

Guidelines on How to Provide Useful Comments on Oregon Department of Forestry Draft 2005 Annual Operations Plans 2/12/2004

When To Comment?

In March and April, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) invites public comments on its draft annual operations plans. A comment period is publicly announced. Comment period: March 1 to April 14.

After considering comments, district foresters approve their district operations plan by June for implementation on July 1.

Who Can Comment?

Any interested individual, group or business can comment on any or all annual operations plans. Nine ODF districts, representing geographic regions around the state, have annual operations plans.

How to Comment?

Comments must be in writing and they must be received during the comment period. They may be hand-delivered or sent by mail, e-mail or fax to districts or to the State Forests Program (c/o Jane Hope, 2600 State St., Salem 97310; fax 503-945-7376; e-mail jane.hope@state.or.us). They must be received by 5 p.m. April 14.

What Are Annual Operations Plans?

These district-level plans describe the proposed on-the-ground operations, such as timber sales, road building, reforestation, stream enhancement projects and trail building, scheduled for the coming fiscal year that begins in July.

The objectives in annual operations plans are determined by long-range forest management plans and (where appropriate) 10-year district implementation plans. The Elliott (Coos) and Sun Pass (Klamath-Lake) state forests operate without implementation plans. Forest management plans and district implementation plans are available at the same locations listed below for annual operations plans.

Where Can Annual Operations Plans Be Found?

The draft plans are available at district offices and on the ODF website (http://www.odf.state.or.us/DIVISIONS/management/state_forests/planning.asp). ODF contact in Salem: Jane Hope, 503-945-7359 (jane.hope@state.or.us).

- For the Clatsop State Forest, contact: Astoria District, 503-325-5451. Fax: 503-325-2756.
- For the Tillamook State Forest (western two-thirds), contact: Tillamook District, 503-842-2545. Fax: 503-842-3143.
- For the Tillamook State Forest (eastern one-third), contact Forest Grove District, 503-357-2191. Fax: 503-357-4548.
- For the Santiam State Forest, contact Cascade District, 503-859-2151. Fax: 503-859-2158.
- For the Elliott State Forest, contact Coos District, 541-267-4136. Fax: 541-269-2027.
- For the Sun Pass State Forest, contact Klamath-Lake District, 541-883-5681. Fax: 541-883-5555.
- For scattered state forest lands in Benton, Lincoln and Polk counties, contact West Oregon District, 541-929-3266. Fax: 541-929-5549.

- For scattered state forest lands in Lane County, contact Western Lane District, 541-935-2283. Fax: 541-935-0731.
- For scattered state forest lands in Josephine, Douglas, Jackson and Curry counties, contact Southwest Oregon District, 541-474-3152. Fax: 541-474-3158.

Why Would Someone Comment?

Consistency. Someone knowledgeable* about ODF's forest management plans and district 10-year implementation plans believes the annual plan needs to change to be consistent with the other plans. *Example: I recommend changing the harvest prescription (clearcutting) for Area B of XYZ timber sale to a thinning to be consistent (and not conflict) with the desired future condition in ABC district's implementation plan.*

* Annual operations plans are more easily understood for people familiar with the applicable long-range forest management plan and (where appropriate) 10-year district implementation plans. The goals and strategies applied in the annual operations plans are described in the forest management plans.

Clarity. Someone knows a clearer way to describe activities being proposed in the plan. *Example: I recommend changing the stated objective for XYZ sale because it is unclear what is being accomplished.*

New Information. Someone (possibly a neighbor) knows about something that was overlooked in the planning of a sale. *Example: I recommend moving the boundary of Area A in XYZ timber sale because this area serves as a domestic water source (or it is an old homestead – a cultural resource site).*

Efficient and Effective. Someone knows a way to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of an annual operations plan or a planned operation. *Example: I recommend widening the proposed bridge on ABC trail to accommodate horse riders and to provide access to disabled visitors to that part of the forest. Example: I recommend requiring coordinated harvest of the XYZ and nearby ZYX sales to make helicopter logging cost effective and make spur roads unnecessary.*

Why Does ODF Seek Comments?

The purpose of the comment period is to share the annual operations plans with the public and to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and offer comments on the plans. Comments have the potential to improve plans.

As a public agency, ODF operates in the best interest of Oregonians. Conducting business in an open way with opportunities for scrutiny helps maintain public confidence that ODF operations are benefiting Oregonians.

How Are Comments Used?

Each district uses a common process to evaluate comments received. Comments related to a district's operations receive district attention; comments that extend beyond single-district issues are considered by regional area staff and statewide program staff. Responses to comments are posted on the ODF website.

Annual operations plans must be consistent with the goals, strategies and objectives found in the forest management plans and implementation plans. Administrative rules prevent districts from adopting recommendations inconsistent with the forest management plans and implementation plans. [OAR 629 Division 35](#) defines greatest permanent value to mean "healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon."