

## Chinook Forest Partners CCAA Site Plan and Conservation Measures

Chinook Forest Partners, LLC  
7135 Sportsfield Drive NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

Map of Enrolled Properties: Figure 1  
Expiration of CCAA: June 1, 2048

### Section 1.0 Introduction

#### Definition of Chinook Forest Partners Enrolled Lands

Chinook Forest Partners, LLC (CFP), including its subsidiary Chinook Forest Management, LLC (CFM), manages timberland on behalf of Siskiyou Timberlands, LLC (Siskiyou) and is responsible for planning and carrying out forest management activities on Siskiyou property. CFP seeks to enroll all the its managed Oregon timberlands (~62,000 in Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties) in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) in Oregon (CCAA), and requests the issuance of an enhancement of survival permit by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The enrolled lands consist of timberland in and adjacent to locations where fisher are currently known to be present and other CFP-managed ownership that is included, in whole or in part, within the extant range (southwestern Oregon, south of the Rogue River) and the proposed reintroduction range (Oregon Cascades, east of Interstate 5) of the West Coast distinct population segment (or DPS) of the fisher as proposed for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act by USFWS in October 7, 2014 (79 FR 60419). While the USFWS has proposed a revised West Coast DPS in November 7, 2019 (84 FR 60278) that altered the boundaries from that of the previously proposed DPS, this site plan and the CCAA were based on the boundaries proposed in October 7, 2014. The CCAA will expire June 1, 2048, subject to earlier termination in accordance with its terms. In exchange for assurances that CFP may lawfully implement the Covered Activities as described in the CCAA, CFP/CFM will implement the Conservation Measures in the CCAA for the Fisher on the enrolled lands within Oregon, as modified and supplemented in Section 2 below.

### Section 2.0 Conservation Measures and Site-specific modifications

**CM1.** Allow USFWS or its agents, with reasonable prior notice (defined as no less than 24 hours), to access enrolled lands to perform the monitoring activities described below.

I. Determine if female fisher(s) are occupying dens and raising kits. Denning females will be detected primarily by radio-telemetry, but other observations of denning females will be monitored. USFWS or its agents will notify participating landowners

within 24 hours if fishers are suspected of denning on enrolled lands or in close proximity of enrolled lands. Such notice shall specify the location of the suspected den site so that landowner may, within 24 hours of notice, implement CM1, II and CM1, III protection of the site pending confirmation within 5 business days. USFWS or its agents may place cameras at the suspected den site or use other survey methods to confirm denning activities. Following notice of a suspected den site, USFWS or its agents will have 5 business days to confirm the presence of a den site. If a den site is not confirmed, landowner shall be released from any obligation to comply with protection measures described in CM1, II or CM1, III for protecting the suspected den site unless and until such time as the den site is later confirmed by USFWS to be occupied with notice to landowner. USFWS or its agents will notify CFM within 24 hours of the confirmation of a den.

II. Denning females, if radioed, will be monitored weekly to determine occupancy of specific sites and verify movement to new den sites. If a den site is found used by a non-radioed animal, a remote camera will be deployed to monitor movement to determine when the site is abandoned. USFWS or its agents will notify CFM within 24 hours of verifying that a female fisher has abandoned a previously occupied den site. The ability to detect female fishers with functioning radio-transmitters is a function of the battery life of the radio-transmitters (~2 years).

III. Evaluate fisher presence for the term of the CCAA as needed to determine the long-term success of recovery efforts in Oregon. Methods may include but are not limited to the use of remote cameras, hair-snaring devices, and bait and scent lures, and radio telemetry to survey or monitor fishers consistent with the program of work described in Section 5.2 of the CCAA.

**CM 1.1** All fisher detection, capture, collaring, monitoring, occupancy and use data collected by USFWS or its contractors and cooperators on CFP's enrolled lands shall be disclosed to CFP on request and, in any case, at least one time each calendar year during the term. Any spatial data collected shall be provided to CFP with GPS or other spatial coordinates allowing CFP to locate the area or site or structure where fisher presence and use occur. CFP shall maintain such data as a confidential business record.

