#### **Screening Form**

### Low-Effect Incidental Take Permit Determination and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

#### **Environmental Action Statement**

#### I. HCP Information

- **A. HCP Name:** Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility Habitat Conservation Plan for the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*) in Tumwater, Washington.
- **B.** Affected Species: Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher
- **C. HCP Size** (in stream miles and/or acres): The project will impact up to 8.6 acres of occupied habitat for the covered species within a 26.2-acre permit area. A total of 8.6 acres of off-site habitat for the will be protected in perpetuity by the applicant to offset the impacts of the taking.

#### D. Brief Project Description (including minimization and mitigation plans):

The proposed action is the issuance of an Endangered Species Act incidental take permit by the Service that would authorize take of the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*) incidental to covered activities and implementation of the conservation plan in the HCP, in accordance with the statutory and regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*). The City of Tumwater Transportation and Engineering Department (the applicant) submitted the Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility Habitat Conservation Plan for in Tumwater, Washington (HCP, hereby incorporated by reference) as part of an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The applicant seeks coverage for unavoidable take that could occur incidental to the construction of an operations and maintenance facility, a city park, and two transportation roundabouts in Thurston County, Washington. The project includes the redevelopment, construction and maintenance of buildings, park, and roadway infrastructure, as described in Section 2.1 of the HCP.

The property is known to be occupied by the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*), hereafter referred to as the Olympia pocket gopher. The applicant acknowledges that it will not be possible to avoid all adverse effects to this species and its habitat while implementing the proposed project. The applicant seeks an ITP authorizing otherwise prohibited take of the Olympia pocket gopher for a 10-year period.

Covered activities consist of ground disturbance associated with construction and development activities, including demolition and clearing of existing buildings; creation of temporary and permanent stormwater management structures; installation of utility infrastructure; construction and maintenance of seven new buildings; development of

roads and parking areas; installation of park and recreational features; transportation and frontage improvements; and landscaping (see HCP Section 2.2). The 26.2-acre permit area where the covered activities will occur is described in HCP Sections 1.4 and 1.5 and illustrated on HCP Figures 1 through 3. The HCP describes that up to 8.6 acres of occupied Olympia pocket gopher habitat within the permit area will be impacted by covered activities (HCP Section 4.2).

The HCP describes a conservation program to minimize and mitigate unavoidable impacts to the Olympia pocket gopher and 8.6 acres of occupied habitat during construction of the project. The HCP proposes permanent protection of 8.6 acres of high-quality, occupied habitat through the purchase of mitigation credits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)-approved Deschutes Corridor conservation site (Kaufman HCP 2016). The purchase of mitigation credits is expected to offset impacts of the taking of Olympia pocket gophers resulting from ground disturbing covered activities to 8.6 acres of occupied habitat. The HCP conservation program proposes that the mitigation site will be restored to native prairie grassland conditions that provide abundant forage plants sufficient to support Olympia pocket gophers in perpetuity.

**Purpose and Need and Applicant Goals:** The Service's purpose in considering the proposed action is to fulfill our statutory obligations under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the ITP application. The applicant's purpose is to undertake otherwise lawful construction activities that may result in the incidental take of a wildlife species listed under the ESA, in accordance with the requirements of the ESA.

Section 10 of the ESA specifically directs the Service to issue ITPs to non-Federal entities for incidental take of endangered and threatened species resulting from otherwise lawful activities, when the issuance criteria in section 10(a)(2)(B) of the ESA are met. Once we receive an application for an ITP, we review the application to determine if it meets issuance criteria. We also ensure that issuance of the ITP and implementation of the HCP complies with other applicable Federal laws, treaties, Executive Orders, and regulations including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In addition, the Service enforces the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other requirements of the ESA, such as compliance with section 7(a)(2). If we issue an ITP, we may condition the permit to ensure the permittee's compliance with Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other applicable requirements of the ESA.

The Service received an ITP application from City of Tumwater Transportation and Engineering Department on March 1, 2021. If the application request is approved and the Service issues a permit, the ITP would authorize City of Tumwater Transportation and Engineering Department to take Olympia pocket gopher incidental to the proposed development actions (see below) and implementation of the conservation program described in the HCP (Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility HCP 2022). The Service prepared this Environmental Action Statement to document our compliance with the requirements of NEPA, and to use this information to inform decisions concerning

this ITP application.

**Requested Permit Term:** The applicant requested a permit term of 10 years (HCP Section 1.3).

Lands Covered under the HCP and ITP: The applicant's HCP includes a 26.2-acre permit area where up to 8.6 acres of occupied Olympia pocket gopher habitat will be impacted by the covered activities (HCP Sections 1.4 and 1.5). The HCP's conservation program includes perpetual protection and maintenance of suitable habitat conditions on 8.6 acres of habitat occupied by Olympia pocket gophers at the Service-approved Deschutes Corridor conservation site (HCP Section 5.4).

