



Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan

Stakeholder Meeting, December 9, 2016

Background

- As some of the most desirable lands in the Puget Sound region, prairies are extensively developed
- Prairies support many unique species
- Some species recently protected under Endangered Species Act; more likely to follow
- ESA protects species and habitat; strongest environmental law

Conflict / Resolution

- Many potential conflicts between development and endangered species in Tumwater
- “Take” of animals or habitat requires federal authorization: complex, costly, slow process
- Especially difficult for individual landowners
- ESA section 10 allows “take” pursuant to an approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Purpose of HCP

- Long-term verifiable species protection through early development of a conservation reserve system
- Reduce uncertainty, costs, and delays for new development, redevelopment
- Allow continued maintenance of City and Port facilities

Principal Issues

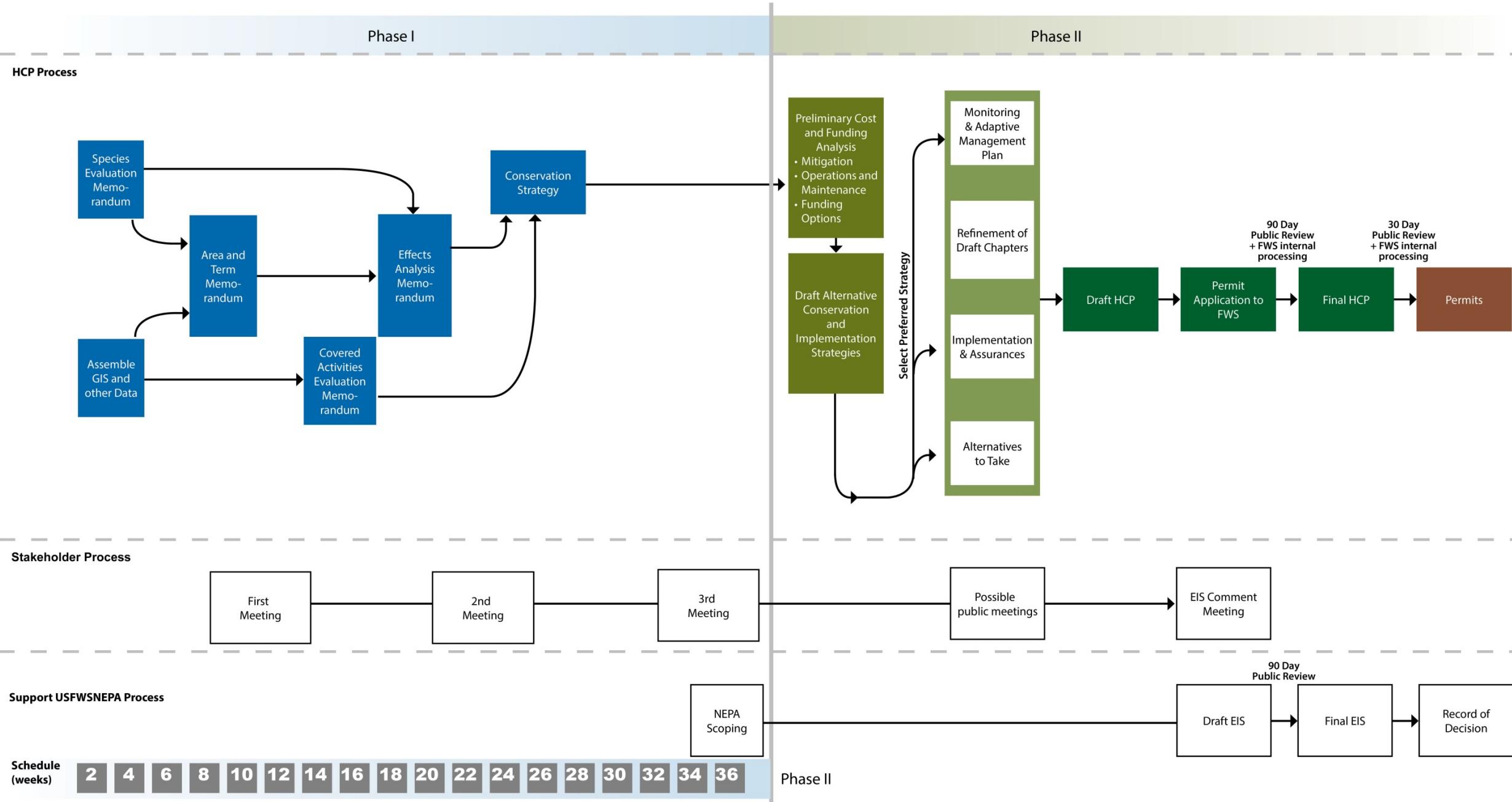
- Which species will be covered?
- What is the plan area?
- What is the permit term?
- Which activities will be covered?
- How will the plan affect covered species?
- How will impacts be mitigated?

Tumwater

Process

- Phase 1: 2016-2017
 - Engage stakeholders
 - Develop essential elements of HCP
 - Design conservation reserve program
 - Explore options and alternatives
- Phase 2: 2017-2018
 - Start public process
 - Complete draft HCP
 - Complete draft NEPA and SEPA documents
 - Begin conservation reserve program
 - Final permits and authorizations

HCP DEVELOPMENT SCHEMATIC



What's Next?

- Today: Discuss your interest and concerns; finalize stakeholder list
- Soon: A series of memoranda discussing the main points of HCP content, for your review
- Two more stakeholder meetings (tentatively March and June) to discuss topics in HCP development
- Phase 2 will include the draft and final HCP and NEPA/SEPA document