

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP SCOPING TEAM

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

By Webinar/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Participants: Kate Wells (NOAA Fisheries), Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Julie Firman (ODFW), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Jiajia Lin (DEQ), Vanessa Petro (ODF), Nick Palazzotto (ODF)

Technical Consultants and Guests: Melissa Klungle (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Ellen Palmquist and Erin Bothwell (Kearns & West)

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Ellen Palmquist, 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) Review of Updated Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): Identify and Discuss ST Topics of Interest, 4) Recreation Program Compliance, 5) Update on Approach to Roads, 6) Permit/Land Transfer, 7) Monitoring and Adaptive Management, 8) HCP Public Comments, 9) Report Out to HCP Steering Committee (SC), and 10) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

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

- **ODF:** 1) Mike Wilson introduced Ron Zilli, Deputy Division Chief, as a new member of the ST. ODF will not fill the Planning Deputy position immediately. Ron will continue to provide oversight for the planning team, managed by Colleen Kiser. Ron shared that his background is in forestry. 2) During the last Board of Forestry (BOF) meeting, the BOF asked for more information about several HCP topics. ODF is responding to questions and continuing to work with BOF members to increase understanding of the HCP content and process. In March, ODF will share modeled outcomes for the HCP and FMP with the BOF.
- **ODFW:** No updates.
- **NOAA Fisheries:** No updates.
- **DEQ:** No updates.

Stakeholder Engagement Updates

Ellen Palmquist shared that ODF anticipates holding meetings open to the public in early 2023. The meetings will focus on the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the second will focus on modeled outcomes.

REVIEW OF UPDATED HCP CHAPTERS: IDENTIFY AND DISCUSS ST TOPICS OF INTEREST

Melissa Klungle, ICF, reminded ST members that a track changes version of the HCP was shared prior to the meeting for review. Melissa reviewed the Key Changes document for the HCP, pointing out minor updates for consistency in each chapter and the appendices.

Melissa also shared that at the last ST meeting, the group discussed making a minor change to the habitat modification language in Section 5.7.1.4. Nick Palazzotto, ODF, noted that the change would reduce confusion during implementation.

Discussion

Ellen Palmquist asked ST members if any questions or concerns came up during their review of the Draft HCP. In general, ST members had reviewed the draft and did not have any major concerns. Ellen also asked if ST members were comfortable with the change for the habitat modification language. ST members were comfortable moving forward with the change.

RECREATION PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Melissa Klungle shared that ODF is working internally to bring the Recreation Trail Program, existing trail network, into compliance with HCP requirements. Any new trails will be in compliance with the HCP. To better understand the condition of trails, Recreation, Education, and Interpretation (REI) staff are developing a trail inventory and assessment. The tool will help ensure data collection in the field is consistent and can be used across REI programs. The inventory will be completed within the first five years and will identify locations where the existing trail network needs to be brought up to HCP standards. Trail assessments will occur annually and address approximately fifty percent of the recreation system. This annual assessment will determine the condition of existing trails and if they need work to maintain compliance with the HCP. Melissa shared that ODF anticipated sharing updated recreation compliance language prior to or during the next ST meeting.

Discussion

Question: Will ODF track the mileage or length of trails near Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) or Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs)?

- **Nick Palazzotto:** ODF is planning on using GIS to track mileage data. ODF will check with REI team to see if the location of trails in relation to HCAs and RCAs could be incorporated into the dataset.

Question: Is the condition of the surrounding forest along trails captured in the Excel sheet?

- **Nick Palazzotto:** The condition of the surrounding forest is not included in the current Excel sheet and is not something that the REI group necessarily has the expertise to record accurately. ODF could complete a GIS analysis to characterize the surrounding forest, if needed. HCP team to determine feasibility of adding forest condition to the trail assessment. Nick noted that long trails may have many different types of stands, making it more difficult to track.

UPDATE ON APPROACH TO ROADS

Melissa Klungle reminded ST members that ODF's approach to roads was discussed during the last ST meeting. After calculating trail miles by evolutionarily significant units (ESUs), ODF found that road miles decreased from 1,367 miles to 1,200 miles due to data overlap. With the road miles buffer, the total increased to 1,415 miles (20.2 miles per year).

Discussion

Ellen Palmquist asked ST members if they were comfortable increasing the cap for road miles from 1,357 miles over the permit term to 1,415 miles over the permit term. ST members were comfortable adjusting the cap.

PERMIT/LAND TRANSFER

Melissa Klungle shared that land transfer language is not consistent between Chapter 1 and Chapter 8 in the HCP. ODF needs to update text to clarify that if ODF were to swap or sell land, the land would no longer be beholden to the HCP. Language is also needed to clarify that ODF would swap land that has similar or better biological values to the land that is sold. Melissa noted that once the change is made, updated text will be circulated for review.

Discussion

Question: Are there any land transfers coming up?

- **Ron Zilli:** Each district has a land exchange plan that is reviewed by the BOF. Several districts have potential transfers and limited staff capacity to execute the transfers. ODF has completed a landscape level scan to identify where it makes sense to acquire or divest land.

MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Melissa Klungle shared that ODF is continuing to make changes to reflect comments from the Services on monitoring and adaptive management. Updates are included in the track changes version of the HCP shared with the ST.

HCP PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Klungle shared that ODF is updating HCP comment responses based on feedback from the Services. Melissa noted that ODF will update a table in response to comments to include the Labor Day Fire acreages. ODF is meeting with the Services to discuss responses to comment.

REPORT OUT TO HCP STEERING COMMITTEE

Ellen Palmquist asked the ST if they had anything to report to the SC. The ST asked ODF to update the SC on any discussions with the BOF related to the HCP.

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Ellen Palmquist shared appreciation for the ST's engagement in the HCP process and review of language. Ellen shared upcoming meeting dates before closing the meeting:

- Tuesday, November 1 9-11am – *HCP Scoping Team Mtg*
- Tuesday, November 8 9-11am – *HCP Steering Committee Mtg*
- Tuesday, December 6 9-11am – *HCP Scoping Team Mtg*