



# MEETING SUMMARY

## FMP/HCP Virtual Meeting Open to the Public

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

### INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

State-owned forests are sustainably managed to provide environmental, social, and economic benefits to all Oregonians. In October of 2020, the Board of Forestry (BOF) gave direction to the State Forests Division to continue the development of a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and a Forest Management Plan (FMP) for Western Oregon State Forests. The Administrative Draft HCP entered the NEPA process in March 2021. Now, the State Forests Division is developing the FMP and Implementation Plans (IPs). The State Forests Division determined that the best way to carry out this work is in a parallel process, running two separate projects. The existing HCP project team will continue with the NEPA process, and a new project has been initiated to develop the FMP and IPs. The project teams will coordinate closely throughout the project lifecycle to ensure alignment and consistency in management goals, objectives, and strategies. As ODF updates the FMP and continues the HCP development process, a key goal of ODF is to provide information and engage in dialogue with all Oregonians who want to weigh in on these important planning efforts.

#### Purpose of Meeting

- Provide an update on the Forest Management Plan (FMP) & Regional Implementation Plan (IP) Project and describe the engagement process for this effort
- Provide an update on the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan
- Provide an update on the HCP NEPA process

#### Attendees

Over 40 participants attended the meeting open to the public. Those in attendance represented conservation groups, county representatives, government agencies, industry representatives, recreation representatives, tribal representatives, and the general public, as well as members of the Scoping Team (a technical level HCP working group) and Steering Committee (a policy level HCP working group).

#### Notification Methods

ODF invited agencies, interested parties, stakeholders, members of the Steering Committee, members of the Scoping Team, and the general public to the meeting.

Notification methods included:

- Email distributions to interested parties
- Posts on ODF social media including Facebook and Twitter
- Meeting notice via FlashAlert to media in areas that would be potentially covered in the HCP (including Portland media)
- Post on the ODF news site
- Post on the Western Oregon HCP and FMP project webpages



## Format

The meeting open to the public was a two-hour webinar that included presentations and question and answer discussion opportunities. The meeting was followed by an informal, one-hour virtual discussion period for participants to ask questions and discuss topics of interest. Participants were able to submit questions or comments through the chat to the meeting host and co-hosts.

Participants were encouraged to write and confirm their name as they joined the webinar to track attendees. Participants also received the opportunity to provide their affiliation through a webinar poll. The Participant Affiliation Poll received 36 responses.

## Affiliation Poll

Poll ended | 1 question | 36 of 42 (85%) participated

1. Which option best describes your affiliation to the HCP and FMP?  
(Single Choice) \*

36/36 (100%) answered





# MEETING SUMMARY

## Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview

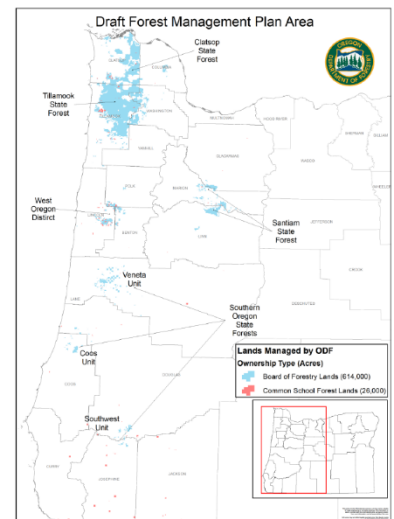
Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, welcomed participants and reviewed webinar instructions. Sylvia reviewed the agenda, which included: 1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview 2) Review: Forest Management Plan and Implementation Plans, 3) Forest Management Plan Engagement Update, 4) Forest Management Plan Draft Goal and Strategy Development, 5) Western Oregon HCP and NEPA Process, 6) Summary and Next Steps, and 7) Discussion on Topics of Interest.

