Protecting Mineral Springs

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

DISCUSSION

This procedure describes the management strategies to protect the mineral spring ecosystems that are located on or near proposed management activities. A mineral spring is defined as a spring whose water contains enough mineral matter to give it a definite taste in comparison to ordinary drinking water (Bates and Jackson, 1987). Staining of the channel bed or channel banks can be evidence of water with concentrations of mineral matter. The *Table of Thermal and Mineral Spring Locations in Washington* (Korosec, 1980) lists the locations of all mineral springs within Washington State known to DNR's Geology and Earth Resources Division as of April 1980.

Mineral springs provide important resources to certain animal species such as the band-tailed pigeon. The protection strategy for mineral springs will incorporate identifying mineral springs, retaining adequate perch trees, and maintaining berry, fruit, and perch trees around the springs. Since mineral springs would be difficult, if not impossible, to restore or create, emphasis will be placed on protecting existing sites.

Comply with this procedure to retain the unique features associated with mineral springs.

Action

(1) Incorporate the following conservation measures into the management activity if the mineral springs occur in, or within 200 feet of, the management activity:

- Retain berry, fruit, and mast producing shrubs and trees where practicable, particularly in openings near the springs.

- Retain large green trees and snags within 25 feet of mineral springs for perching. These trees/snags will count toward any green tree and snag retention requirements for the proposed activity (see PR 14-004-210).

- Fall trees away from the spring.

- Avoid crossing mineral springs with yarding equipment or ground-based logging equipment.

- Continue to minimize herbicide use as directed by Forest Resource Plan.

APPROVED BY: Michael Perez Gibson, Manager

Forest Resources Division

August, 1999