

Public Meetings

for the Draft Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Bend

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Mount Bachelor Village Event Center

Prineville

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Carey Foster Hall at the Crook County Fairgrounds



Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan



Agenda

- Presentation
 - Introduction and welcome – Bridget Moran, FWS
 - Habitat conservation plan – Marty Vaughn, Biota Pacific
 - Environmental impact statement – ICF
- Open house

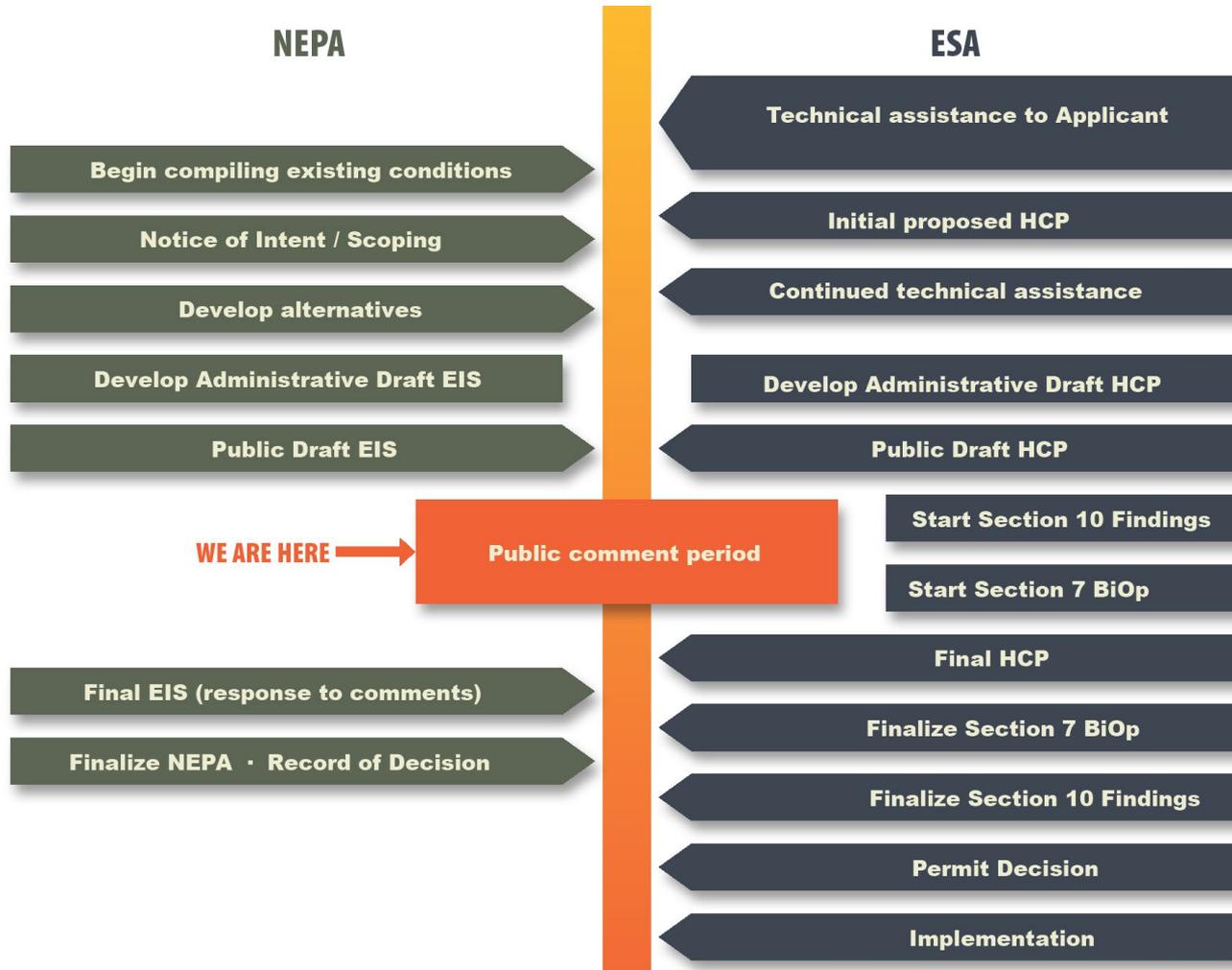


Where We Are

- DBBC member districts and City of Prineville
 - Submitted applications for incidental take permits (ITPs)
 - Completed draft habitat conservation plan (HCP)
- FWS
 - Prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS)
 - Initiated Section 10 findings and Section 7 biological opinion (BiOp)



NEPA (EIS) and ESA (HCP) Process



What must an HCP address?

