WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Protecting Bald Eagle Nesting, Roosting, and Foraging Sites

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

DISCUSSION

The department will continue to protect bald eagle nests and communal roost sites by complying with state Forest Practices Rules and state wildlife regulations. When developing a site-management plan for bald eagle habitat pursuant to WAC 232-12-292, DNR will, where appropriate, consider protecting perch and pilot trees and foraging areas associated with nesting sites, winter roost trees, and winter feeding concentration areas in addition to nesting trees in the immediate vicinity.

This procedure describes the management strategies for activities that are next to or around known bald eagle nesting, roosting, or foraging habitat. The department's objective is to conserve bald eagle habitat by implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) riparian and large, structurally unique tree retention strategies (see PR 14-006-090). These strategies should result in an increased abundance and better distribution of large trees in streamside areas for bald eagle nesting and roosting, and in an increased abundance and better distribution of salmonid habitat, important to bald eagle foraging.

Action

(1) Ensure the proposed activity is in compliance with any existing bald eagle site-management plan. Consult with a region or division wildlife biologists if the plan requires modification because of additional information or changing conditions.

(2) Develop a bald eagle management plan, if no such plan exists, with the assistance of region/division wildlife biologists, that considers protecting perch and pilot trees, roosts, and foraging areas associated with nesting or roosting sites. Involve U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists early in the process. Submit the management plan to the USFWS for approval.

(3) The region manager will convene/coordinate a multi-agency science team in the event that 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.

APPROVED BY: Michael Perez Gibson, Manager
Forest Resources Division
August, 1999