



HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

HCP Permitting Process

BACKGROUND

The proposed Thurston HCP is a countywide plan to provide Endangered Species Act permits and mitigation for capital improvement projects (e.g., roads, schools, fire stations) and development (e.g., commercial buildings, residential developments, accessory structures) over the next 30 years.

The HCP will coordinate mitigation to maximize benefits to the Covered Species, as well as provide benefits to other species that use prairie and riparian habitat. The plan strikes a balance between natural resource conservation and economic growth in the county.



STREAMLINED PERMITTING



The HCP replaces the project-by-project site reviews and mitigation process property owners and project developers currently must complete. Such a process carries uncertainties associated with time and costs. The HCP provides a more predictable, streamlined, and local permitting process for public and private development in Thurston County, saving time and effort to project applicants. A third-party report showed the proposed HCP makes development more feasible on sites with HCP-covered species habitat.

COVERED ACTIVITIES

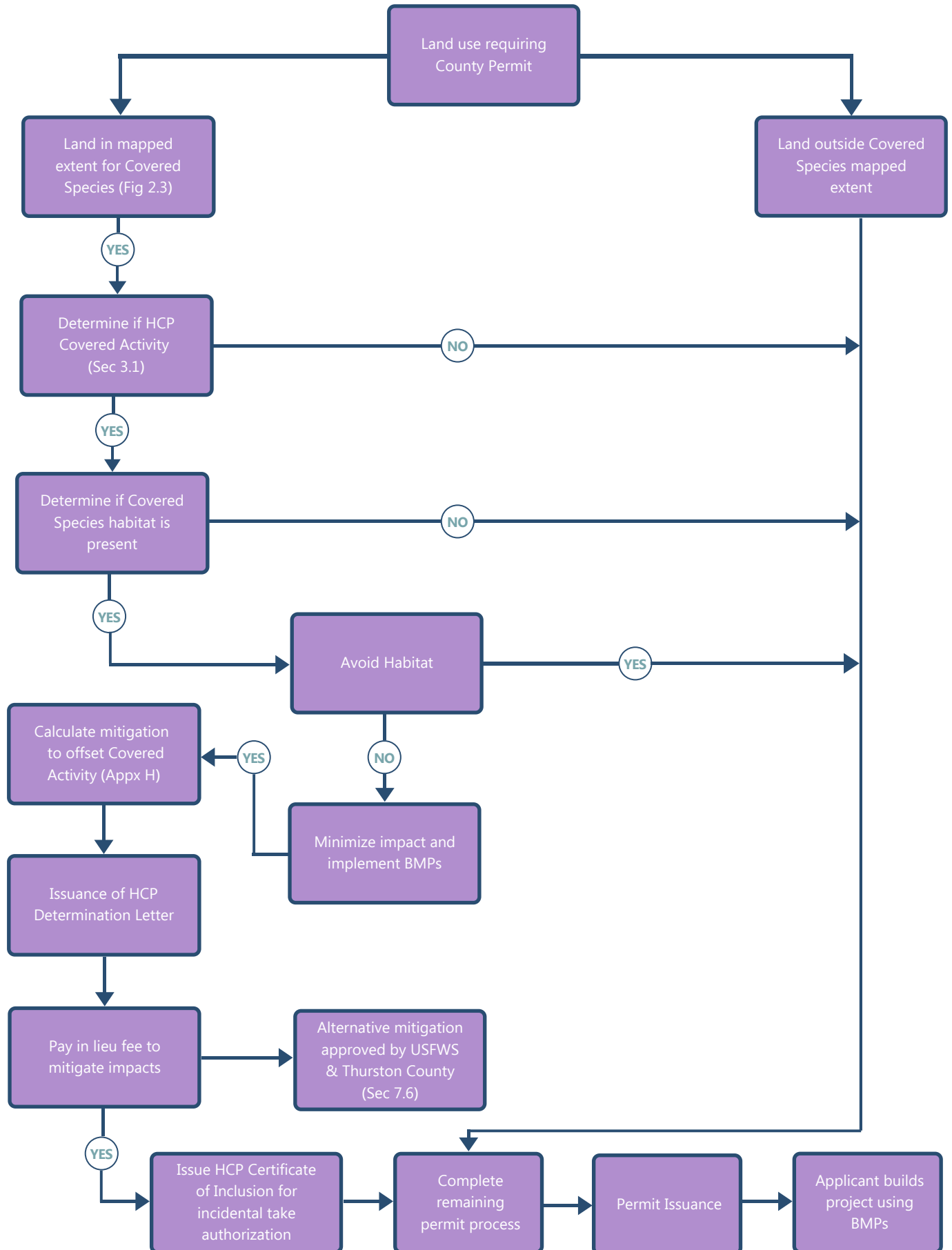
The HCP details existing land use conditions and land use plans in Thurston County to help identify activities that will have effects on covered species and their habitat. As a result of the HCP, the County will obtain incidental take authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for covered activities. Mining activities will not be covered.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION

The Thurston HCP requires project applicants to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid and minimize take of covered species and impact on habitat. The BMPs provide predictable and consistent requirements for project applicants. Permitting staff will evaluate projects to ensure project applicants incorporate all applicable BMPs. Design changes will be requested if HCP BMP's aren't used. Visit Thurston HCP website and read Appendix C "Best Management Practices" for the full description.



PROCESS FOR PROJECT APPROVAL UNDER THE THURSTON HCP FOR PROJECT COVERED BY THE PLAN



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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