WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PR 14-004-280

Protecting Pacific Fisher Dens

Date: August, 1999
Application: All west-side forested ecosystems covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan, including the Olympic Experimental State Forest Planning Unit, that are within designated northern spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging management areas.

DISCUSSION

One of the department's overall objectives is to contribute to the demographic support of populations of unlisted species with large home ranges on federal reserves, and to facilitate the dispersal of these wide-ranging species among federal reserves. This procedure describes management strategies for activities that are next to or around a pacific fisher den.

The Pacific fisher is currently considered an unlisted species of concern by the federal government. However, Washington State has proposed that the Pacific fisher be listed by the state as an endangered species. The department's objective is to protect the fisher's breeding habitat by minimizing disturbance. The objective will be achieved through implementing the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and riparian strategies, and by providing additional protection to known fisher den sites.

The spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and riparian strategies, and specific landscape planning objectives are expected to provide forest conditions suitable for fisher breeding, foraging, and resting habitat. Additionally, road use management directed at limiting human disturbance and reducing accidental trapping will likely increase denning success.

Comply with this procedure to ensure known Pacific fisher den sites are protected.

Action

1. Obtain the assistance of a region/division wildlife biologist to determine if a known Pacific fisher den that occurs within 0.5 mile of the proposed management activity is active (i.e., is in use or was likely used in the most recent breeding season).

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

(b) If the den is active, restrict any part of a proposed activity that would disturb resting habitat. Restricted activities would include, but are not limited to, tree removal, herbicide application, broadcast burning, and road construction within 0.5 mile of an active den between February 1 and July 31.

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August, 1999