MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE SCOPING TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

By Webinar and Teleconference Only

PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee: Mike Wilson (ODF), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Bernadette Graham Hudson (ODFW), Kim Kratz (NOAA Fisheries), Dan Edge (OSU)

Scoping Team Invitees: Josh Seeds (DEQ), Julie Firman (ODFW), Rod Krahmer (ODFW), Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Erik Moberly (ODF), Nick Palazzotto (ODF), Ron Zilli (ODF)

Technical Consultants: Melissa Klungle (ICF)

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

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda which included: 1) Welcome and Agenda Review, 2) Agency Updates and Stakeholder Engagement Updates, 3) Modeled Outcomes and Board of Forestry (BOF) Meeting Debrief, 4) Update on Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Topics, 5) Steering Committee (SC) Direction to Scoping Team (ST), and 6) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed SC and ST members and opened the meeting.

AGENCY UPDATES AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

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

- **NOAA Fisheries:** No updates.
- **USFWS:** No updates.
- **ODFW:** ODFW's director is retiring April 1. The Commission is working on a recruitment plan for the position.
- **DEQ:** No updates.

- **DSL:** OSU withdrew from the Elliott State Forest HCP process. The Land Board still wants to have a research forest and will work with OSU in a different capacity. DSL will receive more direction during the February Land Board meeting. The agency anticipates putting together a plan to contract out any services DSL can't provide.
- **OSU:** No updates.
- **ODF:** 1) State-owned forest land received some storm damage over the past week. ODF is working on assessing the extent of the damage and determining next steps. 2) Deputy State Forester Kyle Abraham stepped down to an opening in Private Forests as Deputy Division Chief. Mike Shaw has been appointed to the Deputy State Forester role. ODF's planning branch was developed to improve agency coordination and planning. At the Executive Level, coordination across programs is continuing but there is a lack of capacity and questions about how to resolve the need for division coordination. 3) ODF's Stewardship Agreement, which ensures that HCP strategies meet or exceed the Forest Practices Act (FPA), was recently approved. The list of species in the HCP is slightly different than the FPA and this agreement resolves the issue. 4) The BOF has been working on a new vision focused on resilient forests and communities. ODF will share the vision with the Governor's Office in June. The vision does not address specific policy issues.

MODELING OUTCOMES AND BOARD OF FORESTRY MEETING DEBRIEF

Modeling Outcomes

Mike Wilson shared that ODF conducted additional modeling following model results for the revised Implementation Plans (IPs) in early 2023. Model results were shared with the BOF in December 2023. The meeting focused on timber flow and management strategy implementation within the context of the HCP. Implementation will be responsive to the areas the BOF are interested in, like carbon and resiliency, and progress will be tracked using performance measures.

There are a range of scenarios the BOF could expect with implementation of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and HCP. Tod Haren, ODF, reviewed key differences between the Comparative Analysis and the most recent model run, noting that ODF used a different model and updated growth and yield data for the latest scenarios. ODF also used the Forest Vegetation Simulator with the Pacific Northwest regional variant and conducted further calibration to better estimate growth in local areas. This was done using data from Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) plots to better calibrate growth and yield.

Ron Zilli, ODF, reviewed the model scenarios. ODF modeled at the georegion scale by aggregating regions together and modeled at the district scale.

	Georegion Scale				District Scale		
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Total Average Annual Harvest Volume (Inside and Outside of HCAs)	187.3	173.8	179.5	182	185	172.3	168
Total Average Annual Revenue	$83.1	$77.1	$80.6	$80.8	$82.6	$76.9	$75.6
Average Annual Harvest Volume – Outside HCA**	149.8	133.5	143.8	152.2	149.7	132	134
Inside HCAs**	37.5	39.5	36.9	39.4	35.2	39.7	34.2
Average Rotation Age (years)	80	92*	77	76	80	92*	75

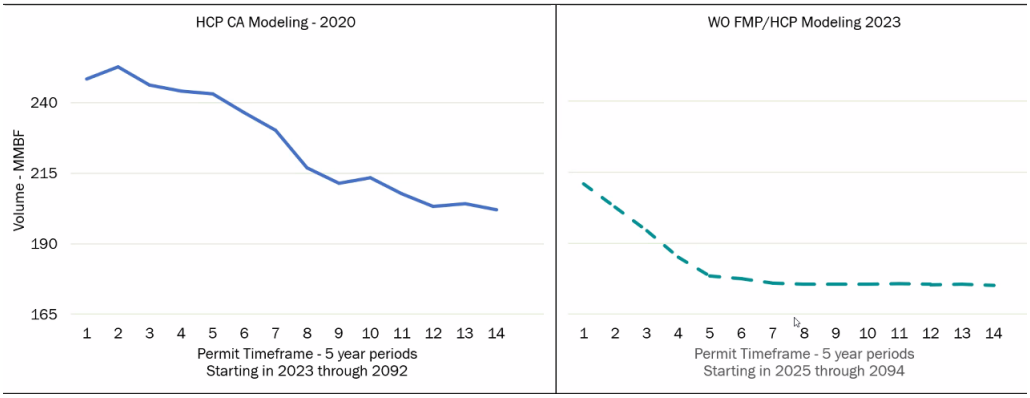

Figure 1. Model results from 2023 FMP HCP modeling at the georegion and district scale.

