

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP SCOPING TEAM

Wednesday, February 28, 2023, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

By Webinar/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Participants: Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Rod Krahmer (ODFW), Julie Firman (ODFW), Jiajia Lin (DEQ), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Ron Zilli (ODF)

Technical Consultants and Guests: Melissa Klungle (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Sylvia Ciborowski and 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) Board of Forestry (BOF) Updates, 4) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Topics, 5) Report Out to HCP Steering Committee (SC), and 6) 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:

- **NOAA Fisheries:** No updates.
- **USFWS:** No updates.
- **ODFW:** No updates.
- **DEQ:** The state is exceeding nonpoint pollution minimums in the coastal zone and DEQ and DLCD are working on submitting a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Plan to federal agencies by the end of summer 2024. Oregon has started passing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) as rules to make them more enforceable, like water quality standards. For TMDL and water quality management plans, the default riparian zone needs to be 120 feet on fish streams and larger streams. This has impacts for private forests and, if the HCP is implemented, it should not be an issue for state forests.

- **Question:** Is there anything the state forests division can do to be proactive and track the outcome of this work?
 - **Josh Seeds:** Most of the interactions with this work will be with the forest resources division. They're aware of this work and are coordinating with DEQ. The forest resources division had information in their Implementation Plan (IP) about state forest lands in the Willamette Valley. The IP didn't include details about the more proactive management occurring on state forest lands. In addition to talking about the effectiveness of the new Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules, it would be beneficial to include details about the HCP. There may be some hesitation because the HCP has not been adopted. DEQ will let ODF know when it's a good time to be more involved in the process.
- **DSL:** DSL reached out to ODF regarding the acquisition of an 80-acre parcel near the South Slough Reserve. The parcel is part of the Common School Forest Lands (CSFL) in the permit area. DSL and ODF discussed removing the parcel, but funding has not been secured. The parcel will remain in the permit area and if funding is secured in the future, the agencies can have further discussion.
- **ODF:** Ron Zilli shared that he is leaving the division on June 1.

BOARD OF FORESTRY UPDATE

Ron Zilli shared that ODF has been working with the BOF to find alignment around the HCP. ODF held small group meetings with BOF members and the Services to discuss and ask questions about the HCP process. State Forester Cal Mukumoto hosted a series of listening sessions in January and February to hear feedback from the public on the recent modeling efforts, the HCP, and the FMP. In addition to the three listening sessions, ODF accepted over 150 written comments. Comments were grouped by theme and shared with the BOF for their review. The State Forester will share a recommendation on the HCP with the BOF on March 7. The BOF will then vote on the recommendation. The FTLAC will have time to share input with the Board on March 6.

Discussion

Question: Will the State Forester propose to move forward with the HCP and the FMP?

- **ODF:** The recommendation could range from moving forward with the HCP as is, or revisiting portions of the HCP. If the recommendation is to make modifications, it will be in the spirit of moving forward with the HCP. If ODF is directed to change the HCP, the agency will continue to work with the Services and use the existing process with the ST and SC. ODF recognizes that the Services and State Partners have invested their time in the process and wants to make sure they cross the finish line together. It's important to have an HCP that state and federal agencies can support.

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN TOPICS

Fish Passage

Cindy Kolomechuk, ODF, shared that the agency has developed a comprehensive document around fish passage and the process for evaluating fish passage needs in the permit area. ODF began discussing fish passage in 2020 and agreed to use the ODFW dataset for SSBT streams. The dataset revealed over 334 fish passage projects that needed to be addressed in the permit area. After additional review in 2023, ODF found errors in the data including waterfalls, weirs, and projects that had already been addressed. ODF conducted multiple desktop and field reviews and identified nine potential culverts that need to be addressed to provide conservation benefit. Three of the potential culverts require further field verification. ODF will work with NOAA Fisheries to develop a timeline for addressing the six known culverts. These projects will be prioritized using physical and biological criteria and some will potentially be addressed prior to the Incidental Take Permits (ITPs). ODF is also working on estimating culvert end of life and what the commitment will look like over the permit term.

Discussion

Comment: NOAA Fisheries shared appreciation for ODF's work on fish passage.

Comment: ODFW shared that they will follow-up with ODF on the recent fish passage work soon.

Chapter 6 Edits

Cindy Kolomechuk shared that ODF has been working on monitoring commitments in Chapter 6 of the HCP. ODF is taking the commitments and organizing them in a way that directly ties back to the conservation action and the biological goal and objectives. There are commitments related to compliance and data that will be used for effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management. ODF feels that the new organization will yield long-term benefits. ODF will continue to work with the Services on monitoring and reporting topics.

REPORT OUT TO HCP STEERING COMMITTEE

Sylvia Ciborowski asked the ST if they had anything to report to the SC. The ST did not provide any updates for the SC.

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Sylvia Ciborowski shared appreciation for ST engagement in the HCP process and reviewed upcoming meetings before closing the meeting.

- Monday, March 18 2-3pm – *HCP Steering Committee Meeting*
- Wednesday, April 10 11am-12pm – *HCP Scoping Team Meeting*