Sylvia Ciborowski introduced Liz Dent, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Liz thanked everyone for attending and for their engagement in the management of state forests. Liz reviewed existing planning processes including the Forest Management Plan (FMP), the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and Implementation Plans (IPs), and explained how the plans support and complement one another. The FMP will provide the State Forests Division with clear direction on how to manage state lands in the decades to come. The HCP provides a holistic and cost-effective way to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and sets conservation priorities for ODF. The Administrative Draft HCP is available on the HCP website and the team is continuing to work with federal agencies as they move through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Public input on the HCP will be facilitated through the federal process when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is shared with the public. Liz stressed that each planning process is focused on early and ongoing engagement with the counties, tribes, and public stakeholders. Liz also shared that draft FMP strategies would be shared at the next meeting open to the public.

## Review: Forest Management Plan and Implementation Plans

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided context for the draft goals discussion.

- **Geographic context:** The FMP includes State Forest lands managed by ODF's State Forests Division in Western Oregon.
- **Management context:** Oregon Revised Statutes, Greatest Permanent Value Rule, and State Forests Planning Rule provide direction for developing the FMP.
- **Scope of Today's Discussion:** Project processes, project timelines and engagement, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the draft HCP.
- **Out of Scope:** State Forest lands outside of the draft FMP geographic and management context, private forest lands and the Forest Practices Act, and federal lands are not the focus of the meeting.



Mike shared a map showing the lands that the FMP applies to, including 614,000 acres of Board of Forestry (BOF) lands and 26,000 acres of Common School Forest Lands. The largest concentration of land is in the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests. The Santiam State Forest, the West Oregon District, and Southern Oregon State Forests, including the Veneta Unit, the Coos Unit, and the Southwest Unit, are also included.

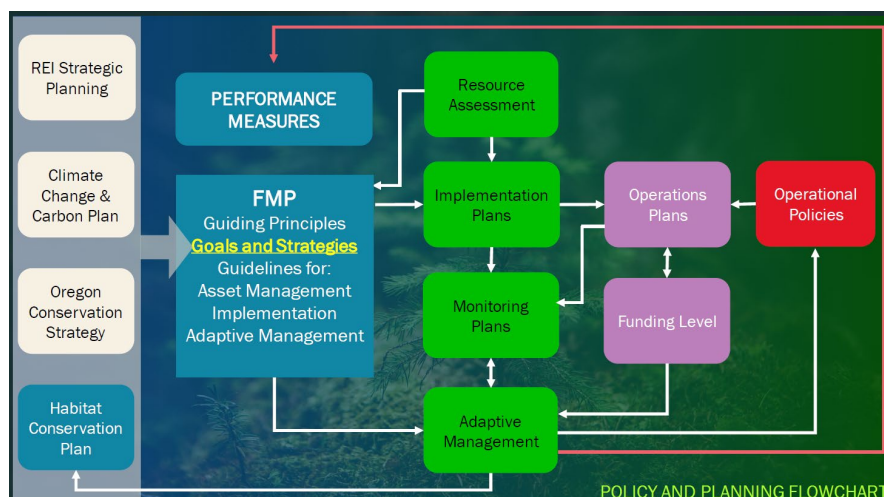


Mike reviewed the differences between ODF’s plans and how they help ODF manage state forests to provide greatest permanent value (GPV) to Oregonians:

- Forest Management Plan: The FMP is a strategic, long-range plan adopted by the BOF as administrative rule. It provides high-level forest management goals and strategies. FMPs are reviewed every ten years and are designed to persist with minimal revision. The FMP provides conservation strategies for species not covered under the Habitat Conservation Plan. Performance measures will be developed that allow the Board of Forestry to track progress meeting FMP goals.
- Habitat Conservation Plan: The HCP provides the majority of ODF’s conservation strategies for covered species and allows for more certain and cost-effective implementation of the FMP.
- Implementation Plans: IPs are approved by the State Forester and help implement goals in the FMP. These plans are district specific, sub-geographic plans with mid-level objectives and goals. IPs contain a district overview of key resources and land ownership, average annual harvest objectives, and the desired future forest condition. IPs are tied to adaptive management and monitoring plans.
- Annual Operation Plans: AOPs are approved by the District Forester and help achieve IP objectives. These plans are district specific fiscal year plans that include operational and project level detail including timber sales and habitat improvements. AOPs are tied to adaptive management and monitoring plans.

