THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

Thurston County

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

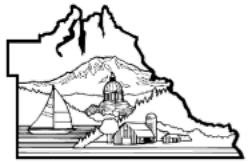
Benefit of HCP

Local Control

The Thurston HCP moves compliance with federal endangered species laws for public and private activities from federal agencies to the local level. The County administers the permits with wildlife agency oversight to streamline the existing process while still providing comprehensive regulatory coverage for currently listed species and those that may be listed in the future

Improved and increased species conservation

Coordinated conservation planning through the Thurston HCP provides significant benefits to endangered and threatened species as it replaces piecemeal mitigation and adds conservation beyond mitigation.



Streamlined permitting process

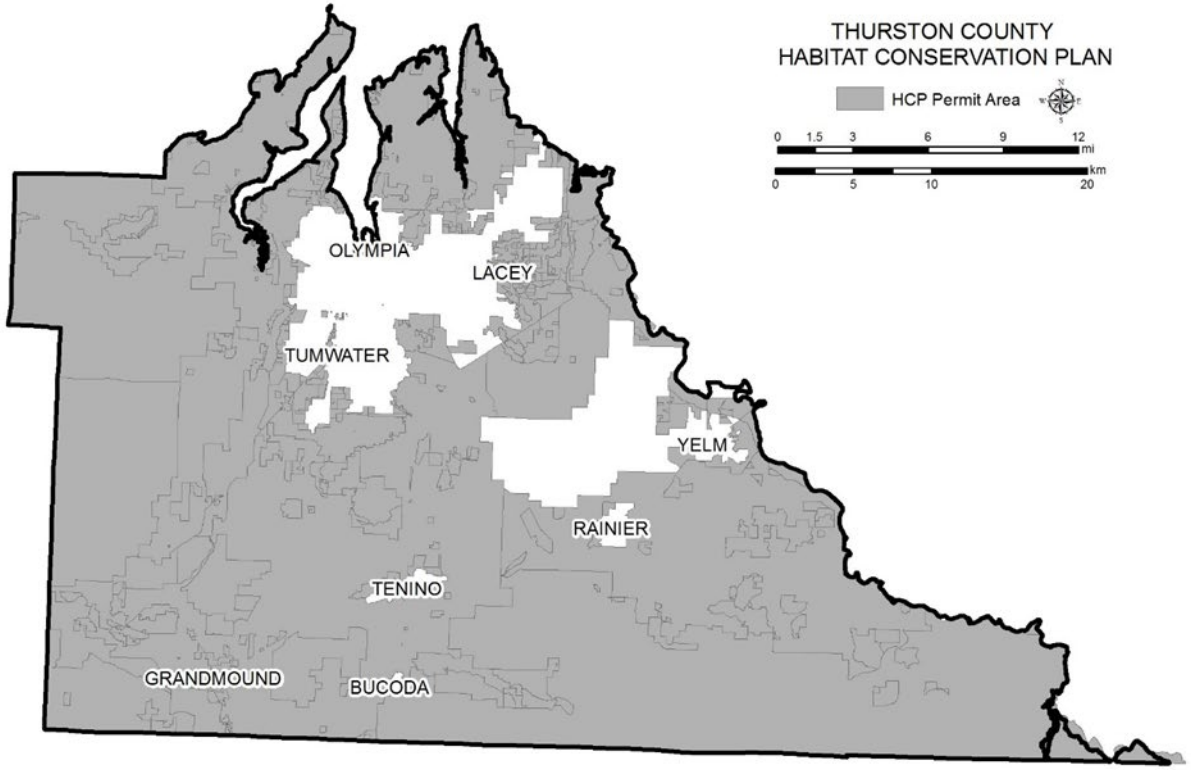
The Thurston HCP replaces the project-by-project, mitigation process characterized by uncertainties associate with timing, costs, and litigation, providing an economic benefit to project proponents. This provides an economic benefit to public agencies and other public projects in the form of streamlines Endangered Species Act permitting.

Permit Term and Covered Area

Thurston County HCP is proposing a 30-year permit term

Permit Covered Area includes the unincorporated area of Thurston County. This is both the UGA of each city and rural Thurston County.

The areas not covered are properties located with the city limits of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Tenino, Yelm and Town of Bucoda.



Covered Species

County has proposed to cover five species/sub-species which are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Oregon Spotted frog,
- Taylors Checkerspot butterfly, and
- 3-sub species of the Mazama Pocket gopher (Olympia, Tenino, Yelm pocket gopher)

In addition, the county choose to include the Oregon vesper sparrow. This species is currently under review for listing under the ESA and resides on similar habitat as the Mazama pocket gopher sub-species.

