



HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

QUICK FACTS

Q1 What is an HCP?

The County's plan to help building permit applicants meet federal Endangered Species Act requirements that affect county permits. The HCP acts as a permitting umbrella to cover County & federal permit approvals in a single process.

Q2 Why is the County doing an HCP?

To make getting a building permit faster, easier and more affordable with one-stop permitting. Without the HCP, applicants with ESA-species need a federal permit.

Q3 Will gopher inspections still happen?

Seasonal gopher inspections will end. Instead, the applicants will follow the County's HCP permitting process, available all year-long.

Q4 How will this impact County economy?

The HCP makes more properties financially feasible to develop. Without it, the burden of development time, costs and uncertainties rest entirely on applicants working directly with federal regulators.

Q5 How much will it cost me?

The County is investing resources to reduce cost of ESA compliance for property owners and property owners have of control over their cost. Less impact = less cost.

IMPORTANT

Don't have ESA-listed species on your property?
No need to worry about this!

LOOK ONLINE

ThurstonHCP.org

ASK STAFF

HCPinfo@co.thurston.wa.us

READ THE LAW

Endangered Species Act
www.fws.gov/endangered/laws-policies/

PROVIDE YOUR INPUT

Aug 18-Oct 4, 2022
Online open house & public comment period

Oct 4, 2022 @ 3:30 p.m.
Public Hearing

Open House

Comment on the proposed
HCP code updates

AUGUST 18-OCTOBER 4





Q6 How does this improve conservation?

A large-scale reserve system will replace the current piecemeal mitigation process and it will be professionally managed. With the HCP, Property owners no longer have to manage conservation on their own property.

Q7 Will the HCP ensure the species survival?

Federal regulators are actually responsible for the recovery of animals. The HCP describes how the County will offset and manage species impacts it permits.

Q8 When will the HCP be implemented?



DEFINITIONS you might hear when talking about the HCP

- 1. Mitigation:** Making up for environmental impacts on a Covered Species by providing an equal environmental benefit for the Covered Species.
- 2. Incidental Take Permit (ITP):** The County expects to get a Federal permit issued under the Endangered Species Act for projects it permits that might result in the take (or harm) of an endangered or threatened species.
- 3. Certificate of Inclusion:** Document issued by Thurston County that enrolls a landowner into the HCP for purposes of obtaining coverage under the county's ITP.
- 4. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** Government document that outlines the impact of the County HCP to sensitive environmental resources like air or water; impacts to cultural resources; or community impacts like increased traffic.