

Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement?

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Outline

- What is a Safe Harbor Agreement?
- Basics of the current Safe Harbor Agreement proposal
- Who could apply?
- Next steps

What is a Safe Harbor Agreement?

- A voluntary agreement with non-federal landowners and the USFWS
- Landowner takes actions to aid recovery of listed species
- Landowner receives assurances from the USFWS that (if they fulfill the conditions of the SHA) additional management activities will not be required
- At the end of the agreement, participants may return the enrolled property to baseline conditions

What is a Safe Harbor Agreement?

Why would the USFWS want to enter into a SHA?

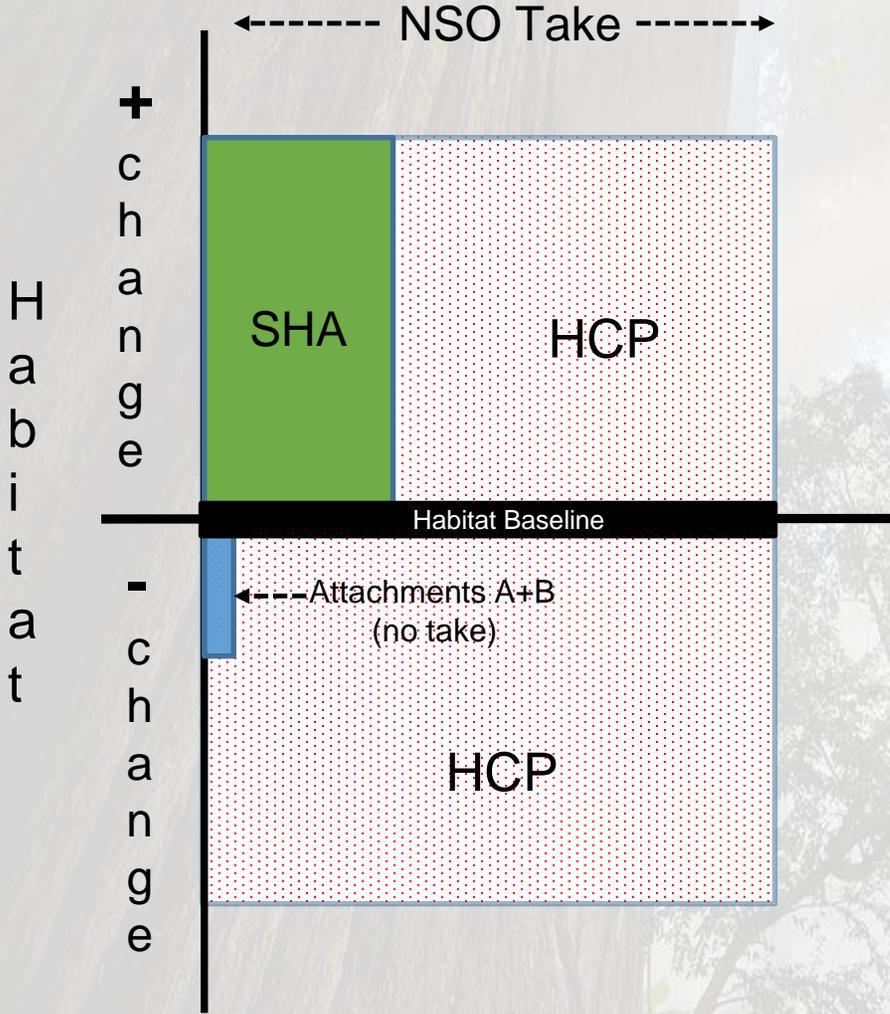
- To encourage landowners to help conserve listed species

What is a Safe Harbor Agreement?

Why would a landowner want to enter into a SHA?

