

Fiscal Year 2015 HCP Implementation Documentation

Implementation of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s [State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)](#) often requires interpretation of its conservation strategies and how they may apply to an HCP-covered management activity. There are times when strict compliance may not result in the right outcomes, could endanger human lives, or would conflict with other HCP objectives. There are also times when, unintentionally or inadvertently, an activity deviates from an HCP conservation strategy. Under these circumstances, DNR employees may seek guidance to devise appropriate plans of action for complying with HCP objectives and conservation strategies, develop alternative plans of action to avoid conflict with HCP objectives, or rectify the unintended consequences of an activity.

HCP implementation documentation represents the cooperative problem solving that is sometimes necessary in the course of HCP implementation. It includes the following:

- **HCP implementation consultations:** Agreements between DNR's Forest Resources Assistant Division Manager for the HCP and Scientific Consultation Section and regions or programs related to operational challenges where assistance and approval for a mitigation plan has been requested.
- **Joint concurrences:** Agreements between DNR and the Federal Services related to strategy modifications and updates.
- **Noncompliances:** Unapproved deviations and/or violations of HCP conservation strategies and/or objectives.
- **Other:** Informational documented issues/activities associated with HCP strategies, objectives, or implementation.

The documents listed in the table below are for activities that have been approved. However, these documents are not meant as confirmation that an approved activity is moving forward or has taken place.

This information is linked directly to the [FY 2015 State Trust Lands HCP Annual Report](#) and is not intended to be a stand-alone document.

Region/ Division	Approval Date	Type	Associated Project	HCP Strategy	Activity Summary
Southeast	7/7/2014	HCP Consultation	Apple Mill variable density thinning (VDT) timber sale	Multi-species	Thin a stand that formerly housed goshawks after surveys in 2006 and 2014 failed to find active nests.
Northwest	8/1/2014	HCP Consultation	Deer Wrap variable retention harvest (VRH) timber sale	Northern spotted owl (NSO)	Construct road and clear 1.2 acres of "next best" stand for landing and cable corridors in North Fork Skykomish SOMU.

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Forest Resources	8/1/2014	HCP Consultation	Skamokawa Creek drainage road maintenance and abandonment planning (RMAP) project	Marbled murrelet	Abandon a road in a marbled murrelet management area, which requires cutting nine trees, none of which are mature conifers.
Pacific Cascade	8/12/2014	HCP Consultation	None	Marbled murrelet	Allow Port Blakely to use several tailhold trees in an adjacent DNR "reclassified" marbled murrelet habitat polygon.
Pacific Cascade	8/19/2014	HCP Consultation	Prather VRH timber sale	Riparian	Harvest a 0.27-acre portion of a wetland management zone (WMZ) and a 0.79-acre area at the head of a type-3 stream due to high risk of blowdown to both areas.
Northwest	9/3/2014	HCP Consultation	Recur VRH timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Harvest a portion of a stand newly misidentified as marbled murrelet habitat; the majority of trees with mistletoe-caused platforms will be left.
Pacific Cascade	10/7/2014	Concurrence	None	Marbled murrelet	Allow Weyerhaeuser to hang tailholds within a polygon of reclassified marbled murrelet habitat currently deferred from harvest.
Southeast	10/10/2014	Concurrence	Snag Canyon Salvage timber sale	NSO	Salvage harvest four units previously meeting nesting, roosting, foraging (NRF) habitat but no longer meet criteria for NRF habitat due to mortality from fire.
Olympic	10/10/2014	HCP Consultation	Lone Spruce VRH timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Implement a 165' no-cut buffer on occupied murrelet sites and have timing restrictions for Unit 6.
Olympic	10/13/2014	HCP Consultation	F-4200 Road improvement	Marbled murrelet	Remove one 11"-diameter Douglas fir tree mismapped as part of a 1916-origin year stand.
Southeast	10/16/2014	Concurrence	Snag Canyon Salvage timber sale	Multi- species	Proceed with Snag Canyon salvage sale in relation to wolf management plan.
Olympic	11/12/2014	HCP Consultation	None	Marbled murrelet	Remove one Sitka spruce tree which is leaning dangerously toward adjacent campground and showing signs of decay and stress.