**CM2.** Protect suspected or confirmed denning females and their young by limiting or preventing access and disturbance within 0.25 miles of suspected (based on notice and temporary protection under CM1) or confirmed occupied den sites (hereafter collectively referred to as den sites), including preventing the destruction of the denning structure itself (i.e., a tree, snag, log, or other structure). Denning activities are most likely to occur between *15 March and 30 September* and females may remain at a particular den site for days or weeks before moving to a new site. Specifically, CFP/CFM shall not conduct or authorize any of the activities described in the forest management activities in Section 4 (including but not limited to timber felling, pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, salvage of trees, prescribed burning, and brush control) within 0.25 miles of a den site, because those activities could result in disturbance or harm to denning fishers. All activities that meet the previous description may not be implemented within 0.25 miles until CFM is notified by USFWS or its agents that the site is no longer occupied (denning females will

be monitored weekly to determine occupancy of specific sites and verify movement to new den sites). CFM will implement protection measures within 24 hours of notification of a suspected (based on notice and temporary protection under CM1) or confirmed occupied den site. In cases where a female fisher chooses to establish a den site within 0.25 miles of an active road, road use can continue provided the volume of traffic and potential disturbance remain at or below the level that existed in the 2 weeks before the den was detected. Considerations should be made to use alternate routes away from den sites when operationally possible, and where alternate roads do not exist, operations shall be delayed or noise minimization (speed limit <15 mph, no “jake brake,” no stopping to adjust load binders, etc.) shall be employed within 0.25 miles. Caution should be taken to avoid fisher road mortality (e.g., reduced speed limits). In cases where a female fisher chooses to establish a den site within 0.25 miles of an active harvest operation, yarding and hauling of felled timber may continue as long as the footprint of the habitat modification component of the activity does not move any closer to the denning fisher. In cases where a female fisher chooses to establish a den site within 0.25 miles of forest management activities, as described in Section 4 of the CCAA, that do not result in habitat modification or disturbance (e.g., silvicultural surveys), those activities may continue as long as the footprint of those activities does not move any closer to the denning fisher. Activities that do not pose disturbance (e.g., surveys for other wildlife species) will not be restricted, but time spent within 500 feet of a den site should be minimized.

**CM 2.1** Should a female fisher choose to establish a den site, or a den site is discovered within 0.25 mile of an active harvest operation where merchantable timber has been felled but not yet removed and continued felling would increase the footprint of habitat modification, CFM may continue limited falling operations (e.g., creating yarding corridors), only to the extent necessary to remove the previously felled timber, so that the felled timber does not lose its commercial value. CFM will notify USFWS prior to continuing harvest operations or habitat modification.

**CM 2.2** CFM shall not authorize helicopter or fixed wing application of herbicide or fertilizer within 0.25 miles of an occupied den site between 15 March and 30 September until CFM is informed by USFWS or its agent the denning female has vacated the den site.

**CM3.** Provide protection of denning female fishers by restricting trapping and nuisance animal control activities on enrolled lands within 2.5 miles of den sites. Within this radius, kill traps, non-powered snare devices, and No. 2 foothold traps and smaller are prohibited and all other traps are to be checked at least once every 24 hours. Denning activities are most likely to occur between *15 March and 30 September* and females may remain at a particular den site for days or weeks before moving to a new site. The 2.5-mile radius is based on the average of the longest female foraging movements around occupied den sites on the Olympic Peninsula from 2008 to 2011. Denning females will be monitored weekly to determine occupancy of specific sites and verify movement to new den sites. USFWS or their agents will notify CFM when den sites are established or moved within 24 hours of detection. Nuisance animal trapping and control activities within 2.5 miles of the den site will cease until 30 September or until CFM is informed that the denning female has moved the den site.