**Species Occurrence:** The Olympia pocket gopher has been documented to occur on the applicant's property. The Olympia pocket gopher has been designated as threatened throughout its range in the State of Washington by the Service in a final rule published in the *Federal Register* (79 FR 19760).

Due to variability in pocket gopher presence across the proposed permit area, the applicant used mound detection during Olympia pocket gopher surveys, area of suitable soils with a common management history, and cover type contiguous with gopher presence to delineate occupied habitat (HCP Section 3.2.4).

Field surveys conducted on June 21 and July 6, 2016, May 7, 2018, and January 15, 2021, assessed habitat condition and gopher mound occurrence within the permit area, consisting of the Operations and Maintenance Facility area (West Parcel), the city park area (East Parcel), and the roundabout area. Surveys of the East Parcel documented poor to moderate Olympia pocket gopher habitat quality, though mounds were found throughout the site where Nisqually loamy fine sand and disturbed, gravelly sand loam soils were present. Olympia pocket gophers use degraded areas along the grassy road shoulder areas of the proposed roundabout site, mowed grass areas adjacent to Old Highway 99, the slope between 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and the wrecking yard, and grassy areas on the Operations and Maintenance Facility and the city park sites. The existing developed areas of the site have soils that are likely too compacted and gravelly to be suitable for Olympia pocket gophers. The slopes East of the developed areas have suitable soils; but the tall, dense vegetation thickets inhibited searches for gopher mounds.

**Goals:** The biological goals of the HCP are to contribute to the conservation of the Olympia pocket gopher by permanently conserving and maintaining suitable off-site habitat necessary to support Olympia pocket gopher breeding, feeding, and sheltering activities at a level commensurate with the impact of the taking resulting from the proposed development activities.

**Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures:** To minimize adverse effects to the Olympia pocket gopher and its habitat caused by covered activities, the activities within the 26.2-acre plan area are primarily focused on redeveloping a previously

impacted portion of the site. All grading, excavation, materials storage, construction, and development activities will be limited to the 26.2-acre permit area. Reducing the total area that will be disturbed effectively minimizes the overall impact to the Olympia pocket gopher and its habitat.

To minimize and mitigate the impacts of the taking that cannot be avoided, the applicant proposes the following prior to initiating any ground-disturbing covered activities:

- 1. The applicant proposes to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to the covered species and its habitat by acquiring 8.6 acres of offsite mitigation credits from the Service-approved Deschutes Corridor conservation site, which is occupied by Olympia pocket gophers (Appendix A, Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility HCP 2022).
- 2. All grading, excavation, materials storage, construction, and development activities in the permit area will be limited to designated construction areas.
- 3. Construction and/or silt fencing will be installed at the perimeter of each planned construction area to ensure that all activities occur within designated areas.

The proposed mitigation is in keeping with the principles outlined in the Service's Mazama Pocket Gopher Conservation Strategy and Mitigation Guidance (Service 2015, Service 2017).

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The applicant is responsible for annual reporting of project activities in the permit area for the duration of the HCP, including an annual summary of project accomplishments or completion, description of take, and description of minor or major amendments the applicant intends to seek or has discussed with the Service. Monitoring criteria, reporting requirements and reporting timelines for the Conservation Site are detailed in Chapter 5.5 *Monitoring* on page 35, and Chapter 5.7 *Reporting* on pages 37-38 of the HCP.

### II. Does the HCP fit the following Department of Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service categorical-exclusion criteria?

A. Are the effects of the HCP minor or negligible on federally listed, proposed, or candidate species and their habitats covered under the HCP? [516 DM 8.5(C)(2); HCP Handbook]

Yes. The anticipated impacts of covered activities are expected to be minor or negligible to the population of the Olympia pocket gopher with implementation of the applicant's proposed conservation program. The anticipated effects to the species resulting from construction and development activities within the 26.2-acre permit area would result in the permanent loss of 8.6 acres of Olympia pocket gopher habitat.

While the proposed action is likely to cause localized impacts to Olympia pocket gopher.

While the proposed action is likely to cause localized impacts to Olympia pocket gopher individuals, these impacts are expected to be fully offset through the purchase of mitigation credits that fund permanent management, monitoring, and adaptive

management on 8.6 actual acres of occupied Olympia pocket gopher habitat at a Service-approved conservation site.

