



Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy

Andrew Hayes

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Agenda

- Preferred Alternative (H)
- Alternative G
- Next Steps and Timeline

Preferred Alternative



WHAT

Long-term Conservation Strategy

DNR is developing a long-term marbled murrelet conservation strategy that does not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild and that will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate impacts.

DNR is developing the strategy consistent with its trust duties.


WHY | Interim strategy isn't permanent

DNR must fulfill its commitment to develop a long-term habitat conservation strategy and amend its 1997 *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan* (HCP).



Preliminary Preferred Alternative (November 2017)

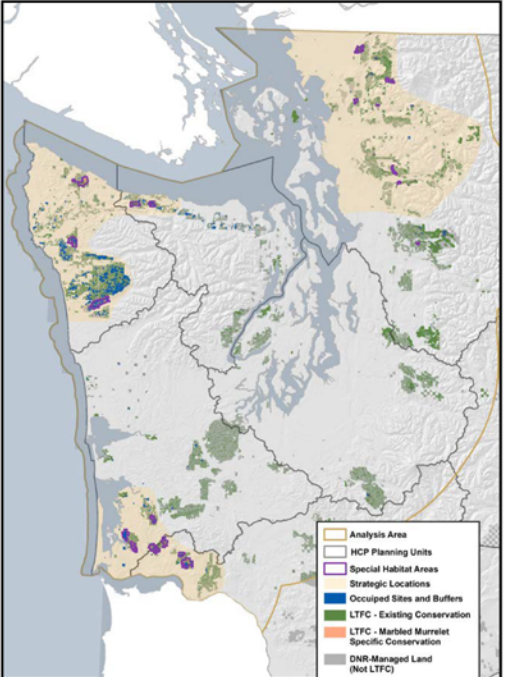
DNR staff presented a mockup alternative based on the Board's direction from the August 2017 Board retreat.

 WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Staff Recommended Alternative (draft)

Alternative Profile

The staff recommended alternative concentrates marbled murrelet conservation into **20 special habitat areas**. Long-Term Forest Cover (LTFC) totals approximately **620,000 to 624,000 acres**. These special habitat areas are designed to increase the nesting productivity of existing occupied sites in strategic locations by increasing interior forest and reducing fragmentation and edge effects on those sites. The proposed alternative also **meters the harvest of existing marbled murrelet habitat** outside of LTFC within areas important to the murrelet in order to delay the short-term impacts to the marbled murrelet population. In this proposal, **impacts to marbled murrelet habitat, including those from harvesting, roads and edges, are entirely offset by mitigation**, as measured by DNR and USFWS' analytical framework. Moreover, the proposed alternative incorporates conservation strategies and additional mitigation to address uncertainties identified by USFWS and DNR. Finally the proposed alternative **reduces financial impacts to specific trusts and counties, including Pacific, Wahkiakum, and Clallam** that were heavily impacted in other alternatives analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).



Note: All reported acres, adjusted acres, and revenue impacts are estimates based on initial assessments done to date. Complete analyses will follow in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Financial Analysis.

Legend:

- Analysis Area
- HCP Planning Units
- Special Habitat Areas
- Strategic Locations
- Occupied Sites and Buffers
- LTFC - Existing Conservation
- LTFC - Marbled Murrelet Specific Conservation
- DNR-Managed Land (Not LTFC)

Preliminary Preferred Alternative (November 2017)

- Designated 20 special habitat areas (SHA) in strategic locations
- Set a 100-meter buffer on all occupied sites, except 200-acre occupied sites in the OESF, which received a 50-meter buffer
- Metered harvest of existing habitat outside of long-term forest cover to reduce short-term impacts
- Adjusted number and size of SHAs (as compared to Alternative D) to meet Board direction



Board Direction

Guiding Principles

- **Minimize impacts to murrelets**
 - Conserve all existing occupied sites
 - Capture existing habitat within conservation areas
 - Meter habitat in strategic locations
- **Offset impacts and address uncertainty**
 - Apply buffer to occupied sites
 - Locate conservation areas in strategic locations
 - Increase interior forest
- **Reduce disproportionate financial impacts**



