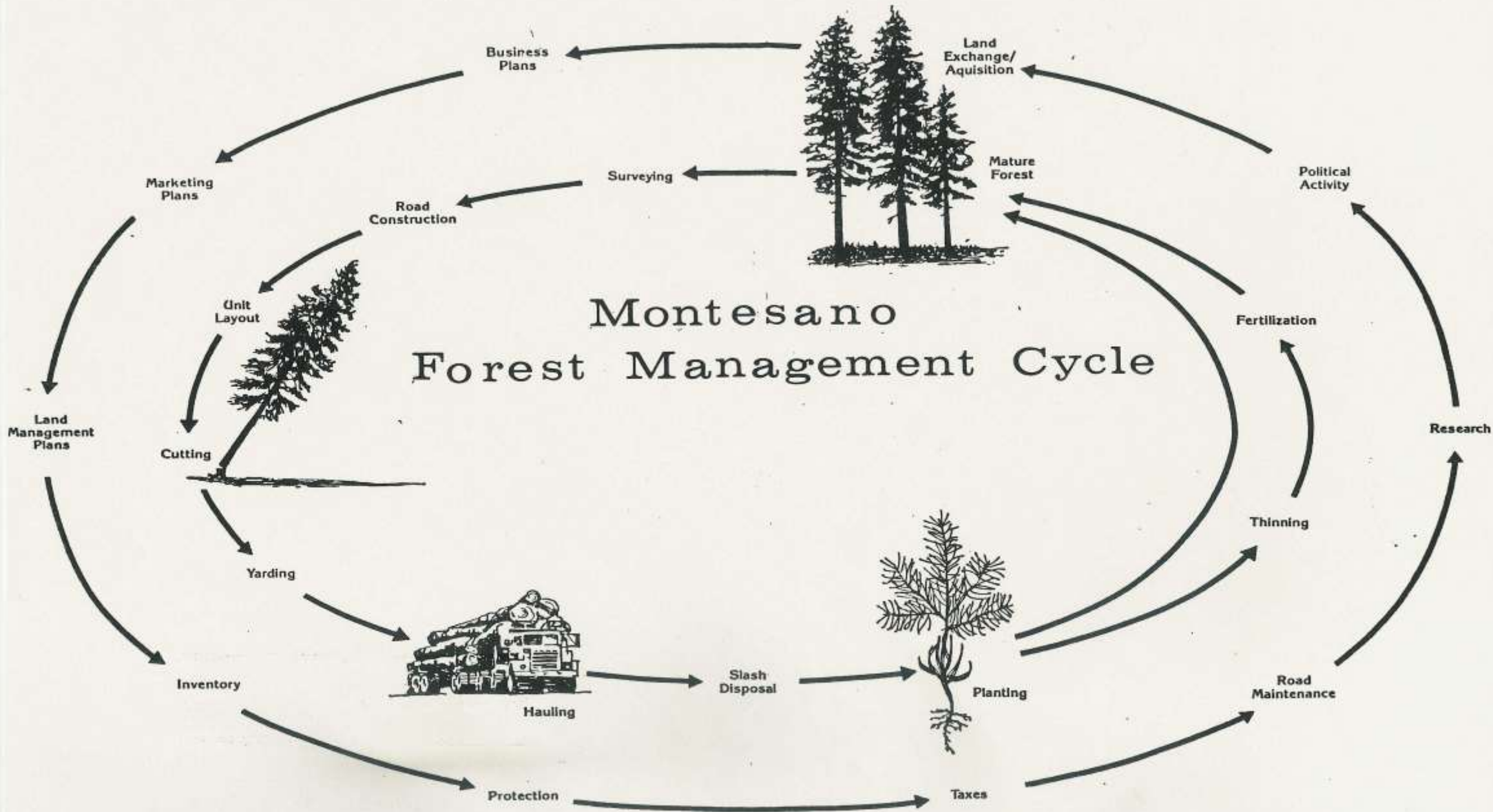


FIGURE 1

Timber Harvesting

Volume per acre harvested at 50 Years
– 45 MBF

Average Growth: 3,000,000 BF/Yr.

Average stumpage value: \$375 /MBF

Average annual cut: 85 acres, 3,000 MBF

Average Annual Gross revenue: \$1,125,000

Average Annual Operating Costs \$ 325,000

Average Annual Net revenue \$800,00(\$186 AC /Yr.)

