

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 29, 2019, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

ICF Portland, 615 SW Alder St, Suite 200, Portland, OR

ATTENDEES

Steering Committee: Liz Dent (ODF), Kim Kratz (NOAA/NMFS), Leah Feldon (DEQ), Doug Cottam (ODFW), Bill Ryan (DSL), Kim Garner (for Paul Henson, USFWS) – *by phone*, Dan Edge (OSU)

Technical Consultant: David Zippin, Melissa Klungle (ICF) – *by phone*

Facilitation Team: Cindy Kolomechuk (ODF), Brett Brownscombe (Oregon Consensus), Debra Nudelman and Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Deb Nudelman (Kearns & West) welcomed members and thanked them for their participation.

Members introduced themselves.

Deb reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. The key agenda topics for today include: 1) agency updates, 2) stakeholder engagement update, 3) report out on Scoping Team progress, 4) seeking alignment on the Western Oregon HCP Mission, Vision and Goals, 5) review of the conceptual working draft of the biological goals and objectives and introduction of conservation actions, 6) opportunity for the Steering Committee (SC) to identify guidance to pass along to the Scoping Team (ST), and 7) identification of next steps.

Members agreed on the date for the next Steering Committee meeting: December 6, 2019 from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Deb reminded members of progress made since the last SC meeting. At the May joint SC-ST meeting, members met with attorneys to understand the legal context of the HCP. Members also confirmed covered species, plan area, permit area, Mission, Vision and Goals, and operating principles; and discussed the stakeholder engagement plan. Since then, the ST has been working to develop biological goals and objectives.

AGENCY UPDATES

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

- **ODF:**
 - 1) ODF has been working to incorporate stakeholder and county input into the Mission, Vision and Goals for the Western Oregon HCP.
 - 2) ODF has been meeting with the FTLAC and has had several discussions on the HCP, and County Commissioners have been highly engaged with the HCP through this forum.
 - 3) There has been a petition to establish resource sites for coho, which asks ODF to revise the Forest Practices Act (FPA) to name coho resource sites. The Board of Forestry (BOF) has accepted the petition and directed ODF staff to work on it. Staff will present a plan on how to complete this work to the BOF at the November BOF meeting. There is also a petition to establish resource sites for marbled murrelet.
 - 4) ODF will bring the HCP decision point to the BOF September 10, 2020 for a full day meeting rather than the July 2020 BOF meeting as originally scheduled.
 - 5) ODF has asked ECONorthwest to expand the business case analysis to include additional economic, social, and environmental factors. This will be used to compare the revised Forest Management Plan (FMP) to the current FMP in April 2020. It will then be used to compare the preferred take avoidance plan with the HCP in September 2020.
- **DSL:** The agency is continuing to make progress on the Elliott State Forests HCP, with a decision anticipated for December 2019 by the Land Board. The stakeholder advisory group has continued to have conversations around what a research forest would look like, and long-term governance of the forest.
- **DEQ:** The Environmental Quality Commission was petitioned to designate Waldo Lake as an outstanding water resource. The Commission has directed the Department to look at rulemaking to designate both Waldo Lake and Crater Lake as outstanding water resource. The North Fork of the Smith River has been given this designation previously.
- **NOAA Fisheries:**
 - 1) NOAA Fisheries continues to be involved in the Elliott HCP process.
 - 2) NOAA Fisheries got a notice of intent to petition to list Oregon coast spring chinook as an endangered species.
- **ODFW:**
 - 1) The Wolf Plan update is complete. ODFW is still in litigation over whether to up-list marbled murrelet.
 - 2) The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has four new Commissioners and is likely to add a fifth in the coming months.
 - 3) The State of Oregon is involved in bringing a potential lawsuit against the proposed changes to the ESA.

- **Oregon Consensus:** Oregon Consensus continues to be engaged in the Elliott Forest HCP.
- **USFWS:**
 - 1) The fisher final listing decision is anticipated for October. The marten listing should also come out in the Fall, and red tree vole by end of 2019.
 - 2) USFWS is in early stage of developing a barred owl management strategy. The agency will involve more stakeholders and agencies in the fall of 2019.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Deb noted that a public meeting was held on the Western Oregon HCP in June 2019. Many participants stayed for the informal meet-n-greet.

The next public meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2019, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, with the meeting location to be determined. Steering Committee members are encouraged to attend.

REPORT OUT ON SCOPING TEAM PROGRESS

David Zippin (ICF) noted that the ST has done an initial review of Chapter 1 (Introduction) and Chapter 3 (Covered Activities) of the HCP. Those chapters are available for SC review on the SharePoint site. The ST has been working very hard on developing biological goals and objectives over the summer. Today the SC will see the results of many rounds of review and discussion on the biological goals and objectives. Klaus Puettmann at OSU has also helped to review the biological goals and objectives.

