



December 15, 2012

Steve W. Landino
NOAA Fisheries Service
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103
Lacey, WA 98503

Subject: 2012 Forest Practices HCP Annual and 5-year Reports,
Incidental Take Permits 1573 (NOAA) and TE 121202-0 (USFWS)

Dear Mr. Landino:

Enclosed please find the 2012 Annual Report for the *Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan* (Forest Practices HCP) and the first Five-Year Report. The annual report covers the period from July 2011 through June 2012, and the five-year report covers the period from June 5, 2006 through June 30, 2011. These reports fulfill the State's obligation to "submit periodic reports to the federal services describing actions taken by the State to implement the Forest Practices HCP" per Section 9.1 of the Implementing Agreement.

As you know, the Forest Practices HCP and program are built upon a foundation of collaboration among the Forests & Fish caucuses. The Service's participation and leadership in that collaborative structure is essential to our success. In May of this year, we reached an important milestone by averting legal challenge to the Forest Practices HCP through collaborative settlement negotiations. This agreement reaffirms the regulatory stability of the Forest Practices HCP, and recommits the parties to functional adaptive management policy and science processes, as well as securing the fiscal resources necessary for a viable program. Together these efforts have strengthened our 50-year commitment to protecting public resources and maintaining a viable forest products industry.

A few highlights from the reports include:

- During the last several years of economic downturn, the State was able to preserve staffing levels specifically for necessary field work including: compliance and enforcement of Forest Practices rule and law, despite a \$4 million dollar reduction in legislatively allocated budget.

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- During the first 5 years of Forest Practices HCP implementation, the State produced or modified several Forest Practices Rules and chapters of the Board Manual, offering improvements regarding issues that affect water, wildlife and other public resources, tribes, and small and large forest landowners.
- The State provided an exemplary response to the catastrophic results of the unpredicted December 2007 storm that brought up to 19 inches of rain and wind gusts exceeding 80 miles per hour to Western Washington.
- During the first 5 years of implementation under the Forest Practices HCP, 32 Adaptive Management Projects have been completed, 500 fish passage barriers on small forestland ownerships and 4,258 barriers on large forestland ownerships have been corrected, and 18,738 miles of large forest landowner roads have been improved.

Both reports can be found on the Washington State Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.wa.gov.

The State looks forward to a strong, continuing partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service to conserve federally listed aquatic species and their habitats on Washington's private and state-owned forest lands.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, after appropriate inquiries, the information submitted in these reports is true, accurate and complete.

Sincerely,



Peter Goldmark
Commissioner of Public Lands

c: The Honorable Christine Gregoire, Washington State Governor
State Forest Practices Board
Phil Anderson, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ted Sturdevant, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology