How should the County communicate about building under its HCP?

December 5, 2018 Listening Session
Meeting Agenda

Topic: How should the County communicate about building under its HCP?

12:00  Grab a sandwich, Introductions & Review Agenda

12:10  Brief HCP Status update (Chris Chaput)

12:15  Guided Group Discussion Begins (all)
   • What info do you need about the HCP in order to do your work?
   • New Fact Sheets
   • New HCP Video
   • New HCP Website
   • Maps
   • Training

1:00  Meeting concludes
HCP Status Update - briefly

- The County submitted a revised draft Habitat Conservation Plan to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on July 26th of this year.

- County officials & staff are meeting with The Service regularly to discuss.

- The Service is taking time to review it. There may be another gopher review season.

- Next Steps
What do you need to know about building under the HCP?

What materials would serve our community and how best to get the information out?
What do you need from the County?

1. A way to find out if a site is within the County’s HCP area without coming into the BDC?
2. Guidance about how to plan a site to avoid or reduce mitigation?
3. Mitigation options & costs?
4. A Fact Sheet or webpage that explains:
   • The application process flow.
   • How long the HCP review takes.
   • How the included federal coverage works.
   • How long the impact authorization lasts.
5. What else?
Who else to do outreach to?

Current List of Stakeholder Groups
1. Architects, developers, construction companies, engineers
2. County property owners
3. Realtors
4. Bankers
5. Farmers & the ag community
6. County staff, planners, other departments
How Best to Provide the Information?

1. In person at the permit counter
2. Online – on the County’s websites
3. Fact Sheets
4. Meeting appointments with staff member
5. Training classes
6. Other
Guided Group Discussion (all)

Fact Sheets

**Thurston County**

**PRAIRIE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

**Fact Sheet: Functional Acres Conservation Plan**

*Only species-sustaining land lost to a building project counts as an impact that requires mitigation; not the total affected area. This is called functional acres.*

**Basic Definition of Functional Acres**

Land that serves necessary functions to sustain a species:

- Right kind of food, and in the right quantity
- Access to water
- Room for the species to travel, rest, move around, and breed
- Predators and other competitors of species

**Habitat Quality**

Habitat quality is species specific, and includes factors and condition of vegetation and soil on the building site and the adjacent land. Tables are being created for each HPV-covered species. See draft examples in Figures 2 and 3 on the back of this sheet.

**Figure 1: Formula for Determining Functional Acres**

\[
\text{FUNCTIONAL ACRES} = \text{PROJECT ACREAGE} \times \text{HABITAT QUALITY}
\]

---

**Thurston County**

**PRAIRIE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

**Fact Sheet: Calculating & Minimizing Building Project Impacts**

If your building project is in a location that requires you to develop under the County’s HPZ rules, there are ways to reduce the impact to the protected species and wildlife. This guide will help you understand the mitigation requirements of your project.

**Impact Mitigation**

**Most Impacts on an Impact**

- **Applications** - Submit an application for the impact to the local authorities, including the federal agency’s requirements. For a permit, contact the HPZ office, as the permit is required by your local authorities.

**How Impacts Are Calculated**

- **Calculations** - The HPZ office will calculate the impact based on the proposed project. See a draft example in Figures 2 and 3 on the back of this sheet.

**First, Avoid & Minimize**

Develop a project that avoids impacts to the species to the extent possible. If the project must proceed, a mitigation strategy needs to be developed to ensure the species is not impacted.

**Avoiding Impacts to Reduce Mitigation Costs**

Reducing the amount of devastation surface and buildings removed by adding multiple stories or upper levels can reduce mitigation costs. See Figure 2 on the back of this sheet.
Guided Group Discussion (all)

New HCP Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIn1kaxFths

• What three things did you learn from the video?
• Do you think this is a good introduction for people who may be new to the County’s HCP?
• What are two things we can do to improve the video?
Guided Group Discussion (all)

New HCP Website [https://thurstonhcp.org/](https://thurstonhcp.org/)

• Our goal is to provide information for a wide variety of people who will need information about the HCP: permit applicants, regulators, planners, architects and designers, biologists doing reports, etc.
Guided Group Discussion (all)

What types of maps would be most helpful?

https://www.geodata.org/
Habitat Conservation Plan
Habitat Areas

In Unincorporated Thurston County*

*Unincorporated Thurston County cities, JERF and Native American Reservations not included.
Habitat Conservation Plan
Prairie Habitat Area

In Unincorporated Thurston County*

*Unincorporated Thurston County, cities, SMSP, and Native American Reservations not included.
Habitat Conservation Plan
Oregon Spotted Frog Screen Habitat
In Unincorporated Thurston County

Oregon Spotted Frog Screen Area
Submit Comments Anytime to:
Hcpinfo@co.thurston.wa.us

or

Christina Chaput or Andrew Deffobis
Associate Planner, Community Planning
Community Planning and Economic Development
chaputc@co.thurston.wa.us

Find more Information at
https://thurstonhcp.org