Covered Activities

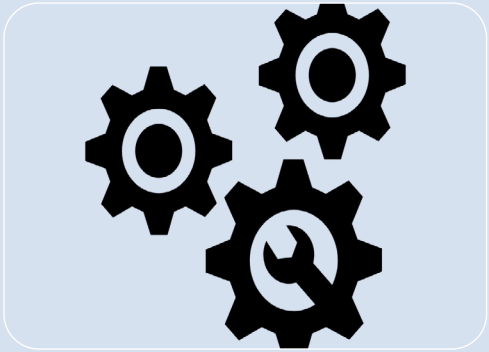
Residential Activities

- Subdivisions
- Single Family Homes
- Shops
- Sheds
- Septic/Well

Industrial/Commercial Activities

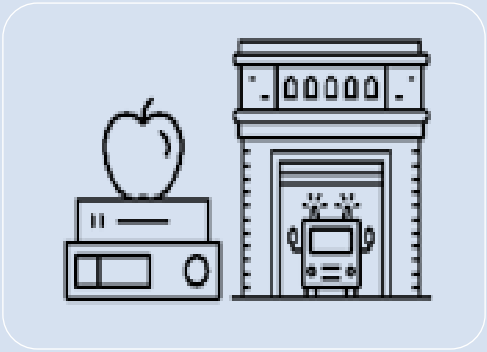
- Warehouses
- Shopping complex

*Mining activities are **not** included. These activities will need to obtain a project specific HCP through USFWS



Capital Improvement

- Roadway
- Stormwater
- Power
- Water
- Sewer
- Parks/Trails



Public Services Activities

- Schools
- Fire Stations

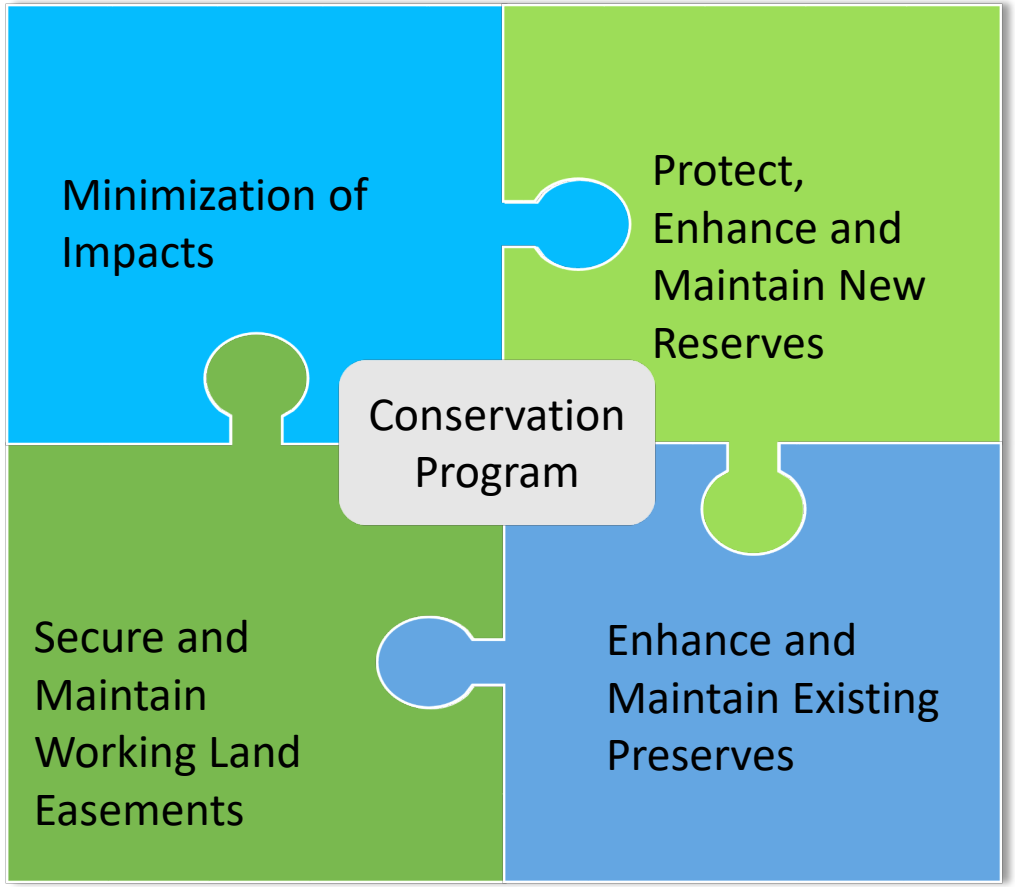
The activities listed are examples and not a complete list.

Conservation Program

Central to the Conservation Program are mitigation measures to minimize impacts and to build the Thurston County Conservation Land System.

The Conservation Land System will expand on the existing network of protected lands that are managed for covered species and their habitats.

The Conservation Land System will create mitigation credits to off-set the impacts form the Covered Activities.



Implementation

- County permit applicants can obtain ESA coverage under the HCP through Certificate of Inclusion.

- County applicant will work with Permitting Staff to minimize impacts to maximum extent practicable to reduce impacts (debits).

- Applicants can secure a Certificate of Inclusion by paying a Mitigation Fee, dedicating land, or purchasing credits from an independent mitigation bank

Cost and Funding

- The County's estimated an average annual cost to fully implement the HCP. Costs of the include:
  - Conservation Program administration,
  - Conservation land acquisition (includes easements),
  - Restoration, enhancement, management and maintenance

- Conservation Program will be funded through a mix of Mitigation Fees and County Conservation Futures funds.

NEPA Timeline

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
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Notice of Intent

- 30 Day Comment Period

Draft EIS

- 45-Day Comment Period

Final EIS

- 30 Day Appeal

Record of Decision Issued

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
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Submit Comments to:

Enter address