N A T U R A L R E S O U R C E S

FINAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

September 1997

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands

Authority

This Plan was approved and adopted by the Board of Natural Resources (Resolution 96-911, November 5, 1996).

Board of Natural Resources

The following individuals were seated on the Board at the time of adoption.

Jennifer Belcher, *Chair, Commissioner of Public Lands*
Judith Billings, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*
David Thorud, *Dean, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington*
Dorothy Duncan, *County Commissioner representing the Forest Board counties*
Bob Nichols, *Executive Policy Division, OFM - designee for Governor Mike Lowry*
James Zuiches, *Dean, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Washington State University*

Jennifer M. Belcher
Commissioner of Public Lands

September 1997

Dear Reader:

The Washington Department of Natural Resources manages 3 million acres of state lands in trust for common schools, state universities, other public institutions, and county services. About 2.1 million acres are forestlands.

As a prudent trust manager, the department follows all applicable laws, including the Endangered Species Act. Since 1990, when the northern spotted owl was listed as a threatened species, the department has been subject to continually changing requirements for the management of state forest lands, resulting in uncertainty and instability that is expected to increase due to the prospect of additional species being listed as threatened or endangered in the future. At the same time, current regulations don't necessarily provide certainty or stability for the future of the protected species.

The department is charged with preserving the productivity of the trusts in perpetuity, which we believe requires protecting the long-term health of forests and the ecosystem. We therefore began to look for a better way to manage the state's forested trust lands and protect threatened and endangered species. The Endangered Species Act offers such an option through the creation of a habitat conservation plan (HCP), which allows more flexibility in land management activities and innovation in protection of threatened wildlife.

With assistance from wildlife experts, our own silvicultural experts, trust beneficiaries, and the public, I believe the Washington State Department of Natural Resources has developed an HCP that will keep state trust lands at the forefront of excellence in forest land management. At the same time, our HCP will provide certainty, stability, and flexibility to both the trusts and wildlife.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER M. BELCHER
Commissioner of Public Lands

Department of Natural Resources
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Acronyms

ACRONYMS USED IN THE TEXT OF THE HCP

dbh	Diameter at breast height
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEMAT	Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
NRF	Nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat
OESF	Olympic Experimental State Forest
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WAU	Watershed Administrative Unit

ACRONYMS USED IN CITATIONS

C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
LULC	Land Use/Land Cover (GIS data layer)
MPL	Major Public Lands (GIS data layer)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
PFRT	Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team
PHS	Priority Habitat and Species
U.S.C.	U.S. Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WDF	Washington Department of Fisheries (merged into WDFW in 1994)
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDW	Washington Department of Wildlife (merged into WDFW in 1994)
WFPB	Washington Forest Practices Board
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ACRONYMS WITH LIMITED USE IN THE TEXT (I.E., ONE TO TWO PAGES)

ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit (Chapter III - salmonids and riparian areas)
HAU	Hydrologic Analysis Unit (Chapter IV - riparian conservation strategy)
NAP	Natural Area Preserve (Chapter I - land covered)
NRCA	Natural Resource Conservation Area (Chapter I - land covered)
PFA	Post-fledgling family area (Chapter IV - multispecies conservation strategy)
TFW	Timber/Fish/Wildlife Agreement
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area (Chapter I - planning area organization)

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