Board Direction

Goals

- Comply with Endangered Species Act and HCP
- Reduce short-term impacts by using strategies such as metering harvest of habitat until habitat in long-term forest cover develops
- Appropriately mitigate uncertainties and risks associated with the long-term conservation strategy
- Ensure no trust or beneficiary is unduly impacted



Work Since November: Data Updates

- Ensured old-growth forest is part of long-term forest cover:
 - Added field-verified old-growth forest
 - Identified and added potential old-growth forest
- Corrected error of forest stands increasing in P-stage too quickly
- Corrected inventory data to ensure P-stage is applied correctly to stands that are at least 70 years old



Work Since November: Data Updates

- Updated northern spotted owl habitat layer
- Included disposed lands that will continue to be managed as mitigation under the terms of the HCP

Work Since November: New Information

- Metering included in preferred alternative but not incorporated into the analytical framework
- DNR regions provided operational feedback

Data Updates Affected All Alternatives

Alternative	Long-term Forest Cover (DEIS)	Long-term Forest Cover (updated)
Alternative A	620,000	600,427
Alternative B	593,000	576,401
Alternative C	636,000	617,204
Alternative D	634,000	618,016
Alternative E	640,000	621,971
Alternative F	734,000	742,875

Preferred Alternative (H)

Increased mitigation:

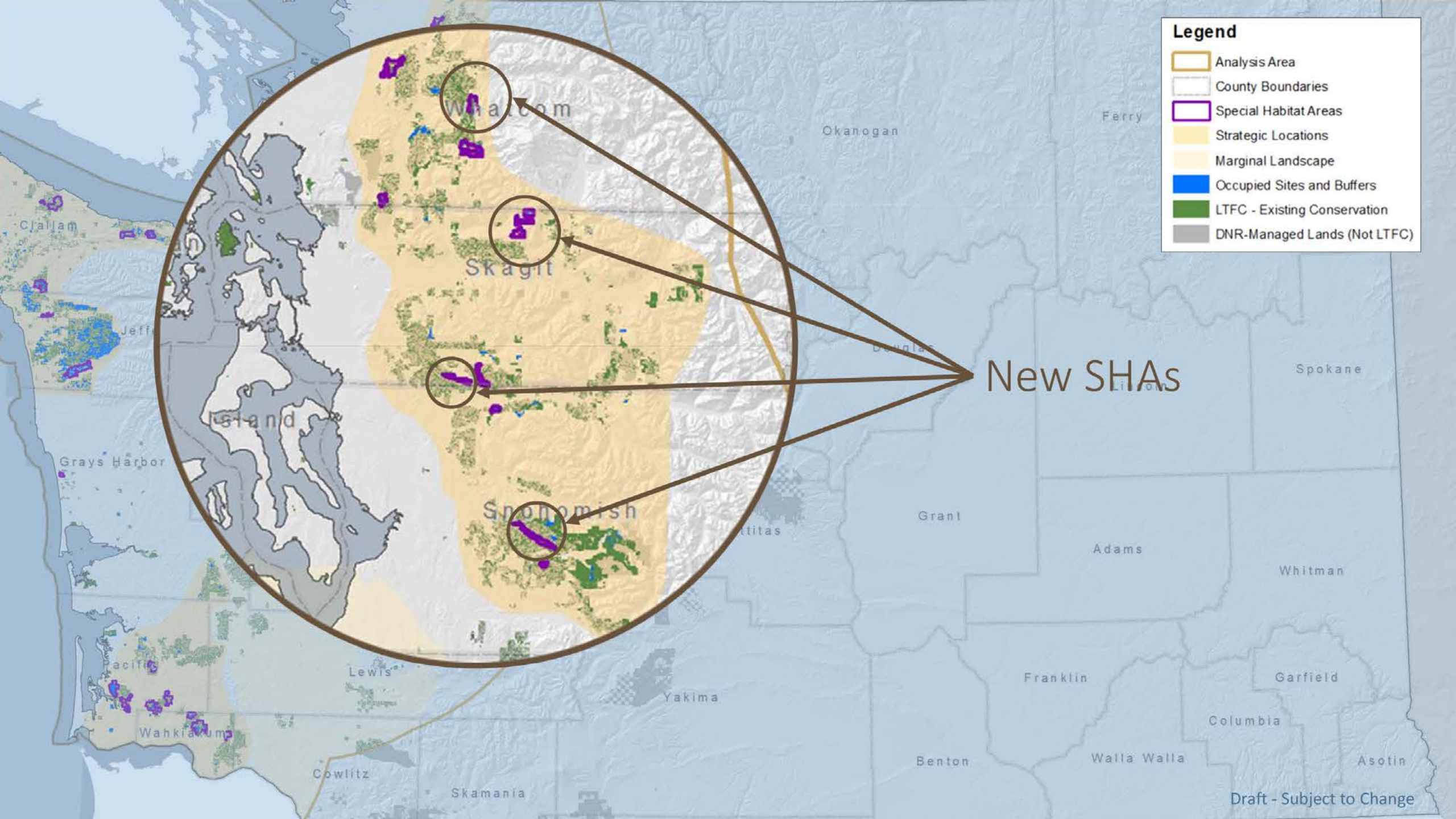
- Added 10 SHAs in strategic locations, removed one SHA that provided little support for mitigation – total of 29 SHAs
- Placed 100-meter buffers on occupied sites regardless of size or location
- Maintained habitat capacity over the planning period through landscape metering