The proposed action is unlikely to result in a detectable negative demographic-level effect upon the Olympia pocket gopher. No other listed, proposed, or candidate species are likely to be affected by the covered activities.

B. Are the effects of the HCP minor or negligible on all other components of the human environment, including environmental values and environmental resources (e.g., air quality, geology and soils, water quality and quantity, socio-economic, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, environmental justice, etc.), after implementation of the HCP minimization and mitigation measures? [43 CFR 46.205; HCP Handbook]

Yes. The construction and maintenance activities within the 26.2-acre permit area, offsetting mitigation from the Service-approved Deschutes Corridor conservation site, and the minimization measures in the plan area are expected to have minor or negligible effects on the human environment, including all environmental values and resources. The Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and Critical Area Ordinances and Washington's Growth Management Act designate that future construction on the site will meet the development standard in accordance with current zoning for the parcel. Local permits would condition project implementation to prevent impacts on soil erosion, stormwater, water quality and quantity and air quality, and other locally regulated resources. The development and construction of the permit area is anticipated to improve recreational access and visual condition of the human environment, and is not expected to impact socio-economic resources, environmental justice, reduce housing opportunities, transportation, visual resources, climate change, or cultural resources.

The proposed development would be implemented consistent with local zoning and offsite mitigation will offset impacts to the species. The offsite mitigation will result in conservation benefits to the prairie ecosystem at the landscape scale because it is part of a larger prairie site professionally managed by a Land Manager (currently CNLM) in perpetuity within the range the Olympia pocket gopher and other native species.

When the proposed development and conservation action are considered in the context of foreseeable trends and planned actions, the proposed action is likely to have minor to negligible effects on the covered species. The applicant's proposed actions are consistent with local zoning, strategic planning, local and federal permitting.

C. Would the incremental impacts of this HCP, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions) <u>not</u> result, over time, in cumulative effects to the human environment (i.e., the natural and physical environment) which would be considered significant? [40 CFR 1508.1; 40 CFR 46.205; HCP Handbook]

Yes. The applicant's proposal to construct and maintain Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility and infrastructure in the 26.2-acre permit area represents a level of development to the property that is consistent with current local zoning for the area. The impacts of the HCP will not result in significant effects. This project, if approved, would also include permanent and temporary habitat impacts with commensurate levels of perpetually protected habitat to minimize and mitigate the impact of the taking on the Olympia pocket gopher.

Other similar actions include a county-wide HCP developed by Thurston County for the development of lands under County jurisdiction over a 30-year period. The ITP and HCP address impacts to the Olympia pocket gopher and other species from the construction, operation, and maintenance of county projects as well as impacts from development permits they issue (Thurston County 2022). The Service determined that implementation of the countywide HCP will result in the acquisition and management of habitat throughout the range of the Olympia pocket gopher and other listed species (Service 2022a).

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programmatic consultation (Service 2022b) encompasses impacts to Olympia pocket gopher from activities authorized, funded, or carried out by NRCS in the South Puget Sound ecoregion, with a focus on agricultural activities and conservation practices in Thurston and surrounding counties. The NRCS conservation practices will impact some gophers while managing agricultural areas and conservation lands for conditions that support Olympia pocket gophers for the duration of the practice. Additionally, the Port of Olympia and the City of Tumwater are developing a Bush Prairie HCP, and the Service may receive an application for that HCP in the future. This HCP, if approved, would likely result in the acquisition and management of conservation lands that contain Olympia pocket gopher habitat. In the absence of any larger-scale HCP approvals, individual development activities that are reasonably certain to take Olympia pocket gophers would be expected. These activities would be expected to be modified to completely avoid take of listed species or be minimized and mitigated through the development of a project specific HCP and associated ITP issuance. When the impacts of this project are considered together with the broader impacts and conservation efforts for Olympia pocket gopher habitat, the overall effect of the proposed action (Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility HCP 2022) to the range-wide population of the Olympia pocket gopher subspecies is not likely to be significant.

Because the potential actions considered here are anticipated to be consistent with local zoning, strategic planning, local and federal permitting, and public review, the Service has determined that the incremental impacts of this HCP, considered together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, would not result, over time, in significant cumulative effects to the human environment.

### III. Do any of the exceptions to categorical exclusions (e.g., extraordinary circumstances) listed in 43 CFR 46.215 apply to this HCP?