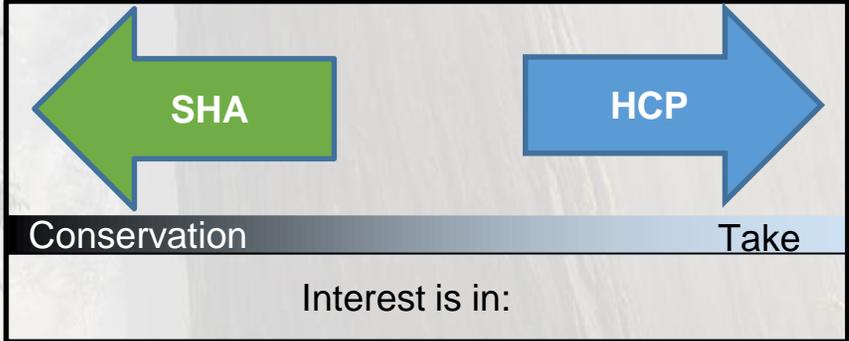
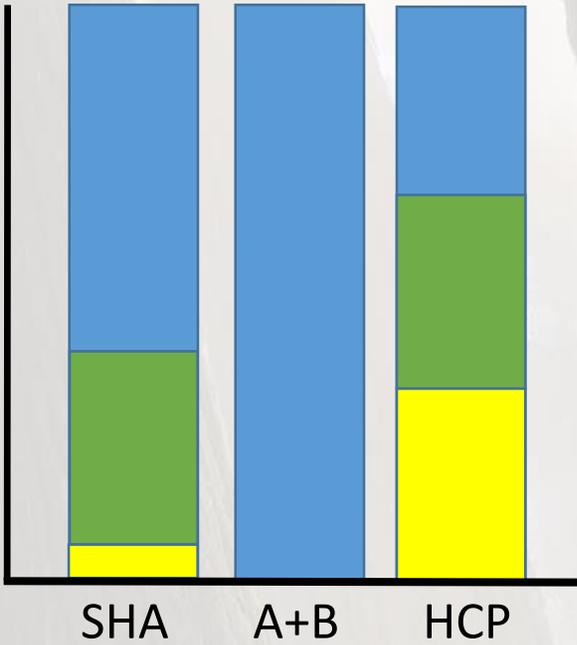
- Landowners receive assurances that additional land use restrictions will not be required if
 - identified listed species move onto enrolled properties or
 - increase the numbers of distribution of those listed species already present on those properties
- Participating landowners receive a permit for incidental take from implementing the SHA
- Ability to return the property to baseline conditions at the end of the agreement

How is a Safe Harbor Agreement different from HCPs and A/B?



Focus is on:

- avoidance
- minimization
- mitigation



Basics of the SHA proposal

- Programmatic agreement between CALFIRE and USFWS
- CALFIRE would issue certificates of inclusion to interested and qualified landowners
- Covered species: Northern spotted owl
- Participating landowners must take actions to provide a “net conservation benefit” to be eligible

Basics of the SHA proposal

Baseline determination

- Presence and extent of NSO
- Presence and extent of Barred owl
- Habitat quantity and quality

Survey requirements

- May be some additional flexibility from survey protocol and Attachments A/B
- (still working on this)

Basics of the SHA proposal

NSO Desired Conditions

- Increasing NSO population
- Increased acreage and quality of nesting/roosting habitat
- Improved habitat conditions, for example:
 - Increase QMD
 - Increase amount of trees >36" DBH
 - Increase in amount of wildlife trees
 - Increase in amount of small tree canopy layering
 - Increased interior habitat / decrease fragmentation
 - Reduced impacts of wildfire
- Reduced impacts from barred owls

Basics of the SHA proposal

Responsibilities of the parties

- Raise baseline
- Avoid and minimize impacts to owls during timber operations
- Allow barred owl studies (and management as appropriate) to occur on their property
- Provide data about habitat and owl occupancy on their property

Basics of the SHA proposal

Management activities for covered species

- Completion of an NTMP or WFMP with CAL FIRE
- Submission of baseline information
- Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures
- Habitat improvement measures
 - Snag retention
 - Large tree retention
 - Large woody debris retention
 - Fuels reduction

Basics of the SHA proposal

During the permit term- what can be cut?

- Build off NTMP - WFMP requirements in that a limited amount of what is grown can be harvested so that baseline conditions improve

Return to baseline

- At the end of the permit term, conditions can be returned to baseline

Basics of the SHA proposal

Net conservation benefit

- Increase the amount and quality of NSO habitat
- Slow the rate of decline or increase the population of NSO!
- Increase the understanding of barred owl distribution and impact
- Reduce impacts of wildfire

Who could apply?

- Landowners
 - in the range of Northern spotted owl
 - in California
 - 10,000 acres or smaller

Next Steps

- Stakeholder workshops in early December (working on scheduling)
 - We want your input at those meetings!
- Continuing to develop the proposal with CAL Fire and CDFW

A low-angle photograph of a forest with sunlight streaming through the trees. The image shows several large, textured tree trunks in the foreground, with a smaller, leafy tree in the center. Sunlight rays are visible, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in the center.

Thank you!