

Question 1

1. Are the management goals, concepts, and strategies adequately defined for you to answer the following questions? If not, what assumptions will you need to make to answer the questions? You may refer back to this question after answering the following questions if needed.

Reviewer	Comments
Bisson	As stated below, there were some issues (e.g., monitoring) that lacked enough specifics for me to properly evaluate their adequacy; otherwise, most of the topics were treated in sufficient detail.
Emmingham	Adequate definitions: The management goals and most of the concepts and strategies are set down in very general terms. Many questions about the likely success of the strategies cannot be answered until both the HCP and Implementation Plan is fully developed. A better quantitative definition of planning targets and strategies would be helpful in achieving a better balance between timber production and social values. The strategies section needs further development to increase the chances of achieving the goals and objectives.
Gresswell	The management goals, concepts, and strategies of the Elliott State Forest Management Plan were adequately defined to answer the following questions.
Irwin	The goals, concepts and strategies are well defined. The challenges lie in the observation that pertinent information about resource inventories and distributions of important was not presented.
Ohmann	<p>Except where I've noted otherwise, the goals, concepts, and strategies were described well enough for me to answer the questions. However, improvements to the organization and writing of the chapters would greatly aid my understanding of the material. In general, it was often difficult to see what distinguished a goal from a concept from a strategy (e.g., many of the strategies were stated in such general terms they sounded more like concepts). It was often difficult to start with a particular goal or concept and follow the thread to how it was translated into specific strategies. Perhaps a tabular summary of the goals, concepts, and strategies and their relationships to one another would help.</p> <p>A related problem was keeping track of the various spatial scales and their associated ecological units, administrative units, and planning and management processes. I suggest adding a figure or</p>

	<p>table that summarizes this information. Spatial scales include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region, province, Oregon Coast Range • Landscape, 'Coos District,' 'Plan Area' (Watershed Analysis and FMP here?) • Management Basin, 5th-field-HUC • Watersheds • Stands • Etc...
Teensma	<p>In general, I do believe that the materials provide a solid basis for the review of the revised management plan. I had not previously reviewed any management plans for Oregon state forests lands, and I was pleasantly surprised at the level of detail and the integration of concepts within this plan. However, I do feel that I have had to make some assumptions that would limit the confidence of my review or my confidence in the success of the management plan.</p> <p>Specifically, I believe that the management plan would have been strengthened by the inclusion of more, and more detailed, maps of the locations of old growth areas, vegetation types, ages and structures, and of the proposed management – i.e., the allocation of major landscape types. The old growth stands appear to be relatively well-distributed, so that if one accepts the premise that smaller scattered reserves provide greater benefits to certain wildlife and plant species compared to fewer larger reserves, then one might conclude that the distribution of old growth <u>is adequate, but not excessive</u>, given the State's timber production mandates for these lands.</p> <p>The second major assumption that I had to make was that timber production and timber harvest would be able to occur on a relatively predictable and sustainable level over the anticipated life of the management plan. I have a very high degree of confidence in the modeling work of the forest scientists of Oregon State University, but very few of their results are included here. Presumably, their work was instrumental in designed the management plan. But, how predictable and sustainable will the timber harvest be? I believe that this information is critical to the industry, and hence to local communities in the Southwest Oregon area. I also assumed that the scientists modeled a certain amount of disturbance (from various agents) into the timber production and habitat management framework of the plan. Given that large disturbances occur relatively infrequently, specific information on disturbance and forest modeling may not be critical, and the amount of disturbance modeled was probably within a reasonable range. However, if trends in climate variability are towards more extremes of cool and wet, and warm and dry periods, then we may see more frequent large scale disturbance events – or repeated disturbances, e.g., the Tillamook, Yacolt, or even the Kalmiopsis fires (which may be the most similar analogy).</p>

	<p>Finally, I assumed that the fire suppression resources in Southwest Oregon would be sufficient to maintain the historic level of fire protection. If contract fire suppression resources from Oregon are already enlisted to fight wildfires in other states, and if wildfires are present in multiple areas within the State, and the interior of Southwest Oregon has at least one major incident then perhaps the level of fire protection might not be adequate. From history, the ESF area is clearly vulnerable to large fires. When one considers that the Oxbow Fire occurred at a time when State, Protection District, and industry fire suppression resources were relatively abundant, the draw down of fire suppression resources must be taken into account. While this is not necessarily a function that must be completed within the ESF management plan, the plan should probably mention or even discuss how the Protection District, the Southwest Area, or the Department of Forestry will manage fire in the ESF within a broader context.</p>
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