

Western Oregon State Forests HCP Mission, Vision and Goals

*Final Draft
August 29, 2019*

On August 29, 2019 the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Western Oregon State Forests HCP Steering Committee met to review and discuss Scoping Team, Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC), stakeholder, and public feedback on the Western Oregon State Forests HCP Mission, Vision, and Goals. This document reflects the final draft version of the Mission, Vision, and Goals for use in the HCP.

Overview

The Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Mission, Vision, and Goals are voluntary statements created by ODF with input from the Western Oregon State Forests Steering Committee, as well as feedback from the HCP Scoping Team, FTLAC, stakeholders, and broader public. The Mission, Vision, and Goals do not place additional requirements on the agency; instead, they describe what the agency intends the HCP to accomplish in the context of ODF's broader regulatory requirements.

Definitions

The Mission Statement concentrates on the present; it defines the customer(s), critical processes and it informs you about the desired level of performance.

The Vision Statement focuses on the future; it is a source of inspiration and motivation. Often it describes not just the future of the organization but the future of the industry or society in which the organization hopes to effect change.

Goals describe what the Mission and Vision Statements will accomplish, and the results that will be achieved.

HCP Mission

To provide protection and conservation for selected listed species and species likely to become listed under the federal or state Endangered Species Acts during the permit term, while providing for long-term, multi-benefit management of the State's public forestlands subject to the Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan. The HCP will support the range of economic, social, and environmental benefits that ODF is statutorily required to provide under the Greatest Permanent Value rule and will help to meet fiduciary responsibilities for Common School Forest lands. It will also meet specific criteria that must

be satisfied before National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) can issue incidental take permits.

HCP Vision

The HCP ensures species protection and conservation as well as increased certainty that working state forestlands will continue to provide timber production, recreation, and overall benefit to Oregonians. Multi-objective forest stewardship activities provide revenue to counties, rural communities, the Common School Fund and ODF, create jobs, support resilient forest ecosystems, clean air and high water quality, provide high quality habitats for native fish and wildlife, provide, and promote educational, recreational, and other partnership opportunities to enhance enjoyment of public forest benefits.

HCP Program Goals

- 1) Meet the regulatory requirements of the federal and state Endangered Species Acts using a multi-species approach to managing forest ecosystems across the landscape.
- 2) Ensure that active and sustainable management practices on state forest lands covered under the HCP and an associated Forest Management Plan are designed to meet the social, economic, and environmental goals articulated in the Greatest Permanent Value Rule.
- 3) Increase operational certainty, cost savings, and predictability of revenue generation (including related timber harvest, timber-related and non-timber related jobs, and other economic values) using the HCP as a programmatic approach to comply with the federal and state Endangered Species Acts over the permit term.
- 4) Increase certainty for long-term persistence of covered fish and wildlife species by protecting and maintaining high-quality habitats, conducting habitat enhancement activities in areas of lower quality habitat, and mitigating the impacts of covered activities on covered species, while providing benefits to other native species in the permit area.
- 5) Advance partnerships and engagement related to management approaches and outcomes associated with, but not limited to, revenue generation and economic outcomes, conservation, forest conditions and health, tribal interests and traditional cultural uses, research, monitoring, education, recreation, hunting, fishing, and the range of social, economic, and environmental benefits that state public forests provide.

- 6) Use science-based management to help promote conditions that create a sustainable, productive forest that is resilient to disturbance regimes such as fire, floods, disease, and drought, as well as the effects of climate change on forest and watershed conditions. Implement an adaptive management program designed to improve the effectiveness of the HCP over the course of its term.