The revenue derived from timber harvests plays a pivotal role in catalyzing the growth and development of a city, with a particular emphasis on bolstering the critical infrastructure, notably within the water department. Montesano's astute approach to timber harvesting, marked by flexibility in its schedule to maximize revenue in response to changing market conditions, further underscores the significance of this financial resource. This infusion of financial resources not only ensures the sustainability of water supply and quality but also fortifies the city's capacity to expand its urban landscape and accommodate a burgeoning population. By strategically allocating these funds to the enhancement of water-related infrastructure, the city secures a vital lifeline that underpins public health, sanitation, and overall urban prosperity. It exemplifies the symbiotic relationship between natural resource management and the sustainable expansion of a modern metropolis, where forestry practices become a linchpin for the city's continuous evolution.







Species Diversity

The city forest is 3rd growth, and has a mixture tree species such as Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, red alder, and Sitka spruce. This year is seeing the planting of the first 4th growth. Vegetation control is used but not fertilization. Our forest also has a variety of understory shrub species: vine maple huckleberry, foxglove, blackberry.



Secondary Forest Products

- Cascara Peeling, Salal Picking, Firewood
- Forage Opportunities
- Wild Blackberries, Mushrooms, Salmonberries,

Invasive species:

The city of Montesano is actively working to remove invasive species: Holly, Himalayan blackberries, Scotch broom and knotweed. Through glysohate spraying, manual removal and silvicultural practice.



Riparian Management Zones

We currently have 1,123 acres of RMZs. 64,586 ft streams with a variety of fish – bull heads, squawfish, cutthroat, steel head and coho salmon.

Two major tributaries are the West fork Sylvia creek and the East fork Sylvia creek. These areas have large, aesthetically pleasing timber and well-developed understories.



Montesano utilizes greater than state mandated buffers during timber harvest operations to promote wildlife habitat and to supply the watershed with clean, cool water.

Wildlife:

The property has Black-tailed Deer, American Black Bear, Cougar, and Bobcat, beaver, coyote, racoons, squirrel, otters and rabbits and an occasional elk



Habitat for a variety of birds

- Mallard duck
- Blue heron
- Grouse
- Osprey
- Sterling
- Wood pecker
- Redtail hawk
- Bald eagles





Community Development

The city council's 1978 decision, the city forester now manages the forest for recreational activities as well as timber revenue.

Recreation:

Hunting, Hiking, and Horseback Riding Through 38 Established Trails

Permits Available for Public Access

Mushroom, berry picking, firewood cutting and fishing/camping at lake sylvia

The Montesano Forest Provides Local Jobs through:

- Pre-commercial/Commercial Thinning
- Timber Harvest Operations
- Salal Picking/Cascara Peeling
- Forestry Internships

