

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP

JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE AND SCOPING TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

By Webinar and Teleconference Only

PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee (SC): Mike Wilson (ODF), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Jennifer Wigal (DEQ), Bernadette Graham Hudson (ODFW)

Scoping Team (ST): Lance Kruzic (NOAA Fisheries), Jeff Young (NOAA Fisheries), Rod Krahmer (ODFW), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Jiajia Lin (DEQ), Ryan Singleton (DSL), Nick Palazzotto (ODF), Erik Moberly (ODF), Corey Grinnell (ODF), Vanessa Petro (ODF), Julie Firman (ODFW)

Guests: Tim Holschbach (ODF)

Technical Consultants: David Zippin, Jordan Mayor, and Melissa Klungle (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Ellen Palmquist and Nicole Metildi (Kearns & West), Cindy Kolomechuk (ODF)

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed SC and ST members and thanked them for joining.

Ellen Palmquist, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda which included: 1) Welcome and Agenda Review, 2) Agency Updates, 3) Process and Timeline Updates, 4) SC Direction to ST, 5) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

AGENCY UPDATES AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SC and ST members introduced themselves and provided the following updates relevant to the Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) process:

- **NOAA Fisheries:** Lance Kruzic shared that completing the HCP is still a high priority for the agency and that they expect to meet the project schedule.
- **USFWS:** No updates
- **DSL:** Ryan Singleton shared that DSL has a new director, Kaitlin Lovell, who started in August. DSL is monitoring the Flat Fire and how well the Fuels Reduction Project has fared during the fire – there was a lot of fuel reduction work around homes outside of Sisters ahead of the fire.
- **DEQ:** No updates.
- **ODFW:** No updates.
- **ODF:** 1) Mike Wilson shared that ODF is still in the recruitment process for a new State Forester and that Kate Skinner remains the Interim State Forester. The recruitment

process is expected to be completed in a few months. Tim Holschbach remains the Interim State Deputy Supervisor. 2) ODF is holding vacancies across the state in the Forestry division, and these vacancies are associated with timber revenues. While log prices have been strong, they are softening. ODF is working with region leadership to establish a framework around the Good Neighbor Authority timber sales program, especially as Region 6 is expected to produce more timber given a recent executive order. This will affect workforce, but not the HCP. 3) The State of Oregon is submitting comments on USFS reorganization, specifically the movement and consolidation of research stations. ODF is concerned that expertise may leave the region.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE UPDATES

Melissa Klungle (ICF) shared process and timeline updates. ODF has worked closely with the Services to address comments on the HCP through weekly meetings and editing sprints. Melissa noted that the team has received all comments from the Services and is on track to deliver Chapters 1-6 at the end of September and the remaining chapters shortly thereafter.

This will allow USFWS and NMFS to work through updating their Biological Opinion (BiOp) - NMFS, or starting their BiOp - USFWS, with the information in the revised HCP. She shared that edits to the draft HCP consist of clarifications and additional details to help the reader understand the document and are not substantive in nature.

Chapters 1-3 are complete and were shared with the Services on August 15. The majority of the edits consisted of language changes around recreation to create consistency throughout Chapter 3. For example, language was added to make it clear that public recreation is not a covered activity. Chapters 4-6 are currently being revised, with the expectation that these will be shared with the Services at the end of September.

Melissa asked the SC and ST if they would like to see Chapters 1-3 with the Services comments (and responses to those comments) now or when the full HCP is ready at the end of September. The group discussed the pros and cons and decided that they would like to see Chapter 4 when it is ready, as it is the most representative of larger changes in the HCP. ODF will also share a document summarizing key changes after September.

SC DIRECTION TO ST

Ellen Palmquist 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

Ellen Palmquist thanked SC and ST members for attending and shared that the team would look into rescheduling the next meeting as it falls during the week of Thanksgiving.

She also shared the following action items:

- ODF to send updated Chapter 4 to the Scoping Team and Steering Committee when it is ready.
- ODF to send the key changes document between now and the next meeting.

Mike Wilson thanked the group for their attendance and commitment to the timeline and process before closing the meeting.