

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP SCOPING TEAM

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

By Webinar/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Participants: Kate Wells (NOAA Fisheries), Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Ryan Singleton (DSL), Rod Krahmer (ODFW), Julie Firman (ODFW), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Nick Palazzotto (ODF), Sarah Dyrdaahl (ODF), Mike Wilson (ODF)

Technical Consultants: Melissa Klungle and Jordan Mayor (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West), Ellen Palmquist (Kearns & West), Cindy Kolomechuk (ODF)

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, welcomed Scoping Team (ST) members and reviewed the agenda, which included: 1) Welcome and Agenda Review, 2) Agency and Stakeholder Engagement Updates, 3) Updates on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process, 4) Aquatic Strategy Updates, 5) Terrestrial Strategy Updates, 6) Updates to Adaptive Management Reporting and Engagement, 7) Updates on the Forest Management Plan (FMP), and 8) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

AGENCY AND STAKEHODLER ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

Members of the ST provided the following updates relevant to the Western Oregon State Forests HCP and FMP processes:

- **NOAA Fisheries:** The NEPA comment period has been extended 15 days to June 1. NOAA Fisheries is reviewing comments and working on response to comment.
- **ODFW:** No updates.
- **DEQ:** No updates.
- **DSL:** No updates.
- **ODF:** 1) Mike Wilson is the new Division Chief for State Forests. 2) Corey Grinnell is filling the Staff Biologist position until it is permanently filled. 3) Sarah Dyrdaahl is serving as interim Deputy Division Chief for Policy.

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, provided an update on recent and upcoming public and stakeholder engagement:

- Stakeholder and partner feedback on the Public Draft HCP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- The Board of Forestry is holding a Special Board Meeting on May 10 for the NEPA team to present a presentation on the DEIS outcomes and provide the Board with an opportunity to ask questions. The meeting will also include a conversation with the Board of Forestry and the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC) to hear their reflections on the DEIS.

UPDATES ON THE NEPA PROCESS

Kate Wells, NOAA Fisheries shared that the NEPA comment period was extended by 15 days to June 1. NOAA Fisheries is reviewing comments and working on response to comment for the DEIS.

AQUATIC STRATEGY UPDATES

Aquatic Restoration Projects

Melissa Klungle, ICF, provided context for the discussion, noting a comment from NOAA Fisheries in the Draft HCP that stream enhancement targets will be commensurate with harvest impacts in an ESU. Melissa shared that most harvest activities will take place in the northwest permit area, with less harvest occurring in scatter tracts. ODF is working to ensure that there is flexibility to conduct restoration work in areas that are most in need. Harvest will be mitigated via three methods instream project work, in-kind restoration, and percentage of timber sale that goes into the conservation fund. ODF will respond to past comments on aquatic restoration and share updated text with the ST.

Sarah Dyr Dahl, ODF, shared that the HCP provides an opportunity to build on ODF's existing restoration practices, operationalize activities for the future, and determine prioritization of restoration moving forward. ODF has been implementing large wood placement, sediment mitigation activities, and fish passage improvements through the agency's existing restoration program. In areas where ODF has an existing timber sale, the agency could improve restoration outcomes by installing wood placements and completing aquatics upgrades. ODF will use the TerrainWorks data set and partner knowledge from ODFW and watershed councils to prioritize restoration projects at the basin level. Currently, ODF is largely beholden to timber sales to complete restoration projects. In the future, ODF will continue to complete restoration projects associated with timber sales and will utilize the conservation fund to identify high priority areas for restoration.

Restoration activities will be included in Implementation Plans (IPs), including targets/ranges for the level of activity proposed. Individual projects will be included in Annual Operations Plans (AOPs). This approach is supported by ODF staff and external partners. ODF hopes to leverage

partnerships for additional capacity and funding. Sarah asked ST members to reach out if they would like to be included at different engagement points.

Discussion

Members expressed no concerns with this strategy. They had no specific comments on the aquatic restoration projects strategy, and this strategy will be incorporated into the HCP.

Equipment Restriction Zone (ERZ) Management in Seasonal Other Streams

Sarah Dyrdaahl noted that following the last ST meeting, ODF reached out to aquatic focused ST members to solicit comments and edits on the draft Best Management Practices (BMPs) document for ERZ management in seasonal other streams. Through feedback, ODF recognized the need to clarify the intent of hydrologic processes in the document and note that the BMPs will also benefit drinking water. Sarah thanked the ST for their feedback and shared that ODF is ready to finalize and incorporate the BMPs into the HCP and FMP.

