

MEETING SUMMARY

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

Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

By Webinar and Teleconference Only

PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee (SC): Mike Wilson (ODF), Joe Zisa (USFWS), Lance Kruzic (NOAA Fisheries), Jennifer Wigal (DEQ)

Scoping Team (ST): Rod Krahmer (ODFW), Julie Firman (ODFW), Josh Seeds (DEQ), Jiajia Lin (DEQ), Ryan Singleton (DSL), Venessa Petro (ODF), Nick Palazzotto (ODF)

Technical Consultants: David Zippin and Melissa Klungle (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Nicole Metildi and Ruby Gonzales (Kearns & West)

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) SC and ST members and thanked them for joining.

Nicole Metildi, 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, and 5) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

AGENCY UPDATES AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

- **NOAA Fisheries:** The HCP remains a high priority for the agency. When NOAA Fisheries receives the final HCP, they will begin to roll out the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and permit issuance.
- **ODFW:** No updates.
- **USFWS:** No updates.
- **DEQ:** No updates.
- **DSL:** No updates.
- **ODF:** 1) ODF shared that the Forest Management Plan (FMP) will be shared with the Board of Forestry in the first week of June. A second-round rulemaking and a corresponding public hearing will occur between June 1 and June 30. The FMP will be presented to the Board for adoption in July. FMP adoption is contingent on ITP acceptance, with the FMP being effective July 1, 2027. 2) The Board is expected to approve Kate Skinner as Deputy State Forester at their June meeting.

Discussion

The group discussed creating talking points about the final HCP to ensure consistency in how agencies talk about the final HCP with external and internal stakeholders.

SCHEDULE AND TIMELINE UPDATES

Melissa Klungle, ICF, shared schedule and timeline updates for the HCP. The review of all HCP chapters with the Services is complete and the group is now working through key topics that were flagged for further discussion. Several key decisions and language updates have been finalized as a result of this process: legal public recreation has been categorized as a covered activity; drone and helicopter use will not be covered; and language will be added clarifying that torrents are not a covered species and that ITPs will not be requested for them. Regarding the stay-ahead provision and HCA boundaries, ODF does not intend to change the boundaries. Language related to northern spotted owl dispersed habitat is still being finalized and will be shared before the document is completed.

Discussions around topics flagged for further discussion are nearly complete. ODF is targeting mid-June to deliver an edited version of the HCP that is responsive to the feedback from these meetings.

Melissa emphasized that the commitments in the HCP have not changed; the updates being made are intended to add clarity and improve structure in response to feedback from the Services. No substantive changes are anticipated.

Discussion

Question: Have you heard that DC will not approve these HCPs?

- **NOAA Fisheries:** The permit will be issued in the region. Regional leadership occasionally asks for status updates on the HCP.
- **Comment:** It would be good to have talking-points in order. We had some created for the Elliott HCP and they allowed us to have accurate messaging across agencies.

Question: What is the schedule for getting the HCP published?

- **Melissa Klungle:** The final document needs to be compliant with ADA standards, which should take two weeks from the document's finalization.

Question: Do any agencies have issues with the schedule that was laid out?

- No SC or ST members raised any issues.

SC DIRECTION TO ST

Nicole Metildi 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

Nicole Metildi thanked SC and ST members for attending and shared that the next meeting is scheduled for August 25 at noon.

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