#### Would implementation of the HCP:

#### A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?

No. Significant effects to human health or safety (including considerations such as air quality, water quality, and noise or sound effects) are not expected from the proposed Federal action of issuing the requested ITP or from the resulting construction and maintenance of buildings, a park, and road infrastructure within the 26.2-acre proposed permit area. The local zoning regulations are designed with public safety as a primary consideration. The applicant's parcel is being developed consistent with county zoning. The proposed construction, mitigation, and grassland maintenance in an area occupied by the covered species represents lower levels of impact to public health and safety considerations than currently anticipated by local development authorities for the same acreage in a residential area. The proposed project and associated impacts are typical of construction in Thurston County, and the covered activities will be restricted to the designated 26.2-acre development site on the applicant's property. Activities will not violate applicable Federal, tribal, or State water quality standards. Activities will adhere to the requirements of the Clean Water Act, P.L. 92-500, as amended; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.; and .; and Safe Drinking Water Act, P.L. 93-523 and amendments. The applicant committed to implement the proposed project in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, ensuring that public health and safety standards will be maintained.

B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as: historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990) or floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; or migratory birds, eagles, or other ecologically significant or critical resources?

No. The Service completed a review (Service 2021) of the proposed ITP action under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to determine if any historic or cultural resources might be affected by issuance of the requested ITP or implementation of the associated HCP (Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility HCP 2022). A signed copy of the Regional Historic Preservation Officer's (RHPO) Section 106 determination that no historic or cultural resources would be affected is on

file in the Service's Washington Fish and Wildlife Office.

No existing park, recreation or National Wildlife Refuge System lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, or national natural landmarks occur within the HCP plan area or would be affected by the proposed ITP action. The HCP proposes to create a city park that would provide recreational opportunities on-site where they currently do not exist. The activities proposed in the HCP are not expected to impact groundwater or wetlands. No prime or unique farmlands, national monuments, areas known to be important for migratory birds or eagles, or other ecologically significant or critical areas occur in the HCP plan area or would be affected by the proposed ITP action. Therefore, none will be affected by issuance of the requested ITP.

# C. Have highly controversial environmental effects (defined at 43 CFR 46.30), or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [see NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?

No highly controversial environmental effects, or unresolved conflicts, concerning shortor long-term potential uses of natural resources are expected within the proposed plan area as a result of the proposed ITP action, or from implementation of the HCP.

### D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

No highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks are expected from the proposed Federal action of issuing the requested ITP or from implementation of the associated HCP. No eradication of species from large areas, captive management of listed species, or innovative mitigation techniques which may have adverse environmental effects which may be difficult to quantify with existing data and technology will occur.

### E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?

No precedents for future actions or decisions about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects would be established by the proposed Federal action of issuing the requested ITP for take incidental to implementation of the HCP. The action is not an innovative action that will facilitate future actions by establishing a base upon with related or connected actions depend for support. Future actions would be reviewed on their own merits in meeting requirements under the ESA, its implementing regulations, and other laws applicable at the time.

### F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?

No. Cumulative impacts are defined as effects on the environment that result from the incremental effects of the action when added to the effects of other past, present, and

reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR § 1508.1). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. There is no known relationship of the proposed Federal action of issuing the requested ITP with other actions that have individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects.

### G. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places?

No. Implementation of the HCP is not expected to have any adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties. The Service consulted with the RHPO and determined that no properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the proposed Federal action. A copy of the RHPO's letter to that effect is on file in the Service's Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (Service 2021).

# H. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?

No. Implementation of the proposed HCP is not expected to have significant impacts to species listed or proposed for listing under the ESA or to any designated critical habitats.

Although incidental take of individual Olympia pocket gophers is anticipated, the anticipated impacts of covered activities on the Olympia pocket gophers are expected to be minor or negligible to the population of this subspecies with implementation of the applicant's proposed conservation program. The anticipated adverse effects to this species are limited to the loss of 8.6-acres of habitat resulting from HCP implementation in the 26.2-acre permit area. Impacts to Olympia pocket gopher will be fully offset by the conservation and management of 8.6 acres of occupied habitat for the species at the Service-approved Deschutes Corridor conservation site. The proposed action under the HCP is keeping with the Service's Mazama Pocket Gopher Conservation Strategy and Mitigation Guidance (Service 2015, Service 2017) and is not expected to result in a detectable demographic-level effect on the Olympia pocket gopher.

The project site is not located within designated critical habitat for the Olympia pocket gopher or other listed species or within the known range of any other species listed or proposed for listing under the ESA. The impacts of covered activities are expected to be contained within the proposed permit area. Therefore, no impacts to designated critical habitat and to other listed or proposed species are expected.

## I. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law, or a requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

No. The proposed activities covered under an HCP must be otherwise lawful for the

Service to issue the requested permit. The applicant has committed that the project will comply with all applicable Federal, State, local, or tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment, and the Service is not aware of any such law or requirement that would be violated by issuing the permit or by implementing the HCP.

