

# MEETING SUMMARY

## WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 22, 2023, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

*By Webinar and Teleconference Only*

### PARTICIPANTS

**Steering Committee:** Mike Wilson (ODF), Ron Zilli (ODF), Kessina Lee (USFWS), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Craig Rowland (USFWS), Bernadette Graham Hudson (ODFW), Jennifer Wigal (DEQ)

**Scoping Team Guests:** Jiajia Lin (DEQ), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Julie Firman (ODFW), Rod Kraemer (ODFW), Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Eric Moberly (ODF), Vanessa Petro (ODF)

**Technical Consultants:** Melissa Klungle (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) Agency Updates and Stakeholder Engagement, 3) Board of Forestry (BOF) Process Update, 4) Update on Meeting Open to the Public, 5) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Process Update, 6) Steering Committee (SC) Direction to ST, and 7) 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 the value of both committees attending the meeting to hear updates.

### AGENCY UPDATES AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

- **DEQ:** No updates.
- **USFWS:** No updates.
- **NOAA Fisheries:** No updates.
- **ODFW:** No updates.

- **ODF:** No updates.

## **BOARD OF FORESTRY PROCESS UPDATE**

Mike Wilson shared that ODF will present the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP), Draft Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), and Draft Performance Measures (PMs) with the BOF during their September 6 meeting. ODF presented this content to interested parties during a meeting open to the public on August 22. On September 7, Chair Kelly will bring forward a resolution on the Draft HCP to the BOF to make changes to the HCP. Mike shared the resolution with SC and ST members and noted that it directs staff to modify the Draft HCP with the intent to increase potential timber harvest outcomes. If the resolution is passed, any edits are anticipated to be minor and to stay within the bounds of the alternatives of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Mike stressed that any changes made to the HCP would be shared with the ST for discussion. ODF is committed to the existing process.

### **Discussion**

**Question:** Will BOF members consider habitat quality in addition to quantity if land is removed from Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs)?

- **Mike Wilson:** BOF members will have an opportunity to discuss language in the resolution prior to voting. ODF anticipates that this concern will be raised during the discussion.

**Question:** Will modeling be paused if the resolution is passed?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF will not know the impact to modeling until a decision is made on the resolution. There is no intent to direct staff to stop modeling and work completed up to this point fundamentally still holds. ODF anticipates that any changes needed would be minor.

**Question:** How would the resolution impact the HCP process?

- **Mike Wilson:** Any changes to the HCP would be shared with the ST and SC for discussion. ODF will continue to work with the Services to get alignment on any issues. The criteria used to design the HCAs and Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) will remain the same.

**Comment:** It is challenging for the Services to continue committing resources to a state project without an end in sight.

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF appreciates the time and resources that the Services have provided to this process and understands that the agencies are working on multiple HCPs.

**Question:** Does the BOF understand the implications of making significant or minor changes to the HCP?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF has communicated the timeline implications of modifying the HCP and the potential cascading impacts to the Draft EIS and modeling processes.

**Question:** Are there opportunities for ST and SC members to share input and concerns with the BOF?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF will check on testimony from state and federal agencies.

## **UPDATE ON MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mike Wilson shared that ODF held a meeting open to the public to review the Draft FMP, Draft AMP, and PMs with the public and interested parties. The meeting also included a brief update on the HCP. The meeting included approximately 40 attendees. ODF received questions focused on climate change goals and carbon sequestration, how PMs will be tracked, and what the process is for adaptive management if plans are not moving forward as anticipated. Participants also asked operational questions about harvest levels and how ODF would manage timber sales under the Draft FMP.

## **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PROCESS UPDATE**

Cindy Kolomechuk, ODF, shared that the agency is continuing to work with the Services as the HCP moves towards implementation. ODF is collaborating with field staff to identify any issues with implementation and bringing these topics to the Services to consider adjustments that may need to be made over time.

Cindy shared that ODF has held larger meetings with the Services and solicitors to discuss specific HCP topics. The solicitors recently provided a process for evaluating potential changes to the permit area and covered species to help guide any potential HCP modifications in the future. On July 31, the Services and solicitors discussed edits to Chapter 6 of the HCP. Over the next several months, ODF will continue to work with the Services to discuss how to build an effective adaptive management process through the life of the HCP.

Vanessa Petro, ODF, shared an update on downed wood and Table 4-12. In response to requests from the Services, ODF expanded the explanation of how legacy features on the landscape will contribute to habitat and function for covered species and described how the upland management strategy will be implemented. Vanessa noted that habitat management will be part of ongoing check-ins with the Services during the life of the HCP.

Erik Moberly, ODF, shared an update on fish passage. ODF initially identified 334 potential barriers within the permit area using ODFW's 2019 fish passage dataset. After refinement and field checks, ODF has narrowed the list of potential barriers to approximately 30 known blockages. Many of the initial blockages included natural barriers, already vacated blockages, and Type N streams. ODF is continuing to refine the data through field review and working closely with NOAA Fisheries on how to move forward with updating the commitment.

## **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 September 27 and the next SC meeting is October 24. ODF will continue to share information as it's available. Mike Wilson thanked everyone for attending and being part of the process before closing the meeting.