WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PR 14-004-250

Protecting Harlequin Duck Nests

Date: August, 1999
Application: All west-side forested ecosystems covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan, including the Olympic Experimental State Forest Planning.

DISCUSSION

One of the department's overall objectives is to help maintain the geographic distribution of unlisted species that have small home ranges, which applies to the harlequin duck. This procedure describes the management strategies for activities that are next to or around a known harlequin duck nest. The harlequin duck is an unlisted species of concern. The department's objective is to protect the duck's breeding, foraging, and nesting habitat by minimizing disturbance. The objective will be achieved through implementing the riparian strategy with additional protection provided to known nest sites.

The riparian protection strategy, as well as the landscape's habitat objectives will provide the necessary measures to protect the harlequin duck's nesting habitat. However, this procedure identifies additional requirements for protecting known active harlequin duck nests.

Action

1. If the harlequin duck nest is found within 165 feet of the proposed activity, obtain assistance from a region or division wildlife biologist to determine if the nest is active (i.e., is in use or was likely used in the most recent breeding season).

   (a) If the nest is inactive, end the procedure.

   (b) If the nest is active, restrict any part of a proposed activity that would disturb nesting habitat. Restricted activities would include, but at not limited to, tree removal, herbicide application, broadcast burning, and road construction within 165 feet of the nest site between May 1 and September 1.

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