Oregon coast spring chinook is not on the Western Oregon HCP covered species list yet. The ST suggested considering it for the inclusion due to the recent petition to list it as an endangered species. It is likely to be included because conservation measures would benefit the species.

SEEK ALIGNMENT ON THE HCP MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Cindy Kolomechuk (ODF) reminded members that they approved the Western Oregon HCP Mission, Vision and Goals at their last meeting. Since then, members of the public and stakeholders, the FTLAC, and the Scoping Team have reviewed and made comments on the Mission, Vision and Goals. Cindy reviewed those comments.

Discussion

SC members considered public, stakeholder, county, and Scoping Team member comments and revised the Mission, Vision and Goals to reflect feedback. They made the following comments and suggested edits:

- Discussed how clean air and carbon reduction issues fit into the HCP.

- Suggested adding an explanatory narrative to the start of the document to clarify the purpose of the Mission, Vision and Goals and how they are meant to be used. The Mission, Vision and Goals are voluntary statements created by ODF with Steering Committee input and help describe what we hope the HCP will accomplish, and how the HCP will help support ODF's broader requirements and goals. The HCP does not require development of Mission, Vision and Goals and the statements do not put additional requirements onto the agency; instead, the Mission, Vision and Goals put the HCP in context to note that ODF is required to manage to Greatest Permanent Value over time. They reflect the intention of the applicant to gain alignment with ODF's regulatory context (i.e., the Greatest Permanent Value rule).
- Members discussed public comments that want to put more emphasis on timber-related jobs and the protection of timber activities into the Mission, Vision and Goals. They noted that revenue from the forest includes harvesting *and* other sources of revenue. Members suggested including reference to the many types of jobs (both timber and non-timber related) in Goal 3.
- Members reflected on Scoping Team input that the HCP will have benefits to a large range of species beyond the covered species. They noted that while the HCP will have ancillary benefits to a wide range of species, the HCP is not developed for this purpose, and additional analysis will not be done on non-covered species. They agreed to add language to Goal 4 around providing benefits to additional species.
- Agreed with a suggestion to broaden the list of benefits in Goal 5 to include hunting and fishing. Made additional edits to Goal 5 for clarification.
- Updated Goal 6 to make the language clearer, and to be in line with adaptive management language in the HCP handbook.

Consensus Point: With these agreed-upon edits, the SC concurred with the Mission, Vision and Goals and its use in the HCP.

REVIEW CONCEPTUAL WORKING DRAFT OF BIOLOGICAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

David reviewed the process that the Scoping Team went through to develop the Biological Goals and Objectives. He noted that it is important that the objectives be measurable. To make the objectives measurable, many target metrics will be included in tables, rather than included in the language of the objectives themselves. Conservation actions will also be developed under each objective; the actions are the mechanisms of implementing the HCP. The project team will also develop a set of flow charts or diagrams to show how goals, objectives, and actions work together.

David noted that the intent is to bring the conceptual working draft of the Biological Goals and Objectives to stakeholders and public for their review.

David walked through the goals and objectives.

Discussion

Members discussed the definitions that are used throughout the biological goals and objectives and made the following comments:

- Suggest changing the definition of “enhance” so that it does not reference “features,” since features are attributes. Suggest changing “habitat features” to “habitat conditions.”
- Members discussed use of the term “protect” versus “conserve” throughout the objectives. The project team explained that the ST pointed out that the term “protect” is consistent with the terminology that ODF uses in the GPV language. At the same time, “conserve” is a stronger message. Some Scoping Team members felt that the term “conserve” provides for more flexibility than the term “protect.”
- Members discussed use of the term “enhance” versus “restore” throughout the objectives. They noted:
 - ODF has often received comments on whether to use the term “enhance” or “restore.” At ODF, the agency uses “restore” for aquatic species and “enhance” for wildlife species.
 - “Restore” means taking something back to a prior condition. The definition of “enhance” should indicate that enhancement is different than restoration.
 - ICF clarified that restoration will sometimes be used as a conservation action to meet the enhancement standard.
 - “Enhance” was intentionally used in the aquatic objectives, because many areas will be enhanced as compared to today.
 - Overall, members are comfortable with using the term “enhance” in the objectives.

Members discussed the biological goals and objectives and made the following comments:

- Fish Species (Goal 1)
 - Objective 1.1
 - The objective should be written to be clear that it is about measuring three things: riparian forest metrics, wood volume on unstable slopes, and long-term trend counts of in-stream large wood.
 - This objective is about getting to stream complexity. The primary way to achieve this objective is through riparian buffers. Riparian buffers are the “how” to achieve the “what.”
 - Objective 1.2
 - Members questioned why this objective calls out Oregon Coast Coho as a separate species. Other objectives do not call out certain species.
 - Suggest using the term “during” rather than “through.”

