



## Western Oregon State Forests HCP

### *Summary of Key Draft HCP Changes from March 2021*

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) completed the administrative draft of the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in March 2021. The completion of the administrative draft HCP allowed NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to begin the environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Since the completion of the administrative draft HCP ODF has completed an internal review process, which invited district staff to review the HCP to confirm the feasibility of implementation, should the HCP be approved. ODF has also continued to work with the Scoping Team to refine and clarify language in the HCP. There were some notable changes that resulted from the internal review and additional work with the Scoping Team. Those changes will be incorporated into Public Draft HCP, which will be released for public review during the NEPA process. The notable changes to the HCP between October 2020 and March 2021 are as follows:

#### **Chapter 1 – Introduction**

- Updated species status tables.
- Added clarifying language on ODF's responsibilities when operating off ODF lands, in locations where access is governed by easements.

#### **Chapter 2 – Environmental Setting**

- Minor updates to add clarity and consistency of covered species information across the document.

#### **Chapter 3 – Covered Activities**

- Removed herbicide application as a covered activity.
- Updated information on roads, including a provision to clarify that vacating existing roads will only occur when it is ecological beneficial to do so.
- Describe landings and water drafting as road-related activities, rather than stand-alone activities.
- Updated information on quarries, borrow sites, and stockpiles to reflect activities more accurately in the field.
- Updated description of water drafting.
- Continued coordination with ODF staff and federal agencies on standards for implementing recreation infrastructure.

#### **Chapter 4 – Conservation Strategy**

- Conservation Action 8 – Management Outside HCAs
  - Standardize the definition of dispersal habitat for NSO across the document.
  - Updated leave tree, snag, and downed wood standards to provide clarity during implementation.
- Conservation Action 10 – Operational Restrictions
  - Clarified requirements for aquatic restoration activities in designated occupied marbled murrelet habitat.
  - Clarified and narrowed scope of requirements for trash management.



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- Clarified requirements for seasonal restrictions, inside and outside of HCAs, for northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and red tree vole.
- Added standards and metrics for water drafting to minimize effects on stream flow and temperature.
- Revised standards for trash management to focus them on designated occupied marbled murrelet habitat.
- Clarified fuels management allowances in HCAs to protect long-term habitat objectives.

#### **Chapter 5 – Effects Analysis**

- Minor edits for clarity and consistency.

#### **Chapter 6 – Monitoring and Adaptive Management**

- Minor edits for clarity and consistency.

#### **Chapter 7 - Assurances**

- Minor edits for clarity and consistency.

#### **Chapter 8 - Implementation**

- Minor edits for clarity and consistency.

#### **Chapter 9 – Cost and Funding**

- Minor edits for clarity and consistency.

#### **Chapter 10 – Alternatives to Take**

- Minor edits for clarity and consistency.

#### **Appendix I – Unstable Slopes Evaluation**

- Updated for clarity and consistency, including revisions to figures.