WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Protecting Gray Wolf Habitat

Date: August, 1999
Application: All forested ecosystems covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan.

DISCUSSION

The gray wolf is federally listed as an endangered species. This procedure describes the management strategies for activities that are within eight miles of a known class 1 gray wolf sighting. A class 1 sighting is defined as a gray wolf observation confirmed by a biologist and/or by photograph, carcass, vocalizations (howling), track, hair, or food cache. All management activities in the area covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan will adhere to state Forest Practices Rules and state wildlife regulations regarding activities in proximity to a known active gray wolf den site.

Additional conservation for the gray wolf will be provided by the improved wildlife habitat that will result from implementing the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, riparian, and road management strategies in the west-side planning units, including the Olympic Experimental State Forest, and by implementing the spotted owl and road management strategies in the east-side planning units.

Action

(1) Determine of the proposed management activity is within eight miles of a class 1 gray wolf sighting. If it is, proceed to Step 2. If not, end this procedure.

(2) Ensure the proposed management activity is in compliance with any existing gray wolf site-management plan. Contact region/division wildlife biologists if the plan requires modification because of additional information or changing conditions.

(3) Develop a gray wolf site-management plan, if no such plan exists, with the assistance of region/division wildlife biologist. Involve biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) early in the process. Submit the management plan to the USFWS for concurrence.

(4) The region manager will convene/coordinate a multi-agency science team in the event the USFWS does not concur that the management plan is adequate. The science team will determine whether the plan is adequate, and recommend modifications if the plan is determined to be inadequate.

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