



CONTENTS

GLOSSARY G-1

SUMMARY S-1

1. PURPOSE AND NEED 1-1

 1.1 Introduction 1-1

 1.1.1 Structure of the Endangered Species Act 1-1

 1.1.2 Washington State’s Forest Practices Habitat
 Conservation Plan (FPHCP) 1-3

 1.1.3 Process for Obtaining Take Assurances 1-11

 1.2 Purpose and Need for Action 1-12

 1.2.1 Purpose for Action 1-12

 1.2.2 Need for Action 1-12

 1.2.3 Decisions to be Made 1-12

 1.3 Background and Context 1-15

 1.3.1 Washington Forest Practices Regulatory Program 1-15

 1.3.2 Washington State Legislative Directive Regarding Federal
 Assurances 1-18

 1.4 Scoping and the Relevant Issues 1-18

 1.4.1 Scoping Process 1-19

 1.4.2 Issues Identified During Scoping 1-20

 1.5 Relationship to Other Plans, Regulations, and Laws 1-23

 1.5.1 Federal Regulations 1-23

 1.5.2 State Regulations 1-25

 1.6 Organization of this EIS 1-27

2. ALTERNATIVES 2-1

 2.1 Introduction 2-1

 2.2 Alternative Development 2-1

 2.3 Alternatives Analyzed in Detail 2-2

 2.3.1 Alternative 1 (No Action) 2-3

 2.3.2 Alternative 2 (Issuance of Two Incidental Take Permits
 and Implementation of an HCP) 2-35

 2.3.3 Alternative 3 (Implement a Conservation Plan with a
 NMFS Section 4(d) Limit 13 Approval and USFWS 4(d)
 Take Exemption) 2-41

 2.3.4 Alternative 4 (Increased Forest Ecosystem Protections) 2-43

 2.4 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Analysis 2-48

 2.4.1 Alternative with Fewer Restrictions on Landowners than
 the Proposed FPHCP 2-48

 2.4.2 Alternative with a Reduced Permit Duration or the
 Elimination of a “No Surprises” Provision 2-48

 2.4.3 Alternative with a Higher Protection/Restriction Level 2-49



Contents

3.	AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	3-1
3.1	Introduction	3-2
3.2	Land Ownership and Use	3-5
3.2.1	Introduction	3-5
3.2.2	Existing Habitat Conservation Plans	3-9
3.2.3	Land Ownership and Use by Region	3-9
3.2.4	Timber Harvest Rates for Western and Eastern Washington	3-14
3.2.5	Forestland Conversion	3-16
3.3	Air Quality	3-23
3.4	Geology, Soils, and Erosional Processes	3-25
3.4.1	Geology and Soils	3-25
3.4.2	Erosion	3-28
3.5	Water Resources	3-37
3.5.1	Surface Water Quality	3-37
3.5.2	Surface Water Quantity	3-43
3.5.3	Groundwater Quantity and Quality	3-50
3.6	Vegetation	3-53
3.6.1	Forest Vegetation	3-53
3.6.2	Riparian Vegetation	3-58
3.6.3	Disturbance Agents	3-59
3.6.4	Threatened and Endangered Plants	3-63
3.6.5	Invasive Plants	3-63
3.7	Riparian and Wetland Processes	3-65
3.7.1	Riparian Areas	3-65
3.7.2	Wetlands	3-71
3.8	Fish and Fish Habitat	3-77
3.8.1	Introduction	3-77
3.8.2	Fish Status in Washington	3-77
3.8.3	Life History of Covered and Affected Fish Species	3-78
3.8.4	The Freshwater Aquatic Ecosystem	3-94
3.8.5	Fish and Fish Habitat by Analysis Region	3-102
3.9	Amphibians and Amphibian Habitat	3-111
3.9.1	Introduction	3-111
3.9.2	Amphibian Distribution, Status, and Habitat	3-112
3.9.3	Review of Timber Harvest Effects on Amphibians	3-118
3.10	Birds, Mammals, Other Wildlife and Their Habitats	3-123
3.10.1	Introduction	3-123
3.10.2	Federally Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species	3-125
3.10.3	Importance of Riparian Habitats to Wildlife	3-132
3.10.4	Wildlife in Upland Forested Habitats	3-134
3.11	Recreation	3-137
3.11.1	Introduction	3-137
3.11.2	Estimates of Future Recreational Needs	3-138
3.11.3	Private Lands and Recreation	3-139

