

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP SCOPING TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

By Webinar/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Participants: Rich Szlemp (USFWS), Kim Garner (USFWS), Jim Muck (NOAA Fisheries), Tere O'Rourke (NOAA Fisheries), Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Mike Wilson (ODF), Nick Palazzotto (ODF), Sarah Dyrdaahl (ODF), Julie Firman (ODFW), Rod Kraemer (ODFW), Ryan Singleton (DSL), Josh Seeds (DEQ)

Technical Consultant and Guests: Troy Rahmig (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Cindy Kolomechuk (ODF), Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West), Michelle Bardini (Kearns & West)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, welcomed Scoping Team (ST) members. She explained the purpose to the meeting is to discuss any topics of interest from the ST's review of the draft HCP chapters. Many members noted that there are not many topics to discuss at this point in their review, so the meeting is likely to end early to allow members more time to review the chapters.

Meeting participants introduced themselves. Sarah Dyrdaahl, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), introduced herself as a new member of the ST and provided an overview of her background and aquatic and riparian expertise.

Sylvia reviewed the agenda, which included: 1) Agency updates, 2) Debrief February stakeholder meetings, 3) Review and discuss HCP chapters 1-3 7-10, and 4-6, 4) Confirm topics for Steering Committee (SC) update, and 5) Approach going forward, next steps, and summary.

AGENCY UPDATES

Members provided the following updates relevant to the Western Oregon State Forests HCP process:

- Jim Muck, NOAA Fisheries, noted that he is retiring and his last day is February 27.

DEBRIEF FEBRUARY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The ST debriefed the stakeholder meetings with recreation interests and industry representatives. Key topics discussed included:

- There will be a change in Board of Forestry (BOF) membership and three new members will be starting soon.
- It will be important to clarify when decisions will be made throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and HCP processes as well as clarify the BOF's decision.
- Suggestion to develop an overview or frequently asked questions document describing the relative strategies included in the HCP.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS HCP CHAPTERS 1-3, 7-10, AND 4-6

Troy framed discussion on the HCP chapters. He noted several ST members have provided comments on the draft chapters and the project team is working to revise the chapters and incorporate the ST's feedback and comments. Chapters 4-6 have been sent out to the ST for review, along with several appendices to the HCP.

ST members provided the following questions and comments from the chapter review:

- Chapter 7 discusses wildfires. Will the chapter be updated to include information on the 2020 wildfires?
 - Yes, it will likely be updated to include some information about the recent fires. The project team is considering the messaging and level of detail to include.
- A remaining topic to discuss includes stands that are 120 years old. ODF is currently working to characterize these stands and there are some that need further conversations to determine the outcomes. ODF is working to summarize the data and will present this information to the ST soon.
- It was noted that there are a few blanks in chapter 4 and a few remaining items to discuss. There are some uncertainties around if the ST will get a completed draft of the HCP before receiving the application.
 - It is expected that there will be some remaining items to discuss and updates made to the chapters after the ST's review. ST members were encouraged to identify those areas that need further discussion and clarity.
 - There are also a few upcoming small group meetings with the Services to discuss any remaining topics and to seek alignment on the HCP before it moves into the NEPA process.

- Consider scheduling additional small group meetings to continue discussions on the HCP, as needed.

CONFIRM TOPICS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next SC meeting is scheduled for March 4. This would be the last SC meeting before NOAA Fisheries releases the Notice of Intent (NOI) to start the NEPA process.

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Sylvia thanked members for their participation and reviewed upcoming meetings. The next ST meeting is scheduled for February 23 from 9am – 12pm. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss the draft chapters of the HCP. The ST was encouraged to send any topics or agenda items they would like to discuss at the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were identified throughout the meeting:

- ST: Review HCP chapters 1-3, 7-10, and 4-6 and submit any comments to the project team.
- ST: Send any topics or agenda items they would like to discuss at the next ST meeting.
- Project team: Consider scheduling additional small group meetings, as needed.