### J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

No. Permanent residential, low income, or minority human populations are not found within the plan area for the proposed HCP. The construction of the permit area is not expected to reduce housing opportunities, transportation, or other resources. Construction of seven new buildings, parking, access roads, staging areas for materials, a rain garden, landscaping, park facilities, new roundabout, and other ground-disturbing activities described in the HCP (Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility HCP 2022) within the 26.2-acre permit area on city-owned land, issuance of the requested ITP, and subsequent implementation of the HCP are not expected to result in disproportionate adverse effects on any human populations.

K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

No. Implementation of the proposed HCP will occur on land owned and controlled by the applicant and will not limit access to or the ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands or affect the integrity of any such sites.

L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

No. Issuance of the requested ITP and implementation of the proposed HCP and conservation measures are not expected to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds, or non-native invasive species, known to occur in the plan area or facilitate actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.

#### IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and other statues, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record.

Based on the information and analysis above, I determine that the proposed Incidental Take Permit for Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility Habitat Conservation Plan for the Olympia pocket gopher qualifies for a categorical exclusion, as defined in 40 CFR 1508.1 and in the Service *Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook*. Furthermore, no extraordinary circumstances identified in 43 CFR 46.215 exist. Therefore, the Service's permit action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation, as provided by 40 CFR 1507.3; 43 CFR 46.205; 43 CFR 46.215; 516 DM 3; 516 DM 8.5; and 550 FW 3.3C. A more extensive NEPA process is unwarranted, and no further NEPA documentation will be made.

List of other supporting documents:

Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility Habitat Conservation Plan for the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*) in Tumwater, Washington. (Tumwater Operations and Maintenance Facility HCP 2022)

See Literature Cited

Signature Approval:

Brad Thompson, State Supervisor Washington Fish and Wildlife Office U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Literature Cited**

- Kaufman HCP. 2016. The Kaufman Habitat Conservation Plan for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydyas editha taylori*); Streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*); and two subspecies of the Mazama Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis* and *Thomomys mazama yelmensis*); in Thurston County, Washington. Prepared by Linda Krippner of Krippner Consulting, LLC for Kaufman Holdings, Inc.; Kaufman Real Estate, LLC; and Liberty Leasing & Construction, Inc. January 2016. This document can be accessed at: <a href="https://esadocs.ccidev.org/ESAdocs/conserv\_agmt/thcp\_1464.pdf">https://esadocs.ccidev.org/ESAdocs/conserv\_agmt/thcp\_1464.pdf</a>
- Service (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). 2014. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Olympia Pocket Gopher, Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher, Tenino Pocket Gopher, and Yelm Pocket Gopher, With Special Rule; Final Rule. Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 68, 19760-19796.
- Service. 2015. Mazama Pocket Gopher Conservation Strategy and Mitigation Guidance. Memorandum on file at the Service's Washington Fish and Wildlife Office. Lacey, Washington. July 1, 2015. 22 pp.
- Service. 2017. Revised Service Areas for Mazama Pocket Gopher Mitigation, Thurston County, Washington. Memorandum on file at the Service's Washington Fish and Wildlife Office. Lacey, Washington. November 16, 2017. 5 pp.
- Services (U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service). 2016. Habitat Conservation Planning and Incidental Take Permit Processing Handbook. <a href="https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/hcp\_handbook-chapters.html">https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/hcp\_handbook-chapters.html</a>.
- Service. 2021. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for Tumwater Operations & Maintenance Facility HCP, Thurston County, Washington. Prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Historic Preservation Officer. Prepared for Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, Lacey, Washington. 19 January 2022. 7 pp. On file at the USFWS Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, Lacey, Washington.
- Service. 2022a. Intra-Service biological and conference opinions: Thurston County Habitat Conservation Plan. Service reference: 2022-0011016. June 10, 2022. Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, Lacey, Washington.
- Service. 2022b. Intra-Service biological opinion for the Agricultural Conservation Practices in the South Puget Sound Prairie Region: Portions of Thurston, Pierce, Lewis, and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington. Service reference: 2022-0011016. December 6, 2022. Lacey, Washington. 188 pp. + 6 appendices.
- Thurston County. 2022. Thurston County Habitat Conservation Plan. February 22, 2022. 194 pp. + appendices.

Tumwater Operations & Maintenance Facility HCP. 2022. Tumwater Operations & Maintenance Facility Habitat Conservation Plan for the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*) in Tumwater, Washington. Prepared by Krippner Consulting, Anacortes, Washington. Prepared for the City of Tumwater Transportation & Engineering Department. April 2022. 44 pp + 1 appendix.