Mike noted other planning processes that influence the FMP, including:

- ODF’s Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Strategic Planning is ongoing. Goals for recreation, education, and interpretation are high-level in the FMP and further detail will be provided in IPs.
- ODF’s Climate change and Carbon Plan is in development and will guide forest management that is resilient to climate change.
- The Oregon Conservation Strategy is the ODFW’s document for the management of native wildlife and provides information and tools for land managers to further develop conservation strategies.





## Discussion

**Question:** Where is drinking water in this process?

- **Mike Wilson:** The FMP includes a drinking water goal.

**Question:** How is the HCP connected to adaptive management?

- **Mike Wilson:** The adaptive management plan includes HCP and FMP specific questions and will be used to respond to changing needs in both plans.

**Question:** How will HCP commitments be incorporated into the FMP?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF is still determining the best way to incorporate the HCP into the FMP. At a minimum, the HCP will be incorporated by reference. There are additional standards, like wetlands that are not connected to streams, included in the FMP. FMP strategies are intended to encompass a range of available tools that can be used through IPs and AOPs.

**Comment:** Drinking water is a concern and there is a need for protections along Rock Creek and for surface water.

- **Liz Dent:** ODF is committed to protecting drinking water and wants to stay engaged on this topic throughout the process. Please note that Rock Creek watershed is predominantly not under State Forest management.

**Question:** Is herbicide management discussed in the FMP or IPs, and is this subject to change as input is received from the community?

- **Mike Wilson:** Herbicides will be discussed in the FMP. The FMP does not include specific limitations, but there are FMP strategies that include early seral habitat and the implementation of herbicides. The State Forests division does not want to use herbicides more than what is necessary for a successful reforestation effort. IPs will include management for clear cut harvests and partial cut harvests which impacts how many acres may receive herbicide application. In AOPs, management activities are specified for the upcoming year.

## Forest Management Plan Engagement Update

Mike Wilson detailed project organization for the FMP and noted that a strong interprofessional team, including field staff and state partner agencies, was created for the effort. Mike noted that a technical consultant will be contracted to provide additional support for the FMP and IPs as needed.



Mike shared the timeline for the FMP and highlighted engagement with the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC) and the Board of Forestry (BOF). The FTLAC has been engaged throughout the FMP process and will be presented with draft strategies on December 3, 2021. ODF will seek input from the BOF at each stage and the BOF will be presented with draft strategies in March 2022.

Climate Change & Carbon Plan				BOF Pre-decision Workshop	Finalize	BOF Decision																					
Habitat Conservation Plan																				BOF Decision to Adopt HCP							
NEPA Analysis	Complete Draft EIS										Public Comment	Draft EIS Summary to BOF	Complete Final EIS				Record of Decision										
FMP Content	Drafting										Draft Due																
FMP Modeling	Model Preparation				Calibration		Scenarios	Draft Outcomes Report																			
FMP Rulemaking																	Request to Enter Rulemaking	30 Day Public Comment	Incorporate Input								
FMP Public Engagement			8/10 Goal Intro & 8/18 Draft FMP Goal			10/12 FMP & HCP Update			12/7 Public, 12/9 & 12/13 Joint Stakeholder	2/8 Public		4/12 Public	6/7 Public	TBD			TBD		TBD								
FTLAC Engagement			8/27 - CCCP & FMP	9/17 - Draft Goals	10/8 - Draft Goals			12/3 - Draft Strategies	TBD			TBD	TBD			TBD		TBD	TBD								
BOF Plan	FMP Update		BOF Member Check-ins	Draft Staff Report			Guiding Principles, Draft FMP Goals & Engagement			Draft Staff Report	FMP Strategies, Engagement Update			Draft Staff Report	TENTATIVE: FMP Modeling Outcomes Analysis, Draft FMP, Engagement Update			Draft Staff Report	TENTATIVE: Final Draft FMP, IP Framework, IP Modeling, Engagement Update							Draft Staff Report	TENTATIVE: BOF Decision to Adopt FMP
	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB						
	2021										2022						2023										

Sylvia Ciborowski reviewed the engagement process for the FMP. As information is ready to share with the public, stakeholder meetings will be scheduled to discuss goals, strategies, and other plan elements.