Contents



3.11.4	Forest Road-related Recreation	3-139
3.12	Visual Resources	3-141
3.12.1	Introduction	3-141
3.12.2	Visual Resources and the Current Washington Forest Practices Rules	3-143
3.13	Archeological, Historical, Cultural and Indian Trust Resources	3-145
3.13.1	Introduction	3-145
3.13.2	Archaeological Overview	3-145
3.13.3	Cultural and Trust Resources of Native American Tribes	3-148
3.13.4	Overview of Regional History	3-150
3.13.5	Washington State Protective Structure	3-151
3.14	Social and Economic Environment	3-153
3.14.1	Introduction	3-153
3.14.2	Population	3-153
3.14.3	Employment and the Economy	3-154
3.14.4	Environmental Justice	3-161
4	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	4-1
4.1	Introduction	4-2
4.1.1	Analysis Area	4-3
4.1.2	Review of the Alternatives	4-3
4.1.3	Available Information	4-6
4.1.4	Evaluation Criteria and Effects Evaluations	4-6
4.1.5	Adaptive Management	4-7
4.2	Land Ownership and Use	4-23
4.2.1	Introduction	4-23
4.2.2	Evaluation Criteria	4-23
4.2.3	Evaluation of Alternatives	4-23
4.3	Air Quality	4-31
4.3.1	Introduction	4-31
4.3.2	Evaluation Criteria	4-31
4.3.3	Evaluation of Alternatives	4-31
4.4	Geology, Soils, and Erosional Processes	4-35
4.4.1	Surface Erosion	4-35
4.4.2	Mass Wasting	4-45
4.5	Water Resources	4-61
4.5.1	Surface Water Quality	4-61
4.5.2	Surface Water Quantity	4-75
4.5.3	Groundwater	4-80
4.6	Vegetation	4-85
4.6.1	Evaluation Criteria	4-85
4.6.2	Forest Vegetation	4-85
4.6.3	Threatened and Endangered Plants	4-89
4.6.4	Invasive Plants	4-91
4.7	Riparian and Wetland Processes	4-93
4.7.1	Riparian Processes	4-93
4.7.2	Wetlands	4-152



Contents

4.8	Fish and Fish Habitat	4-161
4.8.1	Introduction	4-161
4.8.2	Evaluation Criteria	4-163
4.8.3	Evaluation of Alternatives	4-168
4.8.4	Synthesis by Analysis Region	4-203
4.9	Amphibians and Amphibian Habitats	4-225
4.9.1	Evaluation Criteria	4-225
4.9.2	Evaluation of Alternatives	4-227
4.10	Birds, Mammals, Other Wildlife, and their habitats	4-237
4.10.1	Evaluation Criteria	4-237
4.10.2	Evaluation of Alternatives	4-237
4.11	Recreation	4-245
4.11.1	Introduction	4-245
4.11.2	Recreation Use in Riparian Management Zones	4-246
4.11.3	Effects of Forestland Conversion	4-251
4.11.4	Effects on Anglers	4-252
4.12	Visual Resources	4-253
4.12.1	Introduction	4-253
4.12.2	Effects of Harvest in Riparian Management Zones	4-254
4.12.3	Effects of Forestland Conversion	4-255
4.13	Archeological, Historical and Cultural Resources	4-257
4.13.1	Statutory and Regulatory Context	4-257
4.13.2	Evaluation Criteria	4-261
4.13.3	Evaluation of the Alternatives	4-262
4.14	Social and Economic Environment	4-265
4.14.1	Introduction	4-265
4.14.2	Employment and the Economy	4-268
4.14.3	Non-Use and Ecosystem Service Values	4-278
4.14.4	Environmental Justice	4-280
5.	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS	5-1
5.1	Introduction	5-1
5.2	Context for Analysis	5-2
5.2.1	Land Ownership and Past and Present Land Uses	5-2
5.2.2	Statutes, Regulations, Plans, and Programs	5-5
5.3	Analysis of Cumulative Effects	5-29
5.3.1	Air Quality	5-29
5.3.2	Land Ownership and Use	5-30
5.3.3	Aquatic Resources	5-31
5.3.4	Vegetation and Wildlife	5-41
5.3.5	Social and Economic Environment and Archeological, Historical, and Cultural Resources	5-47
6.	REFERENCES	6-1
7.	DISTRIBUTION LIST	7-1
8.	LIST OF PREPARERS	8-1

