

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

By Webinar and Teleconference Only

PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee: Mike Wilson (ODF), Ron Zilli (ODF), Kessina Lee (USFWS), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Kim Kratz (NOAA Fisheries), Bernadette Graham Hudson (ODFW), Bill Ryan (DSL), Jennifer Wigal (DEQ)

Scoping Team Guests: Jiajia Lin (DEQ), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Ryan Singleton (DSL), Julie Firman (ODFW), Rod Kraemer (ODFW)

Technical Consultants: Melissa Klungle, Jordan Mayor, and David Zippin (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Sylvia Ciborowski and Ellen Palmquist (Kearns & West), Cindy Kolomechuk (ODF)

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda which included: 1) Welcome and Agenda Review, 2) Board of Forestry (BOF) process update, 3) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Process Update, 4) Steering Committee (SC) Direction to ST, and 5) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed SC members and opened the meeting. He thanked Scoping Team (ST) members for attending and noted that it is very valuable to have everyone together.

AGENCY UPDATES AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SC members provided the following updates relevant to the Western Oregon HCP process:

- **DSL:** DSL is moving forward with Elliott State Research Forest HCP and recently submitted a list of changes to the Public Draft HCP that was published in October 2022. SB161 passed, extending the deadline for submittal of the Final HCP. DSL will now submit a Final HCP to the Services by the end of 2023.
- **DEQ:** No updates.
- **USFWS:** No updates.
- **NOAA Fisheries:** No updates.

- **ODFW:** No update.
- **ODF:** 1) ODF is going through several organizational changes, including the hiring of a new manager and the expansion into four units. These changes will prepare the agency for HCP implementation. 2) State Forests leadership is working with Ron Zilli, ODF, and ICF to understand the tactics for HCP implementation.
- **ICF:** No updates.

BOARD OF FORESTRY PROCESS UPDATE

Mike Wilson shared an update on BOF meetings and major milestones over the past several months.

- November 2022: The BOF requested additional information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) alternatives 2 (proposed action), 3, and 5. During the November meeting, additional time was allocated for public comment on the HCP and no motions to change direction were made. Many public comments were made on the HCP and included interest in decoupling timber harvest revenue from county revenue and ODF's budget.
- January 2023: During the January BOF meeting, public comment was focused on the HCP and state forests revenue.
- Two-Year Implementation Plan (IP) Revision: IPs were developed to bridge the gap between the current FMP and finalization of the FMP with HCP implementation. Modeling under the IPs showed lower harvest levels and generated concern with interested parties and BOF members.
- February 2023: A special BOF meeting was held to discuss IP modeling results. Following the BOF's executive session, Board Member Justice brought forward a motion to explore a secondary HCP (integrating Alt 5) while continuing work on the existing HCP. The motion failed 4-3.
- March 2023: Many public comments were made on the HCP during the March BOF meeting.
- April 2023: The HCP was not a focus of the BOF's April retreat. The retreat included a tour and social to get to know different communities. During the second day of the retreat, the BOF worked on their strategic policy document and the HCP was part of the discussion.
- June 2023: The HCP was not an agenda item for the June BOF meeting. Many public comments were made on the HCP.

Mike shared that modeling continues to be behind schedule. During IP modeling, ODF realized that the yield tables needed further calibration and refinement. When calibrations are final, the yield tables will go to the field for review before modeling FMP scenarios. ODF anticipates getting initial results in August, and will share this information with the Services as long as staff are comfortable with the level of accuracy. The next step is to model the scenarios, anticipated

to be complete mid-September/early October. ODF hopes to share modeling results as soon as possible with the Services, State Partners, and the public. To be as transparent as possible, ODF will aim to share the scenario modeling outputs at least one month prior to the BOF meeting, likely in October. We plan to present the modeled scenarios to the BOF in late November or early December.

Mike noted the importance of understanding BOF interests for management in the general stewardship area (outside of Riparian Conservation Areas [RCAs] and Habitat Conservation Areas [HCAs]). Mike noted that BOF interests could also shift over time, to balance carbon storage and timber production. To help understand BOF priorities, ODF hopes to share a maximum harvest scenario with the HCP.

ODF is also working on pursuing a stewardship agreement with the Forest Resources Division. The agreement would codify that HCP strategies that go above and beyond the Forest Practices Act (FPA) meet FPA requirements. ODF will need to do this for management activities prior to fiscal year 2024 sales.

Discussion

Question: Is the BOF primarily concerned with the reduction in timber harvest?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF wants to provide the BOF with the best modeling information to understand what harvest could look like under the HCP. The BOF will need to consider maximizing harvest, increasing carbon, and a variety of other scenarios.

Question: Do you anticipate that the BOF will direct ODF to pursue a different HCP to recoup some of the costs?

- **Mike Wilson:** The BOF could ask for modifications to the HCP.

Comment: The Services need modeling information to complete the biological opinions. When will this information be available?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF anticipates sharing information with the Services in August.

HCP PROCESS UPDATE

Cindy Kolomechuk, ODF, shared that ODF is continuing to work with the Services to develop a Final HCP. ODF shared the most recent version of the HCP with the Services for review in April and received edits from USFWS mid-June. ODF anticipates receiving edits from NOAA Fisheries soon. Any updates made to the HCP will be shared during the July ST meeting.

Cindy noted that ODF is transitioning sales to the HCP starting July 1. ODF worked with ICF to develop an HCP field manual to guide implementation. The field manual will position ODF to consistently implement the HCP on the landscape over time.

Sylvia Ciborowski reminded SC members that ODF, the Services, and solicitors met on March 10 to discuss HCP topics, including monitoring and reporting and land transfers. The solicitors are continuing to work on outstanding topics and ODF plans to meet again with the March 10 group the end of July. Cindy shared that the July discussion will focus on how to integrate

monitoring and reporting requirements into adaptive management. ODF will share any updates with the SC at the next meeting.

STEERING COMMITTEE DIRECTION TO SCOPING TEAM

Sylvia Ciborowski asked the SC if they had any direction for the ST. The SC did not provide any direction.

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Sylvia Ciborowski shared that the next ST meeting is Wednesday, July 26 and the next SC meeting is Tuesday, August 22. Mike Wilson thanked everyone for their participation and commitment to the process. ODF will continue to share information as it's available.