Sylvia noted that if stakeholders are interested in scheduling additional meetings to please reach out to ODF.

### Upcoming Public Engagement

- December 7, 2021: Strategies will be shared with the public
- December 9 and 13: Strategies will be discussed during joint stakeholder meetings. If interested in attending, please reach out to Erin Bothwell: [ebothwell@kearnswest.com](mailto:ebothwell@kearnswest.com).

## Discussion

**Question:** How are ecosystem wide impacts included in the planning and implementation process?

- **Mike Wilson:** The FMP addresses a variety of resources that influence water quality, socio-economic outcomes, and other important topics. Modeling outcomes will also consider a range of variables including timber harvest, habitat, and ecosystem services. The BOF will provide direction on performance measures that will be used to track progress meeting goals and strategies.

**Question:** Given the complexity of this project, is public participation likely to create substantive change?

- **ODF:** ODF is committed to an inclusive engagement process and has created a variety of opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback. Each plan will also have official public comment periods.

**Question:** How will ODF address unstable soils?

- **Mike Wilson:** The FMP includes a soil goal and additional strategies will be available in December that cover unstable soils and slopes.

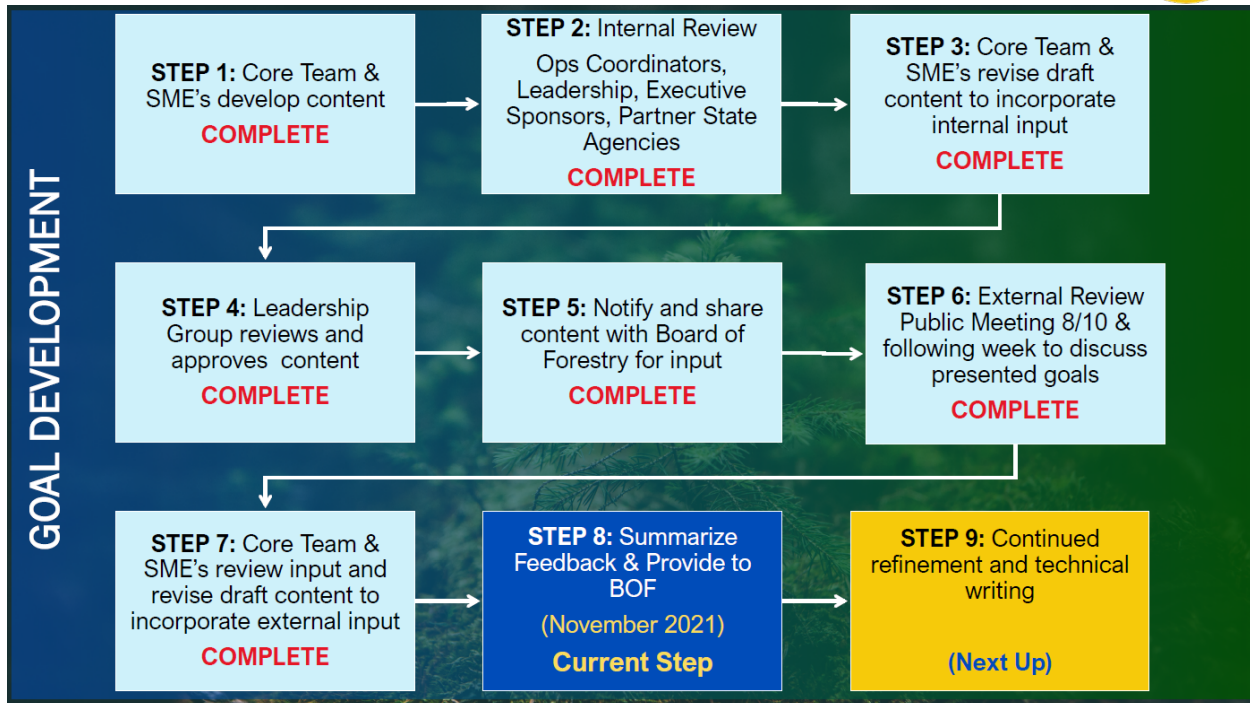
**Question:** Will a public comment period be held before the BOF adoption decision in February 2023?

