

FOREST SERVICE BRIEFING PAPER
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023

Topic: Representative Kilmer (WA-06) / Olympic National Forest timber volume
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Issue: On March 23, 2023, Chief Moore responded to questions from Rep. Kilmer during the House Interior Appropriations hearing. Information about the Olympic National Forest's expected annual future timber volume was incorrectly stated as being 10 MMBF. The Representative also repeated an inaccurate timber volume of 3 MMBF for the Forest's FY22 accomplishment.

Background:

- Rep. Kilmer met with Regional Forester Casamassa last November and on March 16 about concerns regarding the Olympic National Forest, including its recent decline in timber volume and lost restoration opportunities on the Olympic National Forest.
- The incorrect numbers stated during the hearing may have originated from the earlier, pre-final timber targets for FY23 (10 MMBF was the base FY23 target under the R6 "3+1 strategy") and accomplishments for FY22 (due to delayed accounting of GNA sale volume).

Recommendation:

- Contact Rep. Kilmer to provide corrected timber volume numbers, particularly total volume awarded in FY22, status and expectations for FY23, and expectation to reach target annual volume of 20 MMBF beginning in FY25.

Olympic National Forest – FY17-FY26 Timber Targets and Outputs (MMBF)

	Past volume						Expected volume			
	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Timber Target	22.6	27.6	27.6	53	20	20	18	15**	20**	20**
Awarded/ Scheduled Timber Volume	31.2	29.9	5	33.7	6.2	8.3	30.6* (9.7 awarded as of 4/1)	16	20.4	18.8

* Includes make-up volume from previous FYs.

**Future volume targets have not been finalized and may be subject to adjustments.

- The Olympic National Forest is working to provide a more consistent supply of timber in alignment with the Region's "3+1 strategy" and is making substantial investments in additional road work to increase the attractiveness of future timber sales. Such investments also support the local economy. Continued investments are being made in planning and timber sale prep to ensure the Olympic National Forest rebuilds its timber program more in alignment with historic production levels.
- The availability of forest stands that can be thinned is currently increasing but will drop below current levels after 2040 and continue to decline under current Northwest Forest Plan restrictions.