By the Numbers

	Preliminary Preferred Alternative (Nov. 2017)	Alternative H (Preferred Alternative)
Long-term forest cover	620,000 to 624,000 acres	610,000 acres
Marbled murrelet specific conservation	37,000 to 41,000 acres	43,000 acres
Occupied sites and buffers	88,000 acres	92,000 acres
Number of SHAs	20	29
Acres of SHAs	50,000 acres	58,000 acres
Estimated epsilon	400 adjusted acres	735 adjusted acres

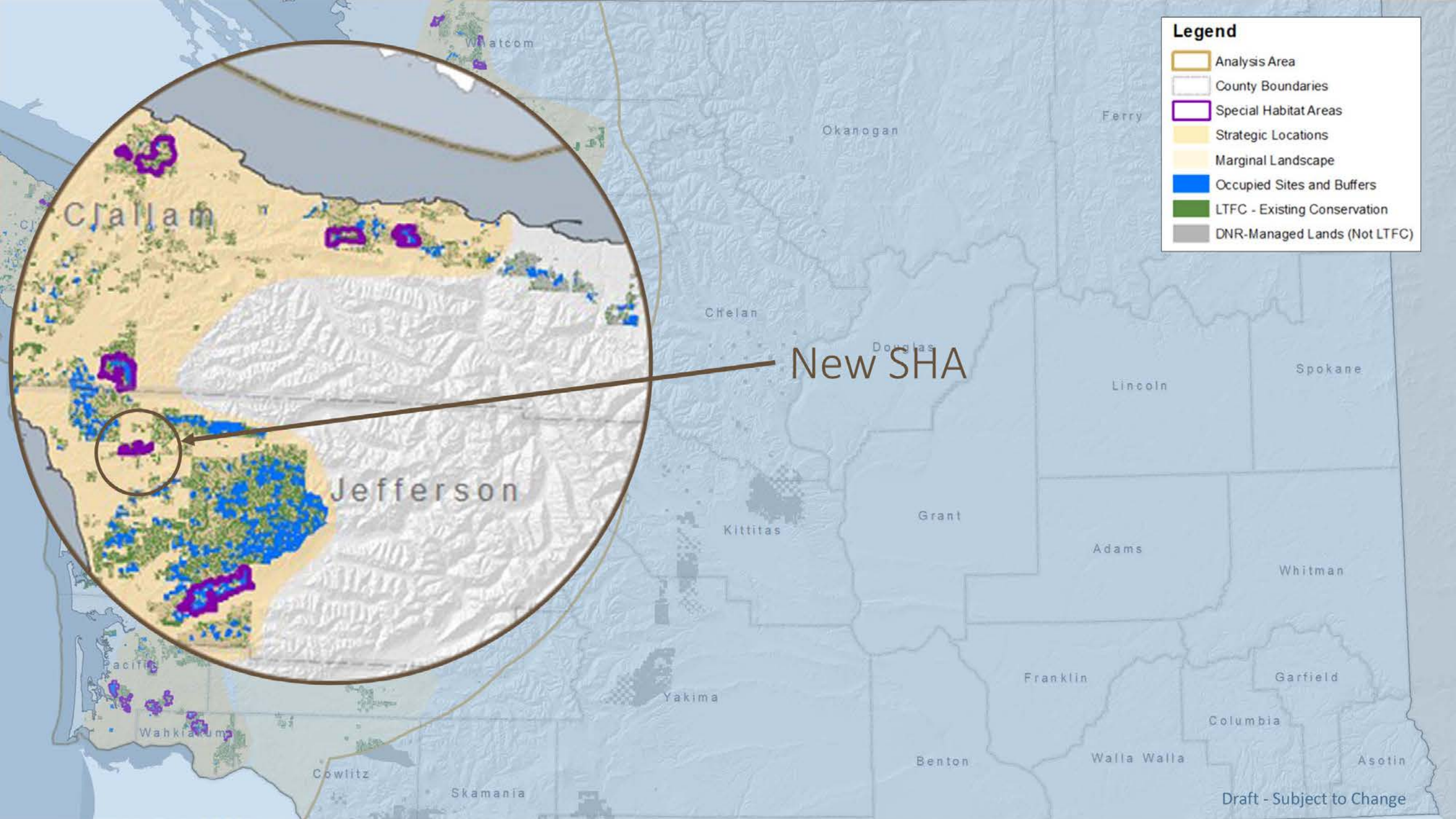




Legend

- Analysis Area
- County Boundaries
- Special Habitat Areas
- Strategic Locations
- Marginal Landscape
- Occupied Sites and Buffers
- LTFC - Existing Conservation
- DNR-Managed Lands (Not LTFC)