- **ODF:** Public comment periods will be held for the HCP and Draft EIS. In addition to touch points with stakeholders, there is always an opportunity to directly testify to the BOF. This can be done through written testimony, oral testimony, or both.

## Forest Management Plan Draft Goal and Strategy Development

Mike Wilson provided an update on the draft goal and strategy development, noting the different steps in the development process.





Mike reviewed the [FMP Draft Goals and Feedback Summary](#) and shared the different ways in which ODF received feedback on draft goals. ODF updated several goals based on public input and identified opportunities for goal and resource area additions. Goals will continue to be refined as strategies and other plan elements are developed.

- August 10 FMP-HCP Meeting Open to the Public – 70 attendees, 14 comments received
- August 18 FMP Joint Stakeholder Meeting – 22 attendees, 71 comments received
- Draft FMP Goals Survey – 54 participants, 459 comments received

## Discussion

**Comment:** Will the FMP goals be prioritized?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF staff does not recommend prioritizing the goals in any specific order, but the BOF may direct the agency to do so when the BOF reviews the goals.

**Comment:** Which goals will address the issue of steep slopes and landslides?

- **Mike Wilson:** The soil protection goal and aquatic and riparian goals are the primary goals that will address steep slopes and landslides.

**Comment:** Drinking water is a common right and should be prioritized. If drinking water is protected, plants and wildlife will benefit in addition to humans.

**Comment:** The use of herbicides is tied to clear-cuts, the health of wildlife and fish, drinking water, pollinators and invertebrates, algal blooms, air quality, and climate change. Interested in ODF adopting more protective measures regarding the use of herbicides.





**Comment:** Concerned about post-fire logging for areas within the habitat conservation and riparian conservation areas and curious what the strategies for this will entail.

**Comment:** Strategies that include alternatives to post-fire logging or logging in general are needed in the FMP.

## Western Oregon HCP and NEPA Process

### HCP Update

Troy Rahmig, ICF, and Mike Wilson provided an update on the HCP.

#### *Covered Activities*

Mike explained that changes to Covered Activities are the result of an operational review by ODF and an additional review by the HCP Scoping Team. The HCP Project Team revised the Covered Activities to provide more clarity during implementation and consistency across the document. Covered Activities were also revised to better align with intended outcomes of Scoping Team discussions. In addition, the HCP Project Team moved conservation commitments from Chapter 3, *Covered Activities* to Chapter 4, *Conservation Strategy*.

- Herbicides: ODF has chosen to remove herbicide application as a covered activity and will update the Covered Activities and Effects Analysis accordingly.
- Roads: The HCP Project Team pulled landings and water drafting and storage under roads, rather than as stand-alone activities. The description of landings was also updated to include roadside turnouts.
- Quarries: Definitions were updated for Quarries, Borrow Sites, and Stockpile Sites.
- Water Drafting: Language on water drafting was revised to make it clear when and how water drafting would occur.
- Recreation Infrastructure: The HCP Project Team is updating information in the HCP to include best management practices and is in ongoing discussions internally and with the Scoping Team.

#### *Conservation Action 8 – Outside HCAs*

Troy shared that the definition of NSO dispersal habitat and the requirements for leave trees, snag, and downed wood retention (Table 4-12) have been clarified.