**CM4.** Report to USFWS, and ODFW or mutually agreed upon designated agents, within 48 hours upon finding any potentially occupied den sites or any dead, sick, or captured fishers on enrolled lands. If possible, when a fisher is incidentally captured, take photos and collect scat and/or hair left in the trap post-release for USFWS and/or ODFW biologists.

**CM 4.1** Reasonable efforts shall be made to quickly, safely, and humanely recover sick, injured, or deceased animals in a timely manner. Only qualified individuals experienced with wildlife handling, capture, and transport techniques should attempt to capture or handle a dead or injured fisher. Injured or sick fishers shall be handled and transported according to acceptable animal welfare protocols, dead specimens shall be handled and stored in a way that preserves biological integrity of the specimen and thus allows for necropsy or other testing/analyses. USFWS, ODFW, or their agents will work with CFM cooperatively to provide handling instructions, materials, or qualified personal to expedite recovery and obtain a necropsy of dead fishers or rehabilitate injured fishers. A report detailing the circumstances of each event where a fisher is known to be injured or killed shall be prepared by CFM and submitted to the USFWS and ODFW within 2 workdays.

**CM5.** Cover all man-made structures on enrolled lands that pose an entrapment risk to fishers (e.g. large water troughs, old rail cars, or other containers from which fishers cannot escape) or place a device within the structure (e.g., wooden pole to allow fishers to climb out) to prevent mortality of fishers from drowning, starvation or dehydration.

**CM 5.1** CFM shall comply with CM5 to the extent of its knowledge of man-made enclosed structures located on the enrolled and covered lands. CFP acquired significant new acreage in Oregon in 2018 and in 2019 and is uncertain if there are water supply improvements present on the covered lands that have not yet been identified by CFM. Any presently unknown fisher entrapment risks will be addressed as CFM gains knowledge of such hazards to fishers. The same will apply to new lands that may be added to the CFP CCAA in the future.

**CM6.** Where suitable habitat exists and where agreed upon by CFP and USFWS, allow the release of translocated fishers on enrolled lands.

**CM7.** Provide a Site Plan describing CFP's contribution to the program of work approach described in Section 5.2 of the CCAA, and any other conservation benefit provided for fishers.

**CM 7.1** The following is the CFP site plan in compliance with CM7. In addition to the Conservation Measures noted in the template CCAA, CFP commits to the Conservation Measures described in this section.

**CM 7.2** CFP, via Siskiyou Timberlands, LLC, will pledge over the first three years of the CCAA, \$15,000 to facilitate financial contributions that support research and conservation of fishers and their habitat and prey. CFP affirms this commitment and will direct these funds to support research that addresses some or all of the following topics: filling key information gaps regarding fisher distribution, occupancy and local population

estimates, response to private forest management activities and supporting the establishment of additional fisher populations in western Oregon through translocations. During the first three years of CCAA implementation it is anticipated that research will focus on one or more of the following, 1) additional fisher distribution surveys in the Cascades, 2) participating in a cooperative, coordinated regional monitoring of fisher, and 3) participating in a cooperative, multi-agency, multi-landowner, fisher occupancy effort.

**CM 7.3** CFP will seek to have all of its timberlands third party certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), and will seek to maintain third party independent certification under SFI or any reasonably equivalent certification standard for sustainable forest management that may be selected by CFP for the term of the permit. One of the Objectives of the SFI Standard requires efforts to conserve biodiversity and reads as follows;

*Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity*

*To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.*

**CM 7.4** Additionally, CFP has developed working relationships with local and regional conservation groups (i.e. land trusts, etc.), and seeks to identify areas within its managed land base that have unique habitat characteristics, including habitat characteristics beneficial to fishers and their prey. CFP intends to actively pursue conservation strategies on these parcels when possible from a financial and operational perspective. Such strategies might include the sale of permanent conservation easements or the outright sale of parcels of land with fisher habitat characteristics such as dense canopy closure, large diameter live trees (conifers and hardwoods) and snags (dead trees) with cavities and other deformities, large diameter down wood, and multiple canopy layers. CFP will take fisher habitat characteristics into consideration when assessing parcels for transfer or sale into permanent or semi-permanent conservation status.

