

December 2005

To Interested Parties:

I am pleased to present the final Washington State Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan. The Washington Department of Natural Resources, on behalf of the state of Washington, has prepared this document as part of an ongoing process to provide protection of aquatic species while also providing a regulatory climate conducive to a viable forest products industry.

This habitat conservation plan covers over 9 million acres of state and private forestland and represents a unified and coordinated conservation effort among state, federal, tribal and local governments, environmental interests, and small and large forest landowners. This successful partnership will help preserve healthy forests and clean streams for our wild salmon and other aquatic species, provide for a healthy forest products industry, and secure the sustainable and responsible management of our forests, now and for future generations.

I want to thank the many people who participated in this process, and I want to especially thank my Federal Assurances Manager, Debora Brown Munguia and her team, and the many folks from the federal agencies, other state agencies, and interested parties, who put in many long hours to ensure this plan was complete and thorough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Sutherland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