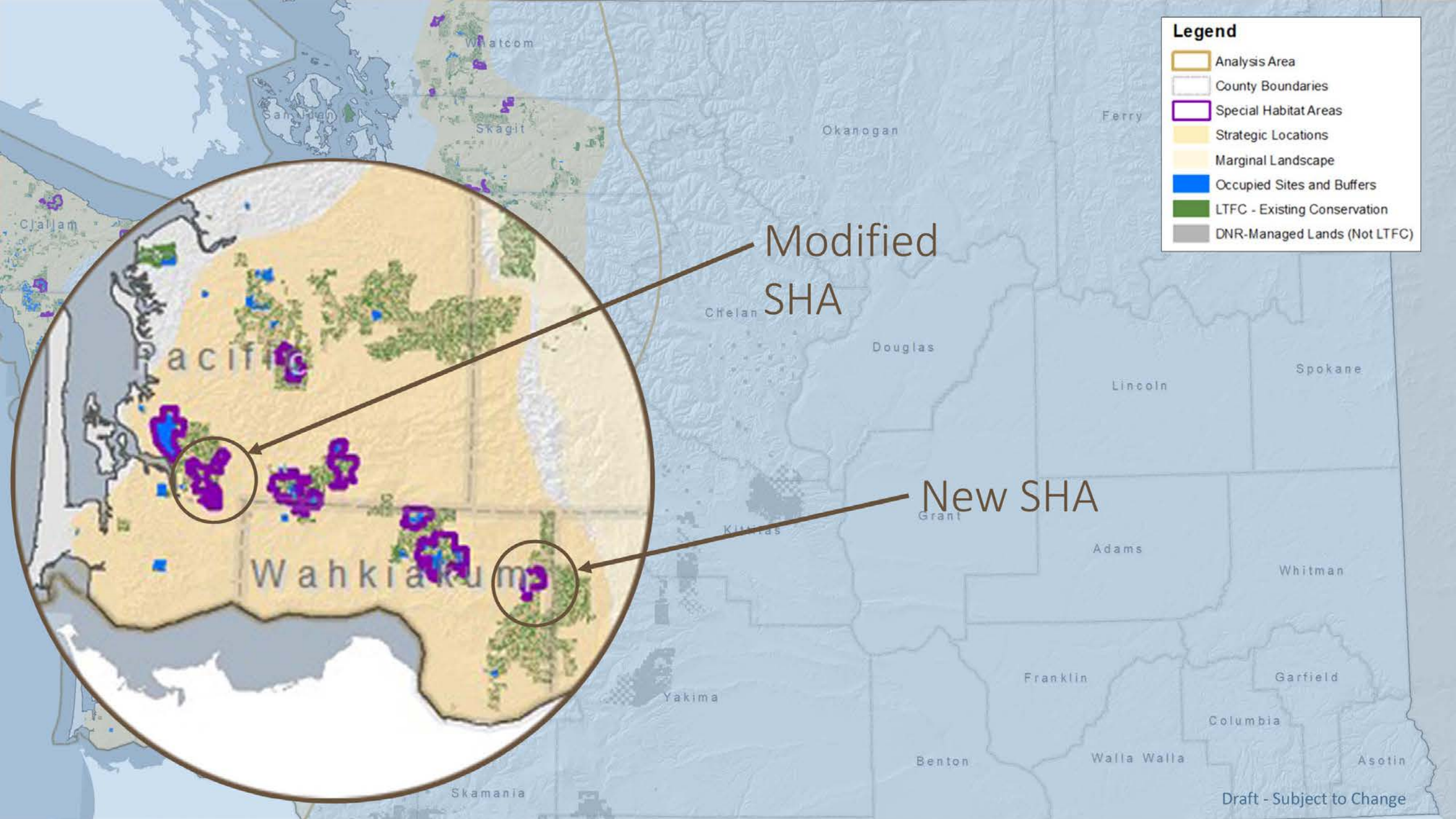
New SHAs



Legend

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New SHA



- Legend**
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Modified
SHA

New SHA

Alternative G

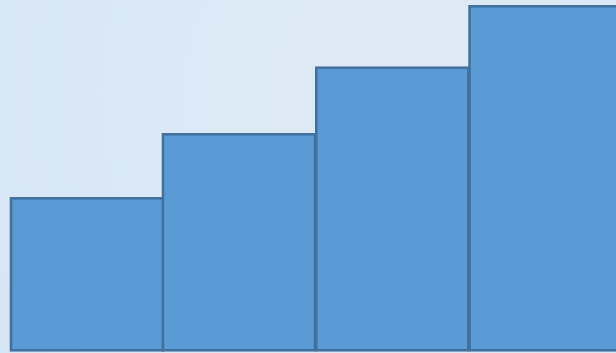


Alternative G

New alternative developed in response to comments on DEIS; includes:

- All habitat with a P-stage value of 0.47 and higher throughout the analysis area
- All habitat with a P-stage greater than zero in the OESF
- Emphasis areas as designated under Alternative C
- Special habitat areas as designated under Alternative D
- Marbled murrelet management areas in the Elochoman block as drawn for Alternative F, plus four areas in the North Puget HCP Planning Unit
- 100-meter buffers on all occupied sites

Next Steps and Timeline



Next Steps

- Complete RDEIS under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
- Complete HCP amendment





Selection of alternative

Work on RDEIS

Work on HCP Amend.

Release Revised Draft EIS

Submit HCP Amendment To USFWS

60 day Public Comment Period

60 day Public Comment Period



Prepare Final EIS

Prepare Final Amendment

Additional Approval Steps

- Biological opinion
- Section 10 Endangered Species Act findings
- NEPA record of decision
- Incidental take permit
- Board resolution