Discussion

Question: Is there agreement with ODF staff that the BMPs are implementable?

- **Sarah Dyrdaahl:** ODF discussed if the BMPs are implementable at length with internal staff. The BMPs are operational and can be incorporated into timber sale contracts.

Question: What is the process for incorporating the BMPs into the HCP and how will changes be aligned with public comment from the NEPA process?

- **Melissa Klungle:** BMPs will be incorporated into the HCP and some of the edits made may be responsive to future public comments.

ST members shared that they were comfortable with the BMPs moving forward.

Steep Slope Management

Melissa Klungle shared the need to clarify hazard site definitions and context. This information is currently contained in Appendix I of the HCP. Table 2 shows factors that are considered with hazard evaluation. In the body of the HCP, ODF added language that hazard site evaluation is the result of multiple factors and referenced Table 2.

ODF is also developing an updated figure for high hazard slopes in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). The standardized slope features diagram in the appendix does not contain a buffering strategy explained in the text. ODF will share an updated diagram with the group for input.

Discussion

Members expressed no concerns. The team will move forward with pulling information from the appendix and incorporating it into the HCP.

Aquatics Field Trip

Sarah Dyrdaahl provided information on the aquatics ST field trip. The field trip will begin at approximately 9am in Tillamook and will end by 4pm. ODF is coordinating a vanpool from Salem. The field trip will focus on the history of the landscape, disturbances that have occurred, the planning process, site characteristics, and other topics. Following the tour, ODF will revisit the design and construction review process with NOAA Fisheries for culvert installations and make changes to the HCP as needed. Sarah asked ST members to send her specific topics they are interested in covering on the field trip and noted that several ODF staff will be in attendance to answer questions.

TERRESTRIAL STRATEGY UPDATES

Barred Owl Commitment and Funding

Melissa Klungle shared that during ODF's internal language review of the HCP, the team noticed inconsistencies in how barred owl management was described. During the first 20 years of the HCP permit term, ODF will contribute \$250,000 to the barred owl management fund annually. After 20 years, ODF will reevaluate with USFWS before determining future contributions. Language will be edited to reflect this commitment in the HCP.

Small Group Meeting

Melissa Klungle shared that ODF is scheduling a small group meeting with terrestrial members in late May or early June to discuss HCP topics. ODF would like to use the small group meeting to focus on items that USFWS brought up prior to release of the Public Draft HCP, and to start considering public comment to make updates as needed.

UPDATES TO ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND ENGAGEMENT

Melissa Klungle shared an update on adaptive management in the HCP. ODF revised language for adaptive management to reflect ST meetings and feedback from the USFWS Regional Office. ODF added information to clarify the triggers for adaptive management and how agencies will be engaged in the future. Adaptive management triggers will focus on trend analysis and ODF will use this information to track Stay Ahead provisions. ODF also clarified that adaptive management does not apply if a covered activity is changed significantly, this would require an amendment and conversations with the Services. During adaptive management, ODF will work with the Services to develop a range of responses before selecting what to move forward with. ODF will share updated language following the meeting.

UPDATES ON THE FMP

Bodie Dowding, ODF, provided an updated on where ODF is in the timeline and review process for the FMP.

Working FMP Timeline

● BOF Presentation / Decision



Bodie noted that a meeting open to the public will be held in September 2022 prior to a November Board meeting to review the Draft FMP. Modeled outcomes will be shared with the Board in January, 2023. The rulemaking process will take place in 2023.

Bodie shared the review process for the FMP with state partner agencies:

- Introduction (written by ICF) – Final Draft August 25
- Guiding Principles – Final Draft
- Management Approach – *Discussing with Leadership Group May 11*, Final Draft June 24
- Forest Resource Description – Final Draft Aug 12
- Goals and Strategies – Final Draft August 9
- Implementation Guidelines – Final Draft July 31
- Asset Management Guidelines – Final Draft July 31
- Adaptive management, research, and monitoring guidelines – Final Draft June 24

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Sylvia Ciborowski shared upcoming meetings before closing the meeting:

- The next SC meeting is May 24, 9-11am
- The next ST meeting is June 14, 9-11am