- Goal 1 and its objectives:
 - Consider incorporating life history stages of fish, as appropriate.
- Columbia Torrent and Cascade Torrent Salamander (Goals 3 and 4)
 - Suggest adding temperature to the stream conditions. The species requires specific temperatures, just like fish do.
 - Question about the intent of the language “likely to *persist*” in the objectives. ICF clarified that the team is developing habitat models and will better understand where the species could persist through that method. Suggest changing the term to “likely to *occur*.”
- Northern Spotted Owl (Goal 5)
 - Question about why the term “persistence and resilience” is used for this species, rather than simply “persistence” like for other species.
 - They noted that resilience depends on the dispersal habitat and connectivity to other spotted owl habitats. Resilience is about a species returning to a previous condition after a negative event occurs.
 - “Resilience” may need to be in the goal language for other species as well or removed in this goal. “Improved resilience” may be a better description than “resilience.”
 - Objective 5.4:
 - Question about what it means to “participate” in the USFWS’s barred owl management program.
 - Members noted that this feels more like an action than an objective. Barred owl management could be addressed as an action under one of the other objectives.
- Red Tree Vole (Goal 7):
 - A member noted that objectives 7.1 and 7.3 seem duplicative. ICF clarified that Objective 7.1 is about currently occupied habitat, and Objective 7.3 is about creating additional habitat in currently unoccupied habitat.
- Coastal Marten (Goal 8):
 - This goal specifies central and southern forests, whereas goals for other species do not specify any geography. Suggest being clear about whether and why certain geographies are called out.

Deb asked members whether the Biological Goals and Objectives are ready to be shared with stakeholders at a conceptual level. Members agreed that it would be useful to share the statements with the public and stakeholders, noting that it is important to reiterate that this is a preliminary, high level draft that is a work in progress. They suggested showing an example of one of the metrics tables for context. They noted that it will be helpful to hear from stakeholders

about whether something is missing; and that getting stakeholder input on this early draft will be helpful.

NEXT STEPS AND SUMMARY

Liz thanked participants for their time and efforts and closed the meeting.

Steering Committee members are encouraged to attend the October 15 public meeting.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on December 6, 2019 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were identified throughout the meeting:

- KW – Send out information to SC regarding December SC meeting

RECORD OF AGREEMENTS AND GUIDANCE

Updated 8/29/2019

This record tracks agreements, guidance, advice, and levels of support of key milestones and elements of the Western Oregon HCP. It includes major outcomes and guidance provided by the HCP Steering Committee, HCP Scoping Team, and Board of Forestry.

Date	Group/ Body	Action	Relevant Milestone/ HCP Chapter
November 8, 2018	Board of Forestry	Unanimously voted to move forward with Western Oregon HCP Phase 2: Strategy Development and Stakeholder Engagement	Phase 1 Completion
February 7, 2019	Steering Committee	Expressed support for the Western Oregon HCP Phase 2 Scope of Work and Work Plan	Phase 2 Beginning
February 13, 2019	Scoping Team	Provided support for the proposed covered species list	Covered Species List (Chapter 1)
February 13, 2019	Scoping Team	Agreed that the current data on the covered species is sufficient to move forward with developing an HCP, and there is not a need to collect additional data at this time. Expressed support for ICF's approach to identifying best available data for each species.	Approach to Gathering Best Available Data
April 2, 2019	Scoping Team	Provided support for the covered species list presented by ICF, including an agreement to drop Lower Columbia steelhead. They also recommend not including Southern DPS red tree vole but revisiting that species when more information is available in fall 2019.	Covered Species List (Chapter 1)
April 22, 2019	ODF and DSL	Decided to include Common School Forest (CSF) lands in the Western Oregon HCP Permit Area.	Plan Area and Permit Area (Chapter 1)
May 2, 2019	Steering Committee	Adopted Western Oregon HCP Operating Principles by consensus.	Process
May 2, 2019	Steering Committee	Adopted the Western Oregon HCP Mission, Vision, and Goals by consensus	Mission, Vision and Goals (Chapter 1)
May 2, 2019	Steering Committee	Expressed alignment with Plan Area and Permit Area (with direction to ST to review inclusion of Santiam Forest area)	Plan Area and Permit Area (Chapter 1)
May 2, 2019	Steering Committee	Provided consensus support for the proposed covered species list	Covered Species List (Chapter 1)
August 29, 2019	Steering Committee	Concurred with the Western Oregon HCP Mission, Vision, and Goals by consensus	Mission, Vision and Goals (Chapter 1)