



Preface



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2 The State of Washington Draft Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (FPHCP), dated
3 December 2004, and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated
4 January 2005, were made available for a 90-day public comment period on February 11,
5 2005 (U.S. Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 28, February 11, 2005, pages 7245-7247). In
6 addition to the Federal Register announcement, comments were also solicited via: 1) a
7 news release sent to news agencies and various Federal, State, tribal and local jurisdictions,
8 and 2) a letter along with the Draft FPHCP and DEIS mailed directly to individuals and
9 organizations included on the DEIS Distribution List (DEIS Chapter 7).

10 Eight public meetings were held during the public comment period to provide an
11 opportunity for interested parties to talk with project staff, ask questions, and submit
12 comments. Representatives of USFWS, NMFS, and DNR were available to discuss the
13 DEIS and answer questions. The following is a list of the locations and dates of those
14 meetings:

- 15 • Red Lion Hotel March 28, 2005
16 Port Angeles, Washington
- 17 • Squalicum Boat House March 29, 2005
18 Bellingham, Washington
- 19 • Sheraton Hotel March 30, 2005
20 Seattle, Washington
- 21 • Red Lion Hotel April 4, 2005
22 Kelso, Washington
- 23 • Gwinwood Christian Conference Grounds April 5, 2005
24 and Westwood Retreat Center
25 Olympia, Washington
- 26 • Red Lion Yakima Center April 6, 2005
27 Yakima, Washington
- 28 • Double Tree Hotel April 12, 2005
29 Spokane, Washington
- 30 • Ag and Trade Center April 13, 2005
31 Colville, Washington

32 Following the public comment period, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was
33 prepared. The FEIS is presented in two volumes. Volume I is an edited version of the
34 DEIS; deleted text is shown in strikethrough, and new text is shown in underline (or as
35 otherwise noted). Volume II details the public comments and the Services' responses to
36 public comments. Tables P-1 and P-2 list key changes that were made to the Draft FPHCP



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1 and DEIS. These tables do not identify all changes made; they only describe the changes
2 in wording that affect content, intent, or explanations of commitments contained in the
3 documents.

4 Table P-1 contains the major changes made to the Draft FPHCP since the document was
5 released for public comment in February 2005. Numerous changes were made primarily
6 for editorial reasons or purposes of clarification; such changes were not included in the
7 table. The location of text, table, or figure modifications is denoted by the subsection and
8 page number where the text appeared in the Draft FPHCP released for public comment.

9 Table P-2 contains the major changes made to the DEIS. Changes made for editorial
10 reasons or purposes of clarification were not included in this table. The location of text,
11 table, or figure modifications is denoted by the subsection where the text appears in the
12 FEIS.

13 **Environmentally Preferred Alternative**

14 The Services have identified Alternative 2 as the environmentally preferred alternative
15 because it provides the most long-term protection and conservation for riparian and aquatic
16 habitat for covered species. Under Alternative 2, riparian and aquatic habitat conservation
17 measures are substantially improved as compared to Alternative 1 (No Action) Scenario 2.
18 The Services expect the Adaptive Management Program under Alternative 2 to have the
19 most participation by Forests and Fish stakeholders as compared with all other alternatives.
20 The Services also expect the Adaptive Management Program to receive the most State and
21 other funding under Alternative 2 as compared with all other alternatives. Further, the
22 Services expect that under Alternative 2 landowners would be less likely to convert their
23 forestlands to other, non-forestry uses that would take those lands out of the FPHCP
24 covered land base as compared to Alternative 1 (No Action) Scenario 1, Alternative 3, and
25 Alternative 4. For all of these reasons, the Services have determined that Alternative 2 is
26 the environmentally preferred alternative.

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Table P-1. Major Changes Made to the Draft FPHCP.

