

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	4
Title and # of Issue:	State Forests Management – Issue 2 Objective 2 – Endangered Species Act Compliance Tools
Date of Presentation:	November 1, 2007
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SUMMARY

The status of the Elliott State Forest planning process will be reported to the Board of Forestry (Board), including both the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a general update on the status of the Elliott State Forest's FMP and HCP revision process.

CONTEXT, BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Elliott State Forest currently has an FMP and an HCP for the northern spotted-owl. Approval of the HCP in 1995 enabled the US Fish and Wildlife Service to issue the Department a 60-year Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for the northern spotted-owl and a 6-year ITP for the marbled murrelet, which expired October 3, 2001. The marbled murrelet ITP was issued only for a 6-year period because little was known about the murrelet at that time.

The current HCP revision process, which began in February 2000, is seeking to provide coverage for the northern spotted-owl, marbled murrelet, and other species. The process is currently in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase, which requires an analysis of the "federal action area." The NEPA analysis is referred to as an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS), and a draft EIS (DEIS) is being prepared. This DEIS along with the draft multi-species HCP is scheduled for release for public comment under NEPA in March 2008.

NEXT STEPS

The Board will receive project updates throughout 2008. A decision on the adoption of an HCP is currently anticipated in early 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) *Summary Points - Elliott State Forest Management and Habitat Conservation Plans, September 2007*
- (2) *Elliott State Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan Update, September 21, 2007*