- Covered activities and covered species
- Impacts of take
- Measures to minimize and mitigate impacts
- Adequate funding
- Alternatives to take
- Additional measures



How is the HCP organized?

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction and Background
- 3. Scope of the DBHCP**
4. Current Conditions of the Covered Lands and Waters
5. Current Conditions of the Covered Species
- 6. Habitat Conservation**
7. Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptive Management
- 8. Effects of the Proposed Incidental Take on the Covered Species**
9. Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances
10. Costs and Funding



HCP



Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan



What must the EIS address?

- Input from public, tribes, agencies and stakeholders
- Purpose and need for action
- Reasonable range of alternatives
- Direct, indirect and cumulative effects



How is the EIS organized?

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Chapter 3 Resource Analyses
 - Methods
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- Chapters 4–7 Cumulative Effects and Other Required Sections
- Supporting Appendices



EIS Alternatives

- 15 alternatives screened
- 4 alternatives analyzed in details
 - Alternative 1: No Action
 - Alternative 2: Proposed Action (Draft HCP)
 - Alternative 3: Enhanced Variable Streamflows
 - Alternative 4: Enhanced and Accelerated Variable Streamflows



No Action

- No ITPs issued
- Existing water management operations as of the date of the NEPA Notice of Intent (July 21, 2017)
- Ongoing and reasonably foreseeable projects, plans, and programs



Alternative 2 – Proposed Action (Draft Deschutes Basin HCP)

- HCP covered species
- HCP covered activities
- HCP conservation measures
- HCP adaptive management and monitoring
- 30-year permit term



Alternative 3

- Same covered species, covered lands and waters, covered activities and facilities, and permit term
- Conservation strategy
 - Upper Deschutes River
 - Accelerates timeline for fall/winter flow increases
 - Targets higher minimum flow in above-normal water years
 - Includes a conservation fund to for Oregon spotted frog
 - Crooked River
 - Protects uncontracted releases past the NUID pumps



Alternative 4

- Same covered species, covered lands and waters, covered activities and facilities
- 20-year permit term
- Conservation Strategy
 - Upper Deschutes River
 - Further accelerates timeline for fall/winter flow increases
 - Targets higher minimum flow in above-normal water years
 - Crooked River
 - Increases minimum flows during storage season



Minimum Fall/Winter Deschutes River Flows below Wickiup Dam

Years	No Action	Proposed Action	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
1–5	100 cfs	100 cfs	200 cfs	300 cfs
6–10	100 cfs	200 cfs	300 cfs	400–600 cfs
11–15	100 cfs	300 cfs	400–500 cfs	400–600 cfs
16–20	100 cfs	300 cfs	400–500 cfs	400–600 cfs
21–30	100 cfs	400 cfs	400–500 cfs	



RiverWare Modeling

- Estimates how changes in water management operations would affect reservoir storage, streamflow and water supply
- Model run by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation team
- Tool to compare surface water changes for alternatives
- No planned water conservation projects assumed



EIS Resource Analyses

- Surface water
- Groundwater
- Water storage and supply
- Water quality
- Biological resources
- Land use and agricultural resources
- Recreation
- Visual resources
- Cultural resources
- Tribal resources
- Socioeconomics and environmental justice



Key EIS Takeaways

- Potential adverse water quality effects in Crane Prairie and Wickiup Reservoirs
- Overall beneficial effects on vegetation and wildlife
- Overall beneficial effects (greater under Alternatives 3 and 4) on Oregon spotted frog
- Mix of beneficial and adverse effects on fish species
- Decreased water supply to some districts and related irrigation and economic effects
- Potential adverse effects on archaeological resources in Wickiup Reservoir



Next Steps

Process Item	Target Date
Draft EIS/HCP published in Federal Register	October 4, 2019
End of public comment period	November 18, 2019
Final EIS/HCP published in Federal Register	April 2020
Record of Decision and Incidental Take Permit decision	May 10, 2020



We would like your comments

- Comment period closes on November 18
- Comments are accepted online or delivery to address provided



Commenting Tips

- Clearly distinguish HCP and EIS comments
- Focus comments on
 - Analysis adequacy and clarity
 - Analysis conclusions
 - ESA and NEPA requirements
 - Range of EIS alternatives considered
 - Your area(s) of expertise
 - Errors and omissions