Final FPHCP Subsection	Page # in the Final FPHCP	Summary of Major Changes Made to the draft FPHCP that appear in the final FPHCP
FPHCP	Throughout	The number of acres that the FPHCP covers was refined from 9.1 million acres to 9.3 million acres. GIS analysis for the draft missed approximately 228,000 acres of state land on the east side.
FPHCP	Throughout	Appendix B reference was changed to Appendix N. Appendix N is a new appendix for Schedule L-1
Executive Summary – The Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan	iv	Clarification made that landowners are not legally required to participate in the non-regulatory, collaborative elements of the Forest Practices program.
Executive Summary – Alternative 3	vii	Updated information about the No Surprises rule in reason #4.
Section 1-2.3 Funding	7	Information about Forest Practices program funding was added, including federal and state funding and in-kind contributions from stakeholders.
Section 1-2.3 Funding	8	Figure 1.1 added: “Appropriations for Forests and Fish 1999-2005.”
Section 1-2.4	10	An updated description of the No Surprises rule as it relates to the FPHCP, the Permits, and the Implementation Agreement was added. The history of No Surprises rule was removed.
Section 1-2.5	10-13	A more detailed description of changed circumstances was added - including natural events such as wildfire, winds, floods, disease/pest outbreaks or listing of new species.
Section 1-4	15, 16	A new subsection was added that more specifically describes non-covered activities and lands.
Section 1-5	17	Footnote #2 was added, clarifying the types of lands that are shown in Figure 1.2.
Section 1-5	19	Footnote #3 was added, clarifying the types of lands that are shown in Figure 1.3.
Section 1-5	20	Minor adjustment to several figures in Table 1.2.
Section 2-1	46	Discussion was included on the reasons why watershed analysis may have been a prohibitive process for some landowners and that many of the issues addressed in watershed analysis were important components of FFR. Correction was made to the number of completed watershed analyses statewide.
Section 2-1	47	Corrections made to the figures from the 1988-1991 DNR rate of harvest study.
Section 2-1	47	Information was added about the 1991-1993 DNR rate of harvest study.
Section 2-1	47	Updates on the protection of Northern Spotted Owls were added.
Section 2-1	51	Update on RMAP rules for small forest landowners based on FPB action in August 2005 was added.



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Section 2-1	52	Updates about the cultural resource watershed analysis module and rule package and the Cultural Resources Protection and Management Plan were added.
Section 2-3.6	67	Update on Washington’s Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution (Nonpoint Plan) was added.
Section 2-3.6	69, 70	Update on the annual report of accomplishments in implementing the Nonpoint Plan was added.
Section 2-3.9	72	Added a new section describing WDFW’s Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) process and its relationship with the Forest Practices program. An update on the integration of the forest practices permitting process with the HPA process was also added.
Section 4a-1.3	144	Update on the integration of the forest practices permitting process with the HPA process was added.
Section 4a-3.1	160-166	The section describing DNR’s compliance monitoring program was reorganized. New information was added about the preliminary assessment of the RMZ rules including sample size and population; data collection; measurement techniques; sampling unit; sampling method; preliminary assessment results; and preliminary assessment review. The future direction of the compliance monitoring program was updated, including a proposed timeline for rule review.
Section 4a-3.1	163	Added Table 4.1 - Western Washington Type 1 - Type 3 RMZ Preliminary Assessment Results.
Section 4a-3.1	163	Added Table 4.2 - Eastern Washington Type 1 - Type 3 RMZ Preliminary Assessment Results.
Section 4a-3.1	166	Added Table 4.3 - Proposed Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Timeline.
Section 4a-4	173	Information was added about Schedule L-1 of the FFR and its relationship to the Adaptive Management program. Added information about the process followed if there are changes proposed to resource objectives, performance targets, and research and monitoring priorities.
Section 4a-4.2	176	Information was added about the relationship between the CMER work plan and Schedule L-1, and CMER prioritization of programs.
Section 4a-4.2	178, 179	A summary of two completed high priority CMER studies was added: Type N Stream Demarcation Study and Desired Future Condition Study.
Section 4b	181, 182	Information was added on the role of Schedule L-1 as it relates to the conservation objective of the riparian strategy.
Section 4b-1	182, 183	Update was added on the FPB’s action regarding the water typing system - to continue following the original interim rule (WAC 222-16-031) while using new water type maps.
Section 4b-3.3	206	Footnote #1 of Figure 4.7 was added clarifying the lands managed under existing HCPs and the relationship to the lands covered by the FPHCP.
Section 4c	217	Information was added on the role of Schedule L-1 as it relates to the conservation objective of the upland strategy.
Section 4c-2.3	224	Data was added about the number of approved RMAPs from July 2001 to December 2004.