**CM 7.5** Some forest stands on CFP's enrolled lands range are relatively young, and in some geographies may be deficient in large, decadent trees, snags, and other standing deadwood. Subject to safety, operability, fire hazard considerations, and salvage of timber following fire, windthrow or other natural or man-caused casualty, CFM will conserve existing and future standing deadwood, and, where available, focus leave tree retention on damaged, decayed, or deformed trees that are likely to provide or promote decay processes and structures beneficial to fisher or their prey.

CFM meets or exceeds the Forest Practices Act (FPA) live tree and snag retention, and down woody debris. For clearcut harvests greater than 25 acres, FPA requires that at least 2 snags or 2 green trees 30 feet tall and at least 11 inches DBH, at least 50% are conifer, plus at least 2 down logs or down trees at least 50% of which must be conifers that are at

least 6 feet long with a total volume of 10 cubic feet must be retained. CFM commits to retaining a minimum of 3 snags or green trees per acre on clearcuts larger than 25 acres, and these trees/snags will be retained for the life of the CCAA. Verification of FPA-required leave tree/snag and down woody debris retention is conducted post-harvest by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

To the greatest extent possible, and when it does not pose a safety concern, CFM will seek to prioritize the retention of legacy trees (trees retained during the previous harvest), dying and/or deformed trees (with indications of decay) large-diameter live trees and snags of all sizes. Trees >32" DBH will be retained the greatest extent possible, provided they do not pose safety hazards. In addition to providing diversity of structure across the landscape, these trees and snags may provide habitat characteristics important to fishers and their prey. Wildlife trees retained to meet FPA requirements may be clumped or dispersed based on slope, topography, elevation, proximity to adjacent federal land, and proximity to riparian corridors, influencing and aggregation of leave trees. CFM will instruct logging contractor to avoid whenever possible, driving machinery over, or otherwise damaging large down woody debris, thereby maintaining the integrity of stumps and logs that may be used by fishers and their prey.

CFM will seek to leave down woody debris and other structures important to fishers and their prey distributed throughout the unit instead of piling them into slash piles, will attempt to avoid mechanical damage or disturbance, and will locate skid trails around them where safety and operability considerations permit.

**CM 7.6** Female fisher are known to use large slash piles for denning. For slash piles documented as being used by fishers for denning on the enrolled lands, CFM shall not burn or otherwise mechanically alter such slash piles for a period of 5 years after the last year of known occupancy and use by a denning fisher. These piles will be marked on the ground to ensure protection. Further, should USFWS or its cooperators desire to implement adaptive management research on the enrolled CFP lands to determine the characteristics (location, aspect, size, structure, grouping) of slash piles used for denning by fishers, upon USFWS request and consultation, CFM will cooperate in managing its planned timber harvests to leave unburned slash piles for monitoring and controlled research on active management of slash to create habitat elements useful to fisher, subject to pile size limitations per Oregon Department of Forestry slash abatement directives or alternative practices agree to by ODF and USFWS to benefit fisher.

**CM 7.7** CFM will avoid the use of rodenticides on lands enrolled in the permit area. CFM will, to the maximum extent practical, maintain secure access to enrolled lands so as to minimize the occurrence of illegal drug growing operations and the associated risks posed by rodenticides that are frequently used in these operations.

**CM 7.8.** On CFP lands operated under a recreational lease program CFM will prohibit lessees from recreational trapping. Where CFP lands are open to non-motorized access signs will indicate prohibition of recreational trapping. Checkerboard ownership creates challenges in some locations; CFM will to the maximum extent practical endeavor to

prevent recreational trapping on ownership within those geographies and report any instances or evidence of it occurring on an annual basis.

