

Elliott State Research Forest Habitat Conservation Plan Frequently Asked Questions

What's the status of the Elliott habitat conservation plan?

Drafting of the Elliott habitat conservation plan (HCP) is in process. The Department of State Lands and Oregon State University are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to refine the plan.

A working draft of the HCP is [now available](#). Feedback on this working draft will help DSL and OSU make further refinements before a draft is submitted to the federal agencies for review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA process includes a formal public review and comment period.

What information will be included in an HCP for the Elliott?

The Elliott HCP will include information about:

- The affected environment and practices aimed at protecting and enhancing habitat for endangered and threatened species.
- The research and forest management activities covered by the permits.
- What effect those activities may have on species included in the permits: the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and Oregon Coast Coho.
- How any effects of those activities will be avoided, minimized, and mitigated.

What's the difference between the research forest proposal and the HCP? How does a future forest management plan fit in?

The HCP, OSU's Elliott State Research Forest Proposal, and a future forest management plan are all key pieces in managing the Elliott as a research forest.

OSU's research forest proposal outlines an approach to research and the research design that will guide future experiments and management of the forest. Information in the proposal helped develop the draft HCP, which reflects terms and conditions necessary for OSU to implement a research forest in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. The analysis in the HCP is focused on how the research forest proposal may influence three federally listed species: northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and Oregon Coast Coho. The future forest management plan will describe in more detail how the forest will be managed to allow the research design to be implemented. OSU is leading the forest management planning process and will have opportunities for the public to engage as the plan develops.

When did work on the Elliott HCP begin?

DSL initiated the HCP process in 2018, contracting with ICF to develop the plan. As work on the plan began, DSL was examining alternative management options for the Elliott at the direction of the State Land Board. In December 2018, the Land Board directed DSL and OSU to explore an Elliott State Research Forest, including continued development of an HCP for the forest.

What comes next in the Elliott HCP process?

DSL anticipates submitting the draft Elliott HCP to the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service in summer 2021 so those agencies can begin a formal review of the HCP under NEPA. USFWS will lead that federal process with support from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The entire process is expected to be completed by fall 2022.

How can I learn more about habitat conservation plans in general?

This [USFWS fact sheet](#) provides an overview of habitat conservation plans under the Endangered Species Act.