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Section 4c-2.3	224	Update was added on RMAP rules for small forest landowners based on FPB action in August 2005.
Section 4c-2.3	226	Table 4.13 was added detailing the Family Forest Fish Passage Program accomplishments from 2003-2005.
Section 4d-1.1	236, 237	Revised “Exempt 20-Acre Parcels” in section 4d-1.1 - Riparian Management Zones: Providing Large Woody Debris and Shade.
Section 4d-1.1	239	Added information regarding Type Np protection in relation to harvest strategies.
Section 4e-2	251	Information was added regarding recommendations from the recently completed CMER study - Type N Stream Demarcation Study.
Section 4e-3	252-254	Acreage and percentage figures were revised for the critical area acres under the minimal effects strategy and the FPHCP strategy. Acreage and percentage figures reported in the draft FPHCP were not consistent with acreage and percentage figures reported in Appendix K, and were updated based on revised stream mile figures.
Section 4e-3.1	254	Clarification added under “Implications” section regarding figures associated with the critical area acres identified in the minimal effects strategy.
Section 4e-4	263	Acreage and percentage figures were revised for the critical area calculations under the minimal effects strategy and the FPHCP strategy.
Appendix H		2005 CMER Work Plan was replaced with 2006 CMER Work Plan
Appendix J		New information added characterizing implementation of the 20-acre exempt rule - how many 20-acre exempt applications are Class IV General forest practices (likely conversions), and on post-harvest RMZ characteristics for 20-acre exempt forest practices.
Appendix K		Critical area acres were updated based on revised stream-mile figures.

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Table P-2. Major Changes Made to the DEIS.

Draft EIS Subsections	Summary of Major Changes Made to the DEIS that Appear in the FEIS
Preface	A preface was added to the FEIS to describe the public comment period and changes made to the DEIS as a result of those comments.
Summary	Text has been added to identify the preferred alternative.
Subsection 1.1.2	The presence of federally listed and candidate animal species that are not covered by the FPHCP, but that are known to occur on covered lands was clarified.
Subsection 1.1.2, Table 1-1	Dolly Varden was added to the species list; white sturgeon is now identified as an anadromous marine fish, and the spelling of several scientific names was corrected.
Subsection 1.1.2, Figure 1-1	The distinction between lands managed under existing HCPs and those proposed for inclusion in the FPHCP was clarified.
Subsection 1.5.2.5	Subsection 1.5.2.5 has been clarified to include antidegradation standards.
Subsection 2.3.1.2	The status of Washington Forest Practices Rules pertaining to upland wildlife habitat was clarified. Additional detail was provided concerning proposed changes in road maintenance and abandonment planning requirements for small forest landowners, as well as the operation of the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Additional information was provided about Washington Forest Practices Rules pertaining to habitat designations for upland wildlife species.
Subsection 2.3.2	Text has been added to identify the preferred alternative.
Subsection 2.3.2.1	Bulleted text was edited to clarify the outcome for total maximum daily loads. The description of the Scientific Review Committee was edited to update the status of Board Manual Section 22.
Subsection 2.3.2.2	The status of the 2006 CMER work plan was updated.
Subsection 2.3.3.1	The third bullet describing the expected outcomes of Alternative 3 was clarified.
Subsection 3.1	Figure 3-1. The distinction between lands managed under existing HCPs and those proposed for inclusion in the FPHCP was clarified.
Subsection 3.2.1	The numbers in Table 3-2 changed slightly.
Subsection 3.2.4.2	Two new subsections were added, with tables and discussions of timber harvest rates and timber supply.
Subsection 3.2.5	Additional information was provided about forestland conversion throughout the United States.
Subsection 3.5.1.3	Table 3-14. Washington State water quality standards for the major non-chemical parameters of concern were updated.
Subsection 3.5.1.4	A citation for the 2004 Water Quality Assessment was added.
Subsection 3.5.2.5	The relationship between road density and impacts on riparian areas was clarified, and several citations were added.
Subsection 3.6.3.1	The relationship was clarified between fire suppression-related fuel buildup and changes in fire frequency and intensity.
Subsection 3.7.2.2	The titles of subsections 3.7.2.2 and 3.7.2.3 were changed to reflect more closely the content of the discussions.
Subsection 3.10	The criteria for inclusion of wildlife species in Table 3-24 were clarified. Text was edited to acknowledge that factors other than timber harvest may influence the availability and distribution of forest structure classes.
Subsection 3.10.2.1	The nesting habitats of marbled murrelets were clarified. Additional information was provided about the current population status of marbled murrelets.



