

Fiscal Year 2016 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 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 an activity unintentionally or inadvertently deviates from an HCP conservation strategy. Under these circumstances, DNR staff 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 continual reporting and cooperative problem solving that is necessary in the course of HCP implementation. It includes the following:

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

Table 1 describes activities that have been approved but may not yet have taken place. This information is linked directly to the [FY 2016 State Trust Lands HCP Annual Report](#) and is not intended to be a stand-alone document.

Table 1: Summary of DNR's FY 2016 HCP Implementation Documentation.

Region	Approval Date	Type	Associated Project	HCP Strategy	Activity Summary
Olympic	7/23/2015	Non-compliance	Sadie Timber Sale	Marbled murrelet	Harvest logs mistakenly cut in two patches of deferred murrelet habitat and cut two additional narrow strips to alleviate the hazard. The region biologist determined it was unlikely the mistakenly cut patches removed older, structurally complex forest or any platform-bearing trees.
Northwest	7/23/2015	Other	Whatcom County land transfer	Riparian, NSO, multi-species	Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Office reporting management activities completed on land conveyed to Whatcom County around Lake Whatcom.

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Olympic	8/3/2015	HCP Consultation	None	Northern spotted owl (NSO), Marbled murrelet	Remove three logs jammed against the C-2700 bridge in deferred, reclassified marbled murrelet habitat and spotted owl structural habitat.
Northwest	8/13/2015	HCP Consultation	Dyno timber sale	Multi-species	Construct a road within a quarter mile of two "high value" caves (old mine adits) discovered when setting up the Dyno timber sale.
Olympic	8/19/2015	HCP Consultation	Merrill and Ring access road	Marbled murrelet	Give Merrill and Ring permission to reconstruct an access road to their property through DNR land including 850 feet of road within deferred, unsurveyed, reclassified marbled murrelet habitat.
Northwest	8/19/2015	HCP Consultation	Dyno timber sale	NSO	Construct approximately 2.6 acres of new road within an NSO next-best (non-habitat) stand.
Olympic	8/26/2015	HCP Consultation	Snahapish Rise timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Cut approximately 0.32 acres within a 100-meter marbled murrelet buffer to facilitate cable harvest of non-habitat.
Northwest	10/8/2015	HCP Consultation	Home Repairs timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Use two trees and one stump within suitable marbled murrelet habitat as tailholds.
Southeast	10/19/2015	Concurrence	Indian Creek restoration project (Yakama Nation/ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)	Multi-species	In conjunction with a riparian enhancement project, fell trees for in-stream placement within eight miles of Class 1 gray wolf observations.
Southeast	11/23/2015	HCP Consultation	Cougar Salvage timber sale	NSO	Following the Cougar Creek Fire, conduct a salvage harvest in 73 acres within stands identified as desired future condition for dispersal habitat.
Pacific Cascade	12/1/2015	HCP Consultation	Gravy Train timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Build a logging road, portions of which fall within a reclassified marbled murrelet habitat polygon. Road building necessitates the removal of 300–400 trees within the reclassified polygon.
Pacific Cascade	12/8/2015	HCP Consultation	Prospector timber sale	Multi-species	Implement the 2009 draft cave procedure to protect two low-value caves in the vicinity of a small, non-forested talus slope.

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Pacific Cascade	12/8/2015	HCP Consultation	Sawmill Thinning timber sale	Riparian	Thin a riparian area to a relative density (RD) of 33. The area is currently at RD 52. Fell five trees per acre toward the stream and leave scattered slash and branches throughout the riparian management zone.
Northwest	12/11/2015	HCP Consultation	Tulalip Tribe salmon habitat enhancement	Marbled murrelet	As part of salmon habitat enhancement, place large woody debris (LWD) in stream adjacent to two occupied marbled murrelet sites on DNR land. LWD and hardware will be brought in by helicopter.
South Puget Sound	12/16/2015	HCP Consultation	Lytles Leg timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Harvest approximately 183 acres of surveyed, unoccupied, reclassified marbled murrelet habitat.
Pacific Cascade	12/23/2015	HCP Consultation	Yale of a Tale VRH/VDT timber sale	NSO	Remove 14 trees, use no more than 57 trees as tailholds, create three snags, remove up to six trees within yarding corridors, and slightly deviate from PR 14-006-090 within sub-mature NSO habitat.
Olympic	1/7/2016	HCP Consultation	C-2103 road abandonment	Marbled murrelet	Remove 14 alder trees 8–16" diameter at breast height (dbh) for safety.
South Puget Sound	1/12/2016	HCP Consultation	Tribute timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Harvest approximately 166 acres of surveyed, unoccupied, reclassified marbled murrelet habitat within the South Coast HCP Planning Unit, consistent with the interim conservation strategy.
Pacific Cascade	1/28/2016	HCP Consultation	P&E 20 timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Harvest 140 acres of surveyed, unoccupied, reclassified marbled murrelet habitat.
Olympic	2/29/2016	HCP Consultation	RY-9410 railroad grade removal	Marbled murrelet	Remove seven fish-passage blockages along a railroad grade within an occupied marbled murrelet site. Remove approximately 300 trees to provide access for heavy equipment.

Region	Approval Date	Type	Associated Project	HCP Strategy	Activity Summary
Olympic	3/1/2016	HCP Consultation	C2400 culvert removal on Christmas Creek	Marbled murrelet	Within Old Forest Habitat, remove approximately 60 alders, 6–12" dbh, and one 16" dbh western hemlock with no platforms or other structural complexity, to facilitate removal of two culverts currently blocking fish passage.
Northwest	3/1/2016	HCP Consultation	Flower Potts timber sale	Multi-species	Implement the draft cave procedure with a variance allowing a temporary road to be constructed within 0.14 miles of a high-value cave.
Northwest	3/16/2016	Concurrence	North Mountain Darrington mountain bike trail	Marbled murrelet	Construct a system of single-track mountain bike trails through a block of suitable but low-quality marbled murrelet habitat.
Northwest	3/23/2016	Concurrence	Flower Potts timber sale	Marbled murrelet	Remove three platform trees to enable road access through Criteria 2, newly identified, surveyed, unoccupied marbled murrelet habitat.
South Puget Sound	3/28/2016	Concurrence	East Tiger Inside Passage Trail	Marbled murrelet	Construct 476 feet of non-motorized trail through newly identified, suitable marbled murrelet habitat and 160 feet of non-motorized trail through Criteria 3 habitat.
South Puget Sound	4/25/2016	HCP Consultation	RMAP in Stavis NRCA	Marbled murrelet	Abandon road and remove culvert within unverified, potential marbled murrelet habitat. Proposal does not include any tree felling.
Pacific Cascade	5/10/2016	HCP Consultation	Washougal Rock Quarry unstable formation mitigation	NSO, multi-species	Permit private rock quarry owner to access unstable rock formation on their land via DNR land within 50 feet of a "medium value" cave and within NSO dispersal habitat. Remove 8–12 trees on proposed equipment route on DNR land.