

Walla Walla HCP Process Steps to Complete

What will be done by December 31, 2007

- Working Draft HCP
 - o HCP boundaries
 - o Summary of biology
 - o Take activities and analysis
 - o Monitoring, minimization and mitigation measures (Action Plan)
 - o Funding plan
 - o Unforeseen circumstances and adaptive management procedures - conceptual
 - o No-action and one other alternative (50 cfs bypass flow)

- Working Draft EIS*
 - o Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need
 - o Chapter 2 – Alternatives Description
 - o Chapter 3 – Affected Environment
 - o Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences
 - o Chapter 5 - Agencies, Tribes, and Organizations Consulted
 - o Chapter 6 - List of Preparers
 - o References

** HCP alternative may only be partially developed if negotiations are still underway, and certain outstanding data gaps may exist*

What will happen in 2008?

- Finalize draft HCP agreement
- HDR updates HCP with proposed conservation measures
- Services complete technical review of draft EIS
- HDR updates draft EIS per Services' comments in coordination with Districts
- HDR prepares draft biological assessment based upon HCP
- HDR prepares draft monitoring plan (includes adaptive management program)
- HDR prepares draft implementing agreement (includes procedure for addressing unforeseen circumstances)
- HDR works with the Districts to prepare ITP permit applications (six total – three USFWS and three NMFS) and attaches all documents described above, and submits to Services for their review

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Permit applications submitted to the Services and review begins (policy is to try and complete in less than 10 months)

- Services verify completeness of application
- Legal review of the applications
- Notice of applications received published in the Federal Register for 30-day comment period.
- Internal Section 7 review occurs
- Services complete HCP review, evaluating based upon the following criteria:
 - o Did the Districts minimize and mitigate take to the maximum extent practicable?
 - o Is the funding plan adequate and are there procedures to deal with unforeseen circumstances?
 - o Will level of take not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species in the wild?
 - o Did the Districts accept other measures the Services may require as appropriate or necessary?
 - o Implementing agreement elements adequate?
- Services issue notice of permit issuance or denial
 - o Approved: conditions, permit duration, reporting requirements, Final EIS and FONSI/ROD, Biological opinion, findings
 - o Denied: Opportunity for reconsideration, with opportunity for appeal if second request is denied.