**CM 7.9** CFP/CFM staff will endeavor to participate in organizations and groups focused on wildlife and land management issues in the region. In so doing CFP/CFM will attempt to stay educated and involved on wildlife conservation and management issues.

**CM 7.10** Transfer of ownership or control of the enrolled lands from or between CFP owned and controlled subsidiaries will not be considered a sale of the lands or surrender of management authority under Section 9.0 of the CCAA so long as CFP retains control over the activities of any subsidiaries to which any enrolled lands are transferred. Given the large acreage of lands being enrolled in the CCAA, notification of USFWS within 30 days following sale or transfer of specific parcels of enrolled lands to third parties as described in Section 9.0 of the CCAA may be impractical; thus, in lieu thereof, CFP may instead periodically (e.g., annually) update USFWS on dispositions of enrolled lands using a revised map showing lands sold to third parties and lands remaining enrolled under the CCAA, and explain the circumstances that made it impractical. It is otherwise assumed that CFP will be able to notify USFWS as specified in Section 9.0 of the CCAA. CFP will exercise due diligence in informing third parties of the fact that the lands to be sold were included as part of CFP's enrolled lands for the fisher CCAA so as to provide an opportunity to independently enroll in an agreement with USFWS should the potential parties desire to do so. However, it is understood that once properties are conveyed to a third-party and are thus outside CFP's control, the CCAA and the Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit will no longer apply to them (absent a prior agreement being reached between the new landowners and USFWS as described in Section 9.0 of the CCAA).

Finally, as CFP expects to periodically acquire additional lands within both the extant and the proposed reintroduction ranges (see figures 1 and 2) that may contribute to the goals of the CCAA, CFP may provide updated maps showing such additional lands and request that they be enrolled in the CCAA; those lands will be considered enrolled as of 30 days after the request is made, unless the USFWS advises CFP within 30 days of the request that it cannot lawfully consider those lands enrolled in the CCAA.

### **Section 3.0 Signatures**

This site-specific plan (plan) describes the agreement between the USFWS and Chinook Forest Partners, LLC implement beneficial actions for the conservation of the fisher under the terms of the Template Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Fisher (*Pekania pennant*) in Oregon, signed June 20, 2017. The purpose of this Plan is to benefit fisher in Oregon in the following ways: 1) expand our understanding of the distribution and interactions of existing fisher populations; 2) aid in acquiring more accurate estimates of fisher densities; 3) improve our understanding of fisher response to vegetation management activities; 4) protect known breeding fishers and their offspring on enrolled lands (including protecting occupied den sites, minimizing activities that may disturb the fishers using those den sites, and prohibiting trapping on enrolled lands within 2.5 miles of known den site); 5) facilitate the reintroduction and monitoring of fishers in area of Oregon where they no longer exist; and 6) facilitate the cooperation and collaboration among enrolled landowners and Federal and state agencies in

furthering fisher conservation in western Oregon. Participation in this Plan is a prerequisite for obtaining an Enhancement of Survival Permit associated with the template CCAA. This permit will cover activities under this Plan.

Therefore, this Plan will provide Chinook Forest Partners, LLC, and their subsidiary Chinook Forest Management, LLC with certainty that if the fisher becomes federally listed during the term of the Plan and permit, no additional conservation measures or future restrictions under the Act related to the presence of fisher on the enrolled lands will be sought by USFWS. The template CCAA, this Plan, and the enhancement of survival permit issued under the implementation of the Plan, do not release Chinook Forest Partners, LLC, or their subsidiary Chinook Forest Management, LLC, from the responsibility to avoid “take” of any Federally-listed animal species that already occupy portions of the property or that are beyond the scope of this Plan.

Chinook Forest Partners, LLC (signatory for CFP, CFM and Siskiyou)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_