Contents



Appendix A	Regional Summaries
Appendix B	Riparian Modeling
Appendix C	Forest Practices Salmon Recovery Act of 1999
Appendix D	Road Density



Contents

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1.	Species Potentially Covered by an ITP under ESA Section 10(a) or Take Authorizations under ESA Section 4(d).....	1-5
Table 1-2.	Acreage and Ownership Breakdown of Forestlands Subject to the Washington Forest Practices Regulatory Program.....	1-8
Table 1-3.	Schedule and Locations of Public Scoping Meetings.	1-19
Table 1-4.	Federal and State Permits, Approvals, or Processes that may be Required for Forest Practices Activities Governed by the State.	1-28
Table 1-5.	Other Federal and State Environmental Review and Consultation Requirements.	1-30
Table 2-1.	Option 1, Thinning from Below.	2-11
Table 2-2.	Option 2, Leaving Trees Closest to Water.....	2-12
Table 2-3.	Outer Zone Riparian Leave Tree Requirements for Western Washington.....	2-13
Table 2-4.	Eastern Washington RMZ Widths for Streams Less than or Equal to 15 Feet Wide.	2-15
Table 2-5.	Eastern Washington RMZ Widths for Streams Greater than 15 Feet Wide.	2-15
Table 2-6.	Inner Zone Harvest Prescriptions for the Ponderosa Pine Habitat Type.	2-17
Table 2-7.	Inner Zone Harvest Prescriptions for the Mixed Conifer Habitat Type.....	2-18
Table 2-8.	Western Washington Riparian Leave Tree Requirements for Exempt 20-acre Parcels.	2-21
Table 2-9.	Down Wood Guidelines for Salvage Logging in Western Washington and Eastern Washington High Elevation Habitat Type RMZ Inner Zones.....	2-23
Table 2-10.	Down Wood Requirements for all Timber Harvest in Eastern Washington RMZ Inner Zones.....	2-24
Table 2-11.	Western Washington RMZ Widths and Leave Tree Requirements (No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 2).	2-30
Table 2-12.	Eastern Washington RMZ Widths and Leave Tree Requirements (No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 2).	2-31
Table 2-13.	Riparian Buffer Widths under Alternative 4.....	2-45
Table 3-1.	Land Ownership Acreage in Washington State by Analysis Region.	3-6
Table 3-2.	Acreage of Washington State in General Land Cover/Use Categories by Analysis Region.....	3-7
Table 3-3.	Ownership and Management of Forestlands in Washington State by Analysis Region.....	3-8

Contents



Table 3-4.	Completed Habitat Conservation Plans in Washington State (as of October 2004).....	3-10
Table 3-5.	Western Washington Timber Harvests by Ownerships, 1949-2002.....	3-15
Table 3-6.	Washington Timber Harvests in Thousand Board Feet (MBF) by Ownerships, 1949-2002.....	3-15
Table 3-7.	Eastern Washington Timber Harvests by Ownerships, 1949-2002.....	3-16
Table 3-8.	Acres of Forestland in Washington State by Ownership in the early 1930s.....	3-17
Table 3-9.	Conversion of Commercial Forestland in Washington State by Ownership and Land Use, 1945-1970 (In Thousand Acres).....	3-18
Table 3-10.	Acres of Forestland by Land Class in Washington State, 1970 (In Thousand Acres).....	3-18
Table 3-11.	Changes in Forestland Area by Ownership and Land Use in Washington State from 1978-1991.....	3-19
Table 3-12.	Acres of Forestlands Converted to Other Uses by Year.....	3-20
Table 3-13.	Forest Practices Applications and Acres of Converted Forestland in King County, 1990 through 1998.....	3-22
Table 3-14.	Washington State Water Quality Standards for the Major Non-Chemical Parameters of Concern.....	3-41
Table 3-15.	Stream Miles by Analysis Region and Ownership in Washington State.....	3-45
Table 3-16.	Total and Forested Stream Miles and Stream Miles on Lands Subject to Washington Forest Practices Rules by Analysis Region in Washington State.....	3-46
Table 3-17.	Federally Listed and Candidate Plant Species in Washington, their Habitat, and their Current and Potential Distribution.....	3-64
Table 3-18.	Estimated Percent of Each Seral Stage along Forested Streams on Private Lands.....	3-70
Table 3-19.	Estimated Percent of Each Seral Stage along Response Reaches of Forested Streams for Western Washington Analysis Regions.....	3-72
Table 3-20.	Approximate Wetland Area as a Percentage of Forested Ownership, by Region and Wetland Type.....	3-75
Table 3-21.	Covered Fish Species with Federal or State Listed Status in Washington State.....	3-79
Table 3-22.	Percentage of Stream Miles among Forested Ownership Categories and Non-forest by Analysis Region in Washington State.....	3-104
Table 3-23.	Distribution of the Selected Amphibian Species by Analysis Region.....	3-111