Table P-2. Major Changes Made to the DEIS.

Draft EIS Subsections	Summary of Major Changes Made to the DEIS that Appear in the FEIS
Subsection 3.10.2.2	The geographic extent of the spotted owl effectiveness monitoring plan was specified. A discussion was added that summarizes the results of the WDFW review of Forest Practices Rules regarding spotted owls, as well as the response of the Forest Practices Board.
Subsection 3.10.2.3	The nesting habits of bald eagles were clarified. Text was revised to clarify the current and anticipated distribution of seral stage classes in riparian areas. Threats to bald eagle nests on private lands in the absence of habitat protection rules were identified.
Subsection 3.10.4.3	Additional information was provided about the functions of large snags and down logs in late seral forests.
Subsection 4.2.3.1, Figure 4.2-2	Corrected the number of acres in the Moderate-Heavy Selective Harvest zone for the middle column of the chart (for Alternative 1-Scenario 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3)
Subsection 4.2.3.2	Additional information was provided about the associations between watershed development and aquatic system conditions.
Subsection 4.4.1.2	Additional information was provided about the road maintenance and abandonment planning requirements for small forest landowners and 20-acre exempt landowners.
Subsection 4.4.2.2	The risk assessment for unstable slopes under No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3 was modified to be consistent with other similar statements. The effect of bank stabilization measures under No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 1 was clarified.
Subsection 4.5.1.2	Text was revised to clarify the anticipated effects of pesticides on surface water quality under No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 2.
Subsection 4.6.2.1	Text was added to the overview of effects on forest vegetation to clarify the nature of available vegetation data and to add references.
Subsection 4.6.2.2	Text was added to the discussion of detailed effects on forest vegetation to clarify the basis of the percentages and the discussion on development of late seral forest characteristics.
Subsection 4.7.1.2	Information was provided about observations of harvest practices within RMZs on 20-acre exempt parcels.
Subsection 4.8.2.2	Additional information was provided about the potential for fine sediment to affect fish and fish habitat.
Subsection 4.8.3.2	Information was added about how increases in road density can affect fish and fish habitat.
Subsection 4.8.3.7	The likelihood of the alternatives to affect lakes, reservoirs, and nearshore marine areas was clarified.
Subsection 4.8.4	Information was added about the anticipated future need for and role of Watershed Analysis and text was added to clarify the basis of the percentages.
Subsection 4.10.1	Text was added to clarify the scope of the analysis of the effects of the alternatives on Washington Forest Practices Rules pertaining to State and Federal listed wildlife species.
Subsection 4.10.2.1	Additional information was added about the potential effects of the alternatives on upland wildlife species. Amphibians were added to the list of species that may benefit from increased snag densities and amounts of down woody debris under Alternative 4.



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Table P-2. Major Changes Made to the DEIS.