#### *Conservation Action 10 – Operational Restrictions*

Troy shared that clarity has been created between requirements inside HCAs and Outside HCAs. The requirements for NSO, MAMU, and RTV outside of HCAs have also been clarified – seasonal restrictions apply during breeding season for known nest locations.

#### *HCP Schedule*

Troy shared the following schedule updates:

- The Scoping Team is currently reviewing the full Administrative Draft HCP.
- In November, the Scoping Team will meet to discuss any additional comments.
- In November/December, the complete Public Draft HCP will be drafted.



- A Meeting Open to the Public will be held on December 7 to discuss updates to the HCP.
- In early 2022, ODF will formally submit a permit application to the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries with the statutorily complete HCP.

### NEPA Update

Michelle McMullin, NOAA Fisheries, provided an update on the NEPA process. Michelle shared that NEPA is the federal process being used by NOAA Fisheries and USFWS to make a decision about ODF's HCP. Michelle reviewed the NEPA process which includes: a Scoping Period, the development of a Draft EIS, a Final EIS, and a Record of Decision.

### *Scoping Period*

The process began on March 8, 2021 with the Notice of Intent to conduct an EIS. A two-week extension was issued during the Scoping Period. NOAA Fisheries held a public meeting on March 31 and information about the process and meeting is available here:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/notice-intent-prepare-environmental-impact-statement-western-oregon-state-forests-habitat>

### *Development of a Draft EIS*

NOAA Fisheries is currently developing alternatives informed by Scoping comments, modeling, and data. The agency is coordinating with USFWS and seeking advice from ODF on what is operationally feasible. Michelle noted that none of the comments submitted were determined to be complete alternatives on their own, but the suggestions and intent behind the comments was considered. Alternatives are screened to see if they meet different criteria like the Purpose and Need. Michelle stressed that NOAA Fisheries is doing the selection of the alternatives and ODF is not part of this alternative selection. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in early spring 2022. Scoping comments, alternatives, and analysis of important topics like economics, geology and soils, and cultural resources will be included. A public comment period for review will be held following the release of the Draft EIS. The minimum public comment is 45 days, but NOAA Fisheries is anticipating a 60-day comment period.

### *Development of a Final EIS*

The Final EIS will be developed after public comments are reviewed.

### *Record of Decision*

The decision to issue or not issue the incidental take permit will be made following the development of a Final EIS.

## **Summary and Next Steps**

Sylvia Ciborowski reviewed upcoming engagement opportunities:

- December 7 Meeting Open to the Public
- December 9 and 13 FMP Joint Stakeholder Meetings

Liz Dent thanked everyone for attending and welcomed additional discussion during the final hour.



## Discussion on Topics of Interest

### HCP and NEPA Process

**Comment:** Is it possible to share meeting summaries from the Scoping Team and Steering Committee more quickly?

- **Cindy Kolomechuk:** Meeting summaries are reviewed by the project team first, and then sent to the Scoping Team and Steering Committee for review before they're posted to the website. The team will strive to post summaries as quickly as we can.

**Comment:** Why have herbicides been removed from the HCP as a covered activity? Does ODF no longer think herbicide use will cause take?

- **ODF:** Herbicide use is no longer a covered activity and has been removed from the HCP. This decision was made for several reasons, including the flexibility to use newer and safer chemicals. No determination was made on whether herbicide use causes take. ODF will continue to look at the potential for new technologies and consider making changes in the future.

**Comment:** Individuals spraying herbicides on private land are often refugees without proper protective equipment. Agencies need to consider the health and safety impacts of ground spraying practices.

**Question:** Coastal martens were killed by rodenticides used to control mountain beaver populations and to protect seedlings. Will the HCP reduce the use of rodenticides because they cause take of martens?

- **Mike Wilson:** The Project Team will look at the language in the HCP and adjust as needed, but rodenticides are not a covered activity in the HCP. ODF made the decision not to use rodenticides outside of the HCP process.

**Question:** What is ODF's plan concerning blow downs along inadequate stream buffers that cause erosion and impact water quality?