Contents

Table 3-24.	Washington Special Status and High Profile Species on Covered Lands.	3-124
Table 3-25.	Acreage of Public Lands by Categories Defined by the Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation.	3-138
Table 3-26.	Percent Forestland and Percent of Forestland that is Subject to Washington Forest Practices Rules by Analysis Region.	3-142
Table 3-27.	Federally-Recognized Tribes of Washington and Adjacent States with Cultural Interests in Washington Forests.	3-149
Table 3-28.	Culturally Important Plant and Animal Resources for Native American Tribes in Washington.	3-150
Table 3-29.	State of Washington Distressed Counties, 2003.	3-155
Table 3-30.	Washington Employment by Sector, 1990 and 2000.	3-156
Table 3-31.	Timber Harvest by Ownership and Location, 2001.	3-158
Table 3-32.	Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Expenditures in Washington in 2001.	3-160
Table 4.1-1.	Differences Between the Alternatives in the Effectiveness of Their Adaptive Management Research and Monitoring Programs in Meeting Resource Performance Targets and Differences in Species Coverage by Federal Assurances (ITPs or ESA Section 4(d) Take Authorization).	4-8
Table 4.7-1.	Site Potential Tree Height (SPTH) for Douglas-fir at 100 years and 250 years for Western and Eastern Washington.	4-94
Table 4.7-2.	Percentage of Total Stream Miles Found in the Sample Sections by Seral Stage, and Estimated Time Scales for Recovery of Each Riparian Parameter.	4-104
Table 4.7-3.	Wetland Management Zone (WMZ) Characteristics By Alternative.	4-154
Table 4.7-4.	Percent of Forested Wetlands in Sample Sections Incidentally Protected through Establishment of Wetland Management Zones and RMZs.	4-157
Table 4.7-5.	Percent of Wetland Management Zones in Sample Sections on Forestlands Incidentally Protected through the Establishment of RMZs Under the Alternatives.	4-158
Table 4.8-1.	Percentage of Full Protection for LWD Recruitment to Streams under a 100-year Site Potential Tree Height Assumption Based upon the LWD Equivalent Buffer Area Index Analysis.	4-179
Table 4.8-2.	Percentage of Full Protection for LWD Recruitment to Streams under a 250-year Site Potential Tree Height Assumption Based upon the LWD Equivalent Buffer Area Index Analysis.	4-179
Table 4.9-1.	Estimate of Future Protection in Total Number of RMZ Acres Under All Alternatives for Western and Eastern Washington.	4-233
Table 4.11-1.	Estimated Eastern Washington Acres in Riparian Management Zones by Alternative.	4-247

Contents



Table 4.11-2.	Estimated Western Washington Acres in Riparian Management Zones by Alternative.	4-248
Table 4.14-1.	Estimated Reductions in Average Annual Harvest by Alternative (million board feet [MBF]).....	4-270
Table 4.14-2.	Estimated Percent of Harvest from State and Private Lands Affected in Each County by Alternative (Compared to No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 2).	4-273
Table 4.14-3.	Tribal Employment by Industry, 2000.	4-282
Table 5-1.	Habitat Conservation Plans in Washington State (as of June 1, 2004).....	5-4
Table 5-2.	Marbled Murrelet Designated Critical Habitat in Washington by Ownership and Land Allocation.	5-43



