



US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Forest Resources Branch

Background

The Forest Resources Branch of the Division of Consultation and Technical Assistance works closely with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, many Tribes and other partners to address natural resource issues. We provide technical assistance through project planning.



Healthy bull trout habitat (USFWS, Gene Stagner)

Who We Serve

- The Public
- Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Olympic and Gifford Pinchot National Forests
- Olympic, Mount Rainier, and North Cascades National Parks
- Tribes
- Other Federal, State and local agencies

What We Do

We work closely with the Forest Service, National Park Service, Tribes and other partners in pre-

project planning of watershed restoration activities, management of Adaptive Management Areas, Late-Successional Reserve Assessments, monitoring and community economic initiatives.

Through early coordination with our partners the FWS brings fish and wildlife resource issues to the forefront of the planning process, encouraging the development of conservation measures that minimize the effects of projects to listed species. We work to conserve species associated with late-successional and old-growth forests, such as the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, while serving the public.

We have actively participated in the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) since 1994. We collaborate with the Gifford Pinchot, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, and Olympic National Forests and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

We complete section 7 Endangered Species Act consultations for all Federal actions that may affect listed species. Endangered Species Act section 7 streamlining has increased consultation efficiency through batch and programmatic consultations.

Our early participation in project planning also greatly expedites the consultation process. Multi-program, multi-year, and multi-species programmatic consultations have been completed for all western Washington National Forests, several Tribes, and are being developed for various programs within the National Parks in western Washington.

Recent Projects and Accomplishments

- Completed consultations for nearly 2,000 acres of proposed timber harvest (commercial thinning) sales on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Because of our early involvement, we were able to incorporate many wildlife conservation measures that resulted in no expected adverse affects to listed species from these timber sales.
- Located a new Mardon Skipper butterfly population in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The discovery was a result of our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Xerces Society to conserve the butterfly. We also surveyed 21 sites in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and monitored or surveyed sites in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
- Completed the Biological Opinion authorizing the renewal of operating licenses of the four Lewis River hydropower facilities, setting in motion a long-term program of fish passage construction, habitat acquisition and improvement, and adaptable management of in-stream flows to restore Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead above the dams while aiding in the recovery of bull trout.



FWS biologist looks for rare butterflies near Mt. Adams (USFWS, Taylor Pittman)

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