
Prepare to Participate in the State Forester Listening Sessions



Thank you for your interest in participating in the Oregon State Forester's 2024 Listening Sessions. These special public comment opportunities are provided in follow-up to new, recently released information about long-term timber harvest and timber revenue projections on State Forest land under the state's draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and draft Forest Management Plan (FMP). The new information is a result of new modeling that used four different scenarios of managing timber flow under the HCP and FMP.

Background

In late 2023, Oregon Department of Forestry conducted new modeling that produced estimates of long-term timber harvest, revenue, habitat and carbon under the draft HCP and draft FMP.

Before recommending a path forward for completing the HCP and FMP to the Board of Forestry, the State Forester wants to offer the public an opportunity to share new concerns or ideas related to the new information.

Why does Oregon need a Habitat Conservation Plan and new Forest Management Plan?

Like any landowner, ODF must comply with federal and state Endangered Species Acts. Currently, Oregon stays in compliance through "take avoidance," a costly, logistically complex process involving extensive species surveys and shifting protections. "Take avoidance" eventually results in limited habitat quality and durability, fewer acres available for harvest, greater legal risk and less financial certainty.

ODF also is required by law to "manage State Forests for the greatest permanent value to the citizens of Oregon." Greatest permanent value means a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits, including important financial and conservation outcomes (OAR 629-035-0020).

ODF manages for greatest permanent value through forest management plans adopted by the Board of Forestry (OAR 629-035-0030). The area under consideration is currently managed under the Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plans.

Both plans rely upon "take avoidance" and carry significant legal risk. Both will be replaced by the single FMP that retains the goal of providing Oregonians with a full range of forestland benefits. It also is designed to work in tandem with the HCP.

The HCP will support the overall goal of the FMP by potentially improving certainty about compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the outcomes of timber harvest, conservation efforts, county revenues, and other forestland uses valued by Oregonians.

Developing your remarks for the State Forester

Public oral testimony will be limited to two minutes per person. Please be brief and to the point; do not repeat the same concerns that have already been shared. Remember, the State Forester is looking for *new* concerns and/or considerations related to the new information.

Please respond to *one* of the following questions in developing your comments and ideas.

1. How does the new information affect your perception of the appropriate blend of social, economic, and environmental benefits provided through the draft HCP and draft FMP?
2. What specific recommendations do you have to improve social, economic, and environmental outcomes from the management of Oregon's state forest lands?
3. What is the most important consideration related to the new information about the draft FMP and draft HCP that you want the State Forester to know?

Additional Information

» Draft Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan
oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/hcp-initiative.aspx

» Draft Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan
oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/stateforestsmp.aspx