Contents

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1.	Map of Lands Covered by the Washington Forest Practices Regulatory Program.....	1-9
Figure 2-1.	Western Washington RMZ Characteristics by Alternative.....	2-9
Figure 2-2.	Eastern Washington RMZ Characteristics by Alternative.....	2-16
Figure 3-1.	Analysis Regions and Covered Lands in Washington.....	3-4
Figure 3-2.	Physiographic Provinces of Washington State.....	3-25
Figure 3-3.	Forest Vegetation Zones.....	3-55
Figure 3-4.	Distribution and ESA Status of Chinook Salmon within Washington State.....	3-81
Figure 3-5.	Distribution and ESA Status of Chum Salmon within Washington State.....	3-81
Figure 3-6.	Distribution and ESA Status of Coho Salmon within Washington State.....	3-82
Figure 3-7.	Distribution of ESA Status of Sockeye Salmon within Washington State.....	3-82
Figure 3-8.	Distribution and ESA Status of Steelhead within Washington State.....	3-83
Figure 3-9.	Distribution and ESA Status of Bull Trout within Washington State.....	3-83
Figure 3-10.	Washington Timber Harvest by Owner, 1990 to 2002.....	3-158
Figure 4.1-1.	Comparison of the Effectiveness of Adaptive Management Research and Monitoring Program in Meeting Resource Performance Targets for No Action Alternative 1-Scenario 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3.....	4-10
Figure 4.2-1.	Estimated RMZ Areas (acres) on Private Lands in Western Washington by Alternative.....	4-25
Figure 4.2-2.	Estimated RMZ Areas (acres) on State and Private Lands in Eastern Washington by Alternative.....	4-26
Figure 4.4-1.	Equivalent Buffer Area Index (EBAI) for Sediment Summed for all Streams, Fish-Bearing Streams, Perennial Non-fish Streams, and Seasonal Non-fish Streams, by Alternative Normalized by Assuming 100 Percent Protection is Provided by a 30-foot No-Harvest Buffer Width.....	4-43
Figure 4.4-2.	Equivalent Buffer Area Index (EBAI) for Sediment Summed for all Streams, Fish-Bearing Streams, Perennial Non-fish Streams, and Seasonal Non-fish Streams, by Alternative Normalized by Assuming 100 Percent Protection is Provided by a 200-foot No-Harvest Buffer Width.....	4-44

Contents



Figure 4.4-3.	Percent Effectiveness of Root Strength in Relation to the Distance from the Stream Channel.....	4-57
Figure 4.7-1.	Relationship between the Estimated Level of LWD Recruitment Potential and RMZ Width Used in the Alternative Evaluation.	4-95
Figure 4.7-2.	Relationship between the Estimated Level of Leaf and Needle Litter Recruitment and RMZ Width Used in the Alternative Evaluation.	4-97
Figure 4.7-3.	Relationship between the Estimated Level of Shade Protection and RMZ Width Used in the Alternative Evaluation.	4-99
Figure 4.7-4.	Relationship between the Estimated Level of Protection for Microclimate and RMZ Width Used in the Alternative Evaluation.	4-99
Figure 4.7-5.	Western Washington RMZ Characteristics by Alternative.	4-101
Figure 4.7-6.	Eastern Washington RMZ Characteristics by Alternative.	4-102
Figure 4.7-7.	Equivalent Buffer Area Index (EBAI) for LWD Summed for All Fish-Bearing, Non-Fish Perennial, and Non-Fish Seasonal Streams on the Westside, by Alternative, Assuming a 100-year Site Potential Tree Height.	4-107
Figure 4.7-8.	Equivalent Buffer Area Index (EBAI) for LWD for All Fish-Bearing, Non-Fish Perennial, and Non-Fish Seasonal Streams on the Eastside, by Alternative, Assuming a 100-year Site Potential Tree Height.	4-108
Figure 4.7-9.	Equivalent Buffer Area Index (EBAI) for LWD Summed for All Fish-Bearing, Non-Fish Perennial, and Non-Fish Seasonal Streams on the Westside, by Alternative, Assuming a 250-year Site Potential Tree Height.	4-109
Figure 4.7-10.	Equivalent Buffer Area Index (EBAI) for LWD for All Fish-Bearing, Non-Fish Perennial, and Non-Fish Seasonal Streams on the Eastside, by Alternative, Assuming a 250-year Site Potential Tree Height.	4-110
Figure 4.11-1.	Estimated Percent of Eastern Washington Private and State Lands in Riparian Management Zones by Alternative.	4-249
Figure 4.11-2.	Estimated Western Washington Private Lands in Riparian Management Zones by Alternative.	4-250
Figure 5-1.	Forestlands in Washington State by Broad Protection/Conservation Category.	5-6
Figure 5-2.	Timber Harvest and Lumber and Wood Products Employment, 1969 to 2000.	5-51