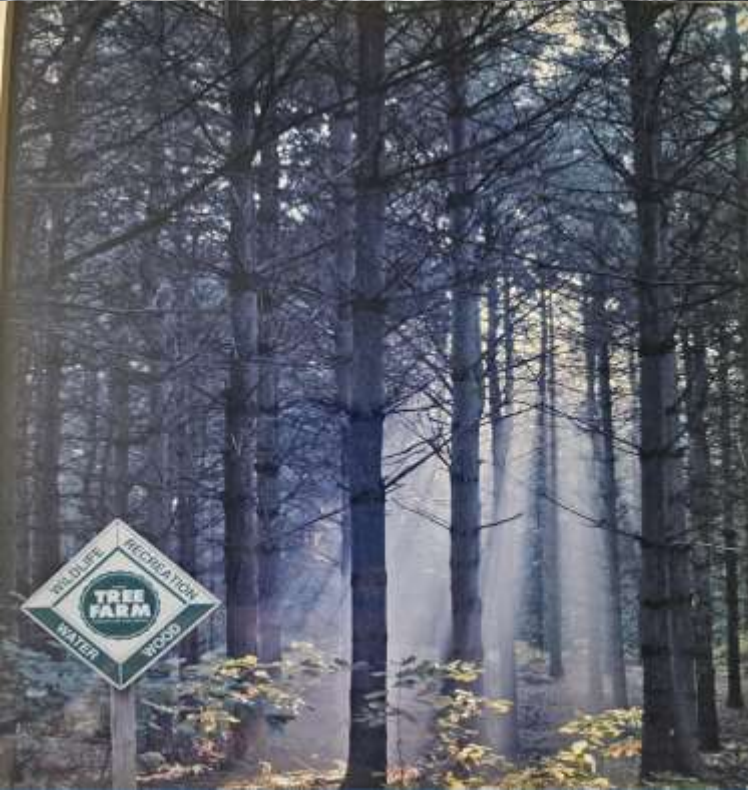


Variety of public events

- Trail clean up day
- Run forest run 25-50k trail race
- Lake sylvia days and run
- Tree farm tours
- Boy scout projects
- Highschool and college senior projects
- Fall festival



History of Montesano's City Forest



1931-The Montesano tree farm was purchase

1941-Weyerhaeuser dedicates Clemens tree farm

1947-Montesano city council asked for comprehensive management plan

1948 – Montesano has it 1st timber sale- 4,250 mbf, \$77, 860 (Approx 1 Million 2023 \$)

1975 City council hires a full time forester

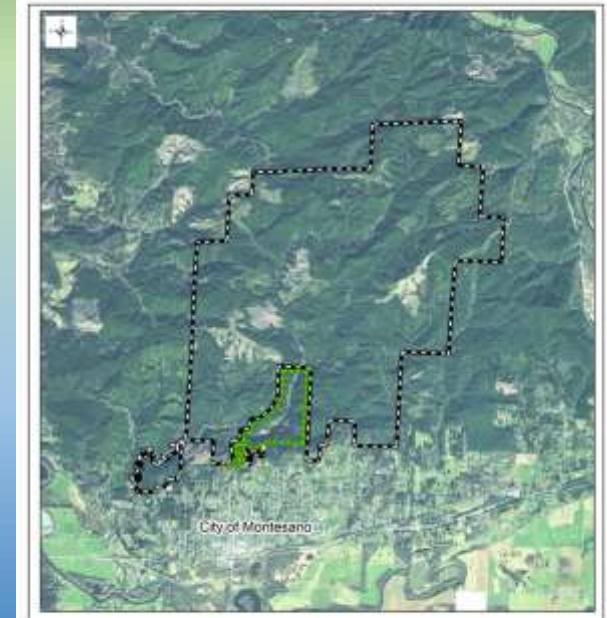
Bud wild 1975-1987

Ron Schillinger 1987-2007

Loren Hinner 2007-2023

John bull 2022- present

The Montesano city forest shall be managed for a mix of objective: long term sustainability and a healthy environment are the overarching priorities to guide all management decisions. Forest revenue shall be optimized using cultural practices that are consistent with maintenance of recreational opportunities, viewshed considerations and the good stewardship of fish and wildlife habitats. The Montesano forest is certifies by the American tree farm system as a sustainably managed forest: certification # wa-4303



Montesano home the first tree farm

A Forest in Transition

This forest is constantly changing due to natural disease and human interventions...

Two stands of mature forest have occupied the Sycamore River Valley for thousands of years. Within the soil of the forest stands a naturally occurring fungal disease—the lethal root rot—has microbial spores awaiting the arrival of Douglas-fir trees.




Douglas-fir trees are highly vulnerable to this invisible deadly disease. When their roots are exposed to the damp, anaerobic parameters of the soil and begin to rot, it kills them. When there are dense populations of Douglas-fir, it travels root-to-root, infecting trees of all ages. In time, the trees lose their root systems and the ability to take in water, and they can no longer withstand heavy winds.

A Tough Decision

A forest adorned with handsome wood and open to public recreation can be a dangerous combination. Washington State Parks had to make a difficult choice: let nature take its course and close this area of the park, or remove the diseased trees.

Ultimately, State Parks decided to remove the diseased trees in order to ensure long-term public access.

Managing Laminated Root Rot

SUSCEPTIBLE	TOLERANT	RESISTANT
		
Douglas-fir	White Pine	Western Redcedar

In 2013 State Parks removed Douglas-fir trees infected with laminated root rot. Tolerant and resistant native species, including white pine and western redcedar, have been established to promote a healthy forest.

FOSLS
SHAWNEE STATE PARK