Draft EIS Subsections	Summary of Major Changes Made to the DEIS that Appear in the FEIS
Subsection 5.1	The scope of the cumulative effects analysis was clarified to specify that future effects are the primary consideration. Text was added to explain the basis for the review of applicable statutes, regulations, plans, and programs for the cumulative effects analysis.
Subsection 5.2	Text was added that directs readers to descriptions of HCP-covered lands.
Subsection 5.2.1	Text was added to clarify the environmental baseline for the cumulative impacts assessment.
Subsection 5.2.2.1	Text was added to clarify the cumulative effects of individual statutes, regulations, plans, and programs on listed species, as compared to current conditions and past impacts. Text was added to each discussion of individual statutes, regulations, plans, and programs. The text describes the relative effectiveness of the alternatives with regard to the protection of ESA-listed species.
Subsection 5.2.2.1	Text was added to clarify the responsibilities of the agencies who administer the Clean Water Act. Text was added to clarify historical changes in the focus of the agencies that administer the Clean Water Act. The role of the Washington Department of Ecology in administering the Clean Water Act was clarified.
Subsection 5.2.2.2	Text was added, clarifying the role of the Department of Ecology in establishing State water quality standards, as well as the information that is considered in that process. Text was added describing the role of the Department of Ecology in enforcing and revising Forest Practices Rules that govern water quality.
Subsection 5.3.1	Text was added to specify the resource parameters for the analyses of cumulative effects on the following resources: air quality; land ownership and use; aquatic resources; fish and fish habitat; cumulative watershed effects; vegetation; wildlife; archaeological, historical, and cultural resources; and the social and economic environment. Text was added throughout subsection 5.3 to clarify where current conditions were used as the basis for comparisons of the relative effects of the alternatives.
Subsection 5.3.3.1	Text was added to assess the cumulative effects of Alternative 2's riparian and upland strategies on water resources. Text was added to clarify the adaptive management process under Alternative 2.
Subsection 5.3.3.2	Text was edited to clarify the role of Forest Practices Rules in protecting fish and fish habitat. Text was added that specifies Federal, State, and local planning efforts and programs that have cumulative positive effects on aquatic habitat and fish resources. Text was added to clarify the location of streams that receive protection under Washington Forest Practices Rules. Additional information was provided regarding the potential for future ESA listings to influence the maintenance of properly functioning streams and recovery of degraded streams in forested watersheds with high proportions of private ownership. Text was added to compare the potential contribution of the alternatives to the recovery of listed species.
Subsection 5.3.3.3	The discussion of the cumulative watershed effects was revised to clarify the comparative levels of funding for riparian easement programs and support for adaptive management under Alternatives 2 and 3. Additional text was added to discuss riparian and upland strategies under Alternative 2.
Subsection 5.3.4.1	Text was revised to clarify which vegetation parameters are addressed in the cumulative effects analysis for vegetation. Text was also added to the discussion of effects on forest vegetation to clarify the basis of the percentages and the discussion on development of late seral forest characteristics.
Subsection 5.3.4.2	Text was revised to clarify which species are addressed in the cumulative effects analysis for wildlife.



Table P-2. Major Changes Made to the DEIS.

Draft EIS Subsections	Summary of Major Changes Made to the DEIS that Appear in the FEIS
Subsection 5.3.4.2, Cumulative Effects	The proportion of forestlands subject to Forest Practices Rules and the ownership percentages for western and eastern Washington were clarified or corrected. Additional information was provided regarding the potential for future ESA listings to influence the protection of amphibians, riparian-associated wildlife species, and upland wildlife species under No Action Alternative 1, Scenarios 1 and 2. Text was added to acknowledge the role of FPHCP riparian and upland strategies in protecting wildlife under Alternative 2. The discussion of the cumulative effects of current Washington Forest Practices Rules on wildlife was moved from Alternative 3 to Alternative 2. Text was added to the discussion of the cumulative effects of Alternative 3 on wildlife to summarize the alternative’s effects relative to those of the other alternatives. Percentage values were clarified for each of the alternatives.
Chapter 6	A number of references were added and a number were deleted (because they were not cited) from the list of references.
Chapter 7	Chapter 7 has been annotated to incorporate FEIS Volume II, Table 6.2-1.
Appendix A	A discussion of habitat trends was added to the Islands regional summary, and two works were added to the list of literature cited for Appendix A.
Appendix A	The discussion of tribal lands in the Olympic Coast regional summary was edited to identify the reservations that occur in the region.
Appendix B, Figure B-2	Corrected the number of acres in the Moderate-Heavy Selective Harvest zone for the middle column of the chart (for Alternative 1-Scenario 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3)

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