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Pacific Cascade	12/9/2014	HCP Consultation	St. Paul timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Regeneration harvest of ~30 acres of surveyed unoccupied reclassified marbled murrelet habitat in southwest Washington that has experienced significant damage from bark beetle infestation.
Olympic	2/5/2015	HCP Consultation	Clawed Bear timber sale	NSO	Reconstruct orphaned road to access the proposed timber sale and additional trust lands, which requires removal of approximately 100 trees in NSO structural habitat.
Olympic	2/5/2015	HCP Consultation	Tacoma Select Thinning timber sale	NSO	Reconstruct Q-3360 road, which goes through the Tacoma Creek Pit and has been undercut by the removal of pit run. Road will be relocated 8–14 feet to the northwest of current location, requiring removal of 1992-origin trees in unknown habitat.
Pacific Cascade	2/5/2015	HCP Consultation	None	Marbled murrelet	Replace four culverts on the G-Line road north of Naselle, which requires the removal of 23 trees of various species, all young or second growth.
Northwest	2/26/2015	HCP Consultation	Golden Gopher timber sale	Multi- species	Implement the Draft Cave Procedure in constructing a logging road within a quarter mile of a small cave occupied by Townsend's big-eared bats (a species of concern). The road will be abandoned following the sale.
Pacific Cascade	3/2/2015	HCP Consultation	Rainier Thinning timber sale	Riparian	Thin to relative density (RD) 30–35 a 35-year-old stand, which has a high density, structural homogeneity, and small diameter trees (QMD=12").
Olympic	3/2/2015	Concurrence	Clawed Bear timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Remove 24 trees in marbled murrelet reclassified habitat to reconstruct and modernize an acquired easement in marbled murrelet reclassified habitat. All trees proposed for removal are structurally simple, second-growth trees with no NSO role.

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Olympic	3/12/2015	Concurrence	D5000_56923 Spur Road Abandonment	Riparian, NSO, Marbled murrelet	Abandon the D5000_56923 Spur, which requires felling 15 alder trees, removing culverts and fill, and operating equipment in an occupied murrelet site, within the Siwash Creek riparian management zone, and in old forest and structural NSO habitat.
South Puget Sound	3/24/2015	HCP Consultation	Elbe Hills Commercial Thinning timber sale	Riparian, NSO	Commercially thin riparian buffers in two of the three units to RD 30–35 to decrease inter-tree competition and benefit understory vegetation and the vigor of the remaining stand.
Northwest	4/14/2015	HCP Consultation	None	NSO	Grant a permanent 100–150-foot road use easement across DNR land through a NSO next-best stand so Grandy Lake Forest Associates can access their property.
South Puget Sound	4/21/2015	Concurrence	Trail Construction in West Tiger Mt. NRCA	Marbled murrelet	Build 2,500 feet of trail for mountain bikers and hikers through unsurveyed, suitable marbled murrelet habitat within the West Tiger Mountain NRCA.
Forest Resources	5/7/2015	Other	None	NSO	White paper written by the Forest Inventory Team documenting how NSO dispersal habitat can be mapped using the Remote Sensing Forest Resource Inventory System.
Southeast	5/7/2015	Other	None	NSO	This document summarizes the proposed Trust Land Transfer of approximately 4,000 acres in the Teanaway Community Forest and that transfer's implications for NSO habitat and DNR's HCP obligations.
Northeast	6/17/2015	Concurrence	Big Valley Project	Multi- species	Aerial transport, heavy equipment use, wood installation, road use, and trail closure/relocation that may temporarily displace wolves or their ungulate prey species.