

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE AND SCOPING TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

By Webinar and Teleconference Only

PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee (SC): Mike Wilson (ODF), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Bridget Moran (USFWS), Bernadette Graham-Hudson (ODFW), Dan Edge (OSU)

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)

Guests: Tim Holschbach (ODF)

Technical Consultants: David Zippin and Melissa Klungle (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Ellen Palmquist and Nicole Metildi (Kearns & West)

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) 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) Schedule 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 provided the following updates relevant to the HCP process:

- **NOAA Fisheries:** NOAA Fisheries is adjusting to reduced staffing and prioritization of projects, and increased efficiencies throughout the region. Completing the HCP is still a high priority for the agency.
- **ODFW:** ODFW has a new Land Resources Manager, Nicole Czarnomski, who will lead all terrestrial habitat related programs.
- **USFWS:** USFWS is adapting to staff reductions. The HCP remains a high priority.
- **DEQ:** Agency staff are continuing to work with federal and state partners on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation.
- **DSL:** No updates.
- **OSU:** No updates.
- **ODF:** 1) The Board of Forestry (BOF) is continuing to narrow down what the Forest Management Plan (FMP) will look like with the HCP in place. They are

considering tradeoffs associated with higher levels of harvest in the near-term with reductions each decade. ODF would continue to harvest around mean annual increments (typically 70-90 years old for final harvest). The BOF did not make a final decision but shared that the modeling is headed in the right direction. 2) The hiring process for the new State Forester is ongoing. Initial interviews have been held, and a candidate will be put forward during the state legislative session. 3) Cindy Kolomechuk will be the ODF's new Tribal Government to Government Coordinator starting in December and stepping away from HCP roles. Melissa Klungle will help with any HCP coordination and project management needs.

SCHEDULE AND TIMELINE UPDATES

Melissa Klungle (ICF) shared schedule and timeline updates for the HCP. ODF continues to work on updates to the HCP and submitted Chapters 1-6 to the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries, collectively referred to as the Services, right before the federal government shutdown. ODF met with the Services last week to discuss the process for finalizing the HCP. ODF will schedule meetings in mid-December to walk through Chapters 1-6 and discuss any feedback the Services may have. These meetings will also serve as venue to orient the Services to changes that have been made to the HCP in response to their comments.

ODF continued to make updates to Chapters 7-10 in the HCP during the federal government shutdown. These chapters will be shared soon, pending conversations with NOAA Fisheries.

ODF is also continuing to support USFWS by answering questions about the Section 7 analysis. Initial GIS data has been shared with the Services, and the remaining data will be sent this week to facilitate the analysis for the Biological Opinion. ODF will remain available to answer questions as needed.

Ellen Palmquist asked the Services to provide updates on their timelines and any impacts from the federal government shutdown. The Services provided the following responses.

- **NOAA Fisheries:** Lance Kruzic shared that NOAA Fisheries has lost momentum due to the federal government shutdown and they are reassessing to get back on track. Staff are working on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) documents. The agency's goal remains to issue permits in June 2026 and achieve milestones as close to the original schedule as possible.
- **USFWS:** Bridget Moran shared that USFWS is in a similar position to NMFS. They are looking forward to the HCP walk through to better understand the current draft and next steps. Completing the HCP on schedule remains a priority.

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 sent out calendar invites for meetings in 2026, with the first meeting in February. She noted that some meetings later in the year may be cancelled as needed.

She also shared the following action items:

- ODF to schedule an orientation of the changes in the HCP in response to Services comments.
- ODF to share remaining GIS data for Section 7 analysis.

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