

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

The Oregon Department of Forestry issued a Press Release on February 7, 2008, announcing a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2008 Annual Operations Plans from February 14 through March 30, 2007.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period was to provide an opportunity for the public to review the AOPs, ask questions, make recommendations and offer comments. As a public agency, ODF operates in the best interest of Oregonians, conducting business in an open way with opportunities for scrutiny to foster and maintain public confidence that ODF operations are benefiting Oregonians.

Past experience has shown that public comments have the potential to improve plans, so the objective was not only to inform the public, but to receive feedback that would help to clarify the AOPs, improve their consistency with the long range FMPs and IPs, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

At the end of the public comment period, the Tillamook District received 2 individual document specific to the district. One document was a form letter sent in by multiple people. The district also received 4 comments specific to the Tillamook District from the State Forest Advisory Committee. The district considered the questions, comments and recommendations in each letter or email. Factors that affected the districts consideration of the comments included:

- Does the comment enhance the consistency of the AOP with the FMP?
- Does the comment enhance the consistency of the AOP with the IP, for those districts with IPs?
- Does the comment improve the clarity of the AOP?
- Does the comment provide new information that will affect the AOP or an operation?
- Does the comment improve the efficiency and effectiveness (or outcome) of the AOP?

The district then prepared a response for each letter or email that attempted to resolve each question or comment by providing additional information, discussing how the recommendation incorporated into the AOP, or explaining why the recommendation was not incorporated.

Note: A complete letters of all public comments and the district responses related to the district FY08 AOP can be found on our web site:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/2008_AOP_Approved.shtml

Tillamook District FY08 AOP Changes Resulting from Public Comment Process

There was one minor change made to the Annual Operation Plan as a result of specialist and public comments received by the district.

- ☐ Wakefield – USFWS expressed concern about the amount of activity within 0.7 miles of the Bastard Creek NSO activity center even though the sale met all requirements of the “Agreement for the Conservation of Northern Spotted Owls”. The sale boundary was modified to remove 52 acres of non-required thinning within 0.7 miles of a NSO activity center. The net sale acreage was reduced by 7 acres.