- **Mike Wilson:** There are protective measures in place for 43% of the overall permit area in the HCP. RCAs are intended to function and to be resilient. Blowdown may occur, but larger stream buffers have been implemented around the process protection zone. Perennial non-fish streams 500 feet out from the confluence have an expanded buffer that is intended to provide extra protection. An equipment restriction zone with a 35-foot buffer on either side of the stream has also been implemented across all of the RCAs. This limits the use of equipment to help reduce sediment routing. Outside of conservation areas, ODF is focused on timber and identifying ways to optimize harvest.

**Comment:** To clarify, when something is not a covered activity, there is no pass for allowed take. Not being a covered activity is more protective because the regular regulatory system is in place for the activity.



## FMP Process

**Question:** Will public feedback go directly to the BOF?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF and the BOF is open to receiving direct input on FMP goals until the FMP is approved in 2023.

**Question:** For the FMP goals, the addition of harvested wood products is appreciated. Will the BOF edit goals during the meeting, or will they review the goals with an understanding that they will continue to be refined moving forward?

- **Mike Wilson:** The BOF will determine if they want to provide edits or recommendations for the goals. ODF is hopeful that the BOF will provide targeted feedback on the goals and input on metrics to meet the goals. This information would be used to inform future modeling. ODF will also receive input from FTLAC on the draft goals.

**Comment:** It's important to recognize water quality and quantity in the goals. Wild Salmon Center is not in support of prioritizing the goals.

- **Liz Dent:** ODF's mandate is to manage holistically. The agency will not be recommending prioritizing the goals.

**Comment:** Logging is not a solution or a strategy to achieve the goals presented by ODF.

## Other Topics of Interest

**Comment:** How will results from the Private Forest Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be factored into this planning process?

- **Liz Dent:** The Private Forest Division is involved with the MOU and the State Forest Division is not engaged in this process. ODF has not determined what the role of the Board of Forestry will be with this collaborative effort. Changes to the FMP are not anticipated but can be made if needed.

**Comment:** The Private Forests MOU includes creating buffer zones for the headwaters and increasing buffers for fish bearing streams. Drinking water does not seem to factor into this. What can communities like Vernonia do to achieve meaningful change?

- **Liz Dent:** ODF strives to protect domestic water sources, registered or not. The agency is working to update a system that the Private Forest Division runs called FERNs that is used to register water sources and provide information if there is herbicide application. Increased buffers will also help address water quality concerns. As stewards of the land, ODF is responsible for considering additional protective measures for streams because of a mandate to manage for Greatest Permanent Value. ODF often works with individuals with concerns about specific sources to try and find solutions.



**Comment:** There is a desire for increased transparency from ODF on water quality and more proactive communication on this topic.

**Comment:** Thank you for the stakeholder engagement opportunities.

**Comment:** Appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this process and to hear the sincerity and depth of knowledge brought to these incredible challenges.

**Comment:** Appreciate the time and attention to this important action during a time when attention to detail is extremely important. Thank you for hosting!

## Participants

Amanda Astor, Amy Defreese, Anderson Road, Ann Walker, Brett Brownscombe, Caitlin Roesler, Chris Hager, Colby Drake, Colin Beck, Darlene Chirman, Debra Fant, Devon Norden, Doug Cooper, Elizabeth Dix, Erin Doyle, Francis Etherington, Gail Henrikson, Grace Brahler, Holly Hill, Jay Waldron, Jodi Kroon, Jodie Fleck, Joseph Youren, Kate McMichael, Kevin Blakely, Laura Fredrickson, Laura Kentnesse, Laura Wilkeson, Lauren Anderson, Lauren Smith, Leah Feldon, Lisa Arkin, Michael Calhoun, Michael Curran, Mike Buffo, Nancy Webster, Rich Szlemp, Rod Krahmer, Ron Byers, Sandra Johnson, Simon Christensen, Suzanne Weber, Thomas Whittington, Woody Jackson