Ron noted that harvest decisions made in the Comparative Analysis were developed using antiquated growth and yield estimates. Changes to the growth and yield tables in the FMP HCP modeling provide a more accurate estimate of harvest. Another key takeaway from the FMP HCP modeling is that the average rotation age ended up being in the range of 70-90 years regardless of scenario. Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) and Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs), no scenario looks like short rotation forestry. Ron noted that activities in HCAs are for habitat enhancement and prescriptions will be different from commercially focused areas.

Board of Forestry Meeting

Mike provided an update on the December 14 BOF meeting. Following the modeling update, the BOF and Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC) were led through a facilitated discussion. The FTLAC shared their interests and concerns around the HCP and the modeling results. Concerns included revenue generation and loss of jobs.

During the BOF meeting, State Forester Cal Mukumoto shared that he would hold listening sessions for the public to provide comments related to the HCP at the end of January. Cal will share results of the listening sessions with the BOF in March and recommend next steps for the HCP. The BOF is expected to vote on the recommendation at the March meeting.

UPDATE ON HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN TOPICS

Fish Passage

Erik Moberly, ODF, shared that ODF staff have completed a desktop and field review of fish passage issues in the HCP permit area. ODF started with over 300 culverts identified through a desktop review and identified 30 culverts that needed further review and assessment. Final results include six culverts that need to be replaced and three culverts that require additional field review to determine uplift to covered species. ODF will present final results to NOAA Fisheries and will review culverts requiring additional assessment later in the year when water flows permit access. ODF also plans to present a list of biological elements to NOAA Fisheries that will be used to prioritize fish passage barriers. ODF will prioritize up to nine culverts for replacement and will continue to review culverts every ten-years.

Discussion

Question: Did ODF coordinate with ODFW during this process?

- **Erik Moberly:** ODF used ODFW's 2019 data layer to update the culvert data prior to conducting further desktop and field reviews. ODF has continued to engage ODFW district staff with knowledge about the culverts and worked with nonprofits in the basins.

Figure 4 Update

Erik illustrated updates to Figure 4 from the Draft HCP Field Manual. He shared that staff continue to provide feedback to leadership to develop the Manual. The original figure did not include a seasonal Type N tributary. This resulted in misinterpretation by field staff around leave tree strategies for Type N tributaries. The updated figure includes a seasonal Type N tributary coming into a small perennial Type N tributary and the addition of a 35' buffer. ODF will continue to update the Manual to reflect input from field staff.

Discussion

Question: The modified figure shows a 100' transition zone from the perennial initiation point to the seasonal Type N before it switches to an Equipment Restriction Zone (ERZ). In the seasonal Type N that was added, there is only a 35' buffer between the perennial initiation point and the seasonal Type N. Should this be 100'?

- **ODF:** In the original figure, everything was the same regarding the transition zone. It included a seasonal Type N coming into a small perennial type N. The 100' transition zone is intended to capture uncertainty. In situations where there is a side channel coming in, there's no question about where the tributary starts and the need for the transition zone is eliminated. This isn't the only diagram used to illustrate scenarios in the field. ODF is still early in the process of implementation and will continue to provide resources to field staff to make sure surveys are performed correctly, and the leave tree strategies are buffered out appropriately.

Comment: Glad to hear ODFW's Private Forest Accord stream biologists are being engaged.

American Beaver and Pacific Lamprey Conservation

Erik shared ODF's commitment to conservation actions and reviewed strategies for the American beaver and Pacific lamprey, species identified in the HCP. Goals for the species include:

- American beaver: to promote the colonization of beavers by incorporating best available science including known presence and modelled dam establishment habitat for prioritizing stream and riparian enhancement projects to benefit the covered species.
- Pacific lamprey: To promote the continued persistence and colonization of Pacific lamprey within of their historical range by incorporating best available science including known presence for prioritizing stream enhancement projects to benefit the covered species.

ODF recognizes that beavers produce processes on the landscape that can benefit the covered species. Strategies are included in the HCP and FMP to incorporate suitable beaver habitat into stream enhancement projects. There are many things ODF will look at to enhance streams in areas that may produce beaver presence or already have beaver presence. For example, ODF knows that in certain areas improvement to attract beavers to the area would create uplift that benefits the covered species.

ODF is committed to working with Tribal partners to enhance lamprey presence. Lamprey are found within most coastal watersheds within the permit area. ODF will consider prioritizing stream enhancement projects in locations that would benefit lamprey in addition to the covered species.

Erik noted that ODF is interested in how to show benefits to species outside of the covered species through the HCP reporting process.

Discussion

Comment: These species make significant contributions to the covered species.

Comment: Encourage you to include pond levelers if not already included. Chris Jordan is based out of the NW Fisheries Science Center and is an expert on pond levelers.

SC DIRECTION TO ST

Sylvia Ciborowski asked the SC if they had any direction for the ST. The SC did not provide any direction.

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Sylvia Ciborowski shared that the next ST meeting is Feb. 28, and the next SC meeting is March 26. Mike and Sylvia thanked members for their continued engagement and closed the meeting.