



MEETING SUMMARY

FMP/HCP Virtual Meeting Open to the Public

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

State-owned forests are sustainably managed to provide environmental, social, and economic benefits to all Oregonians. In October of 2020, the Board of Forestry (BOF) gave direction to the State Forests Division to continue the development of a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and a Forest Management Plan (FMP) for Western Oregon State Forests. The Administrative Draft HCP entered the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in March 2021. Now, the State Forests Division is developing the FMP and Implementation Plans (IPs). The State Forests Division determined that the best way to carry out this work is in a parallel process, running two separate projects. The existing HCP project team will continue with the HCP process, and a new project has been initiated to develop the FMP and IPs. The project teams will coordinate closely throughout the project lifecycle to ensure alignment and consistency in management goals, objectives, and strategies. As ODF updates the FMP and continues the HCP development process, a key goal of ODF is to provide information and engage in dialogue with all Oregonians who want to weigh in on these important planning efforts.

Purpose of Meeting

- Provide an update on the FMP & IP Project and describe the engagement process for this effort
- Provide an update on the Western Oregon State Forests HCP
- Provide an update on the HCP NEPA process

Attendees

Over 50 participants attended the meeting open to the public. Those in attendance represented conservation groups, county representatives, government agencies, industry representatives, recreation representatives, tribal representatives, and the general public, as well as members of the Scoping Team (a technical level HCP working group) and Steering Committee (a policy level HCP working group).

Notification Methods

ODF invited agencies, interested parties, stakeholders, members of the Steering Committee, members of the Scoping Team, and the general public to the meeting.

Notification methods included:

- Email distributions to interested parties
- Posts on ODF social media including Facebook and Twitter
- Meeting notice via FlashAlert to media in areas that would be potentially covered in the HCP (including Portland media)
- Post on the ODF news site
- Post on the Western Oregon HCP and FMP project webpages



Format

The meeting open to the public was a two-hour webinar that included presentations and question and answer discussion opportunities. The meeting was followed by an informal, one-hour virtual discussion period for participants to ask questions and discuss topics of interest. Participants were able to submit questions or comments through the chat to the meeting host and co-hosts.

Participants were encouraged to write and confirm their name as they joined the webinar to track attendees. Participants also received the opportunity to provide their affiliation through a webinar poll. The Participant Affiliation Poll received 49 responses. Responses for other included the State Forests Advisory Committee.



MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, welcomed participants and reviewed webinar instructions and remote participation tips. Sylvia reviewed the agenda, which included: 1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview 2) Review: FMP and IPs, Engagement Update 3) FMP Draft Goal and Strategy Development, 4) Western Oregon HCP and NEPA Process, 5) Summary and Next Steps, and 6) Discussion on Topics of Interest.

Sylvia Ciborowski introduced Liz Dent, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) State Forests Division Chief. Liz thanked everyone for attending and for their continued engagement in the management of state forests. Liz reviewed existing planning processes including the FMP, the HCP, and IPs, and explained how the plans support and complement one another. The FMP will provide the State Forests Division with clear direction on how to manage state lands in the decades to come. The HCP provides a holistic and cost-effective way to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and sets

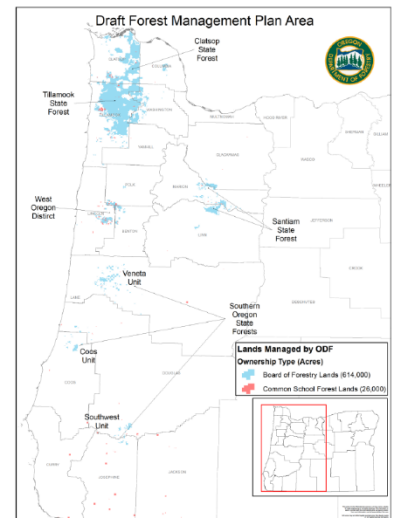


conservation priorities for ODF. The Administrative Draft HCP is available on the HCP website and the team is continuing to work with federal agencies as they move through the NEPA process. Public input on the HCP will be facilitated through the federal process when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is shared with the public. Liz noted that the agency would share progress of draft strategies for the FMP during the meeting. The strategies will continue to be refined based on feedback. Liz stressed that each planning process is focused on early and ongoing engagement with the counties, tribes, and public stakeholders.

Review: FMP and IPs, Engagement Update

Mike Wilson, ODF, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided context for the draft strategies discussion.

- **Geographic context:** The FMP includes State Forest lands managed by ODF's State Forests Division in Western Oregon.
- **Management context:** Oregon Revised Statutes, Greatest Permanent Value Rule (GPV), and State Forests Planning Rule provide direction for developing the FMP.
- **Scope of Today's Discussion:** Project processes, project timelines and engagement, and NEPA process for the draft HCP.
- **Out of Scope:** State Forest lands outside of the draft FMP geographic and management context, private forest lands and the Forest Practices Act, and federal lands are not the focus of the meeting.



Mike shared a map showing the lands that the FMP applies to, including 614,000 acres of BOF lands and 26,000 acres of Common School Forest Lands. The largest concentration of land is in the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests. The Santiam State Forest, the West Oregon District, and Southern Oregon State Forests, including the Veneta Unit, the Coos Unit, and the Southwest Unit, are also included.

Mike reviewed the differences between ODF's plans and how they help ODF manage state forests to provide GPV to Oregonians:

- **FMP:** The FMP is a strategic, long-range plan adopted by the BOF as administrative rule. It provides high-level forest management goals and strategies. FMPs are reviewed every ten years and are designed to persist with minimal revision. The FMP provides conservation strategies for species not covered under the HCP. Performance measures will be developed that allow the BOF to track progress meeting FMP goals.
- **HCP:** The HCP provides the majority of ODF's conservation strategies for covered species and allows for more certain and cost-effective implementation of the FMP.
- **IPs:** IPs are approved by the State Forester and help implement goals in the FMP. These plans are district specific, sub-geographic plans with mid-level objectives and goals. IPs contain a district overview of key resources and land ownership, average annual harvest objectives, and the desired future forest condition. IPs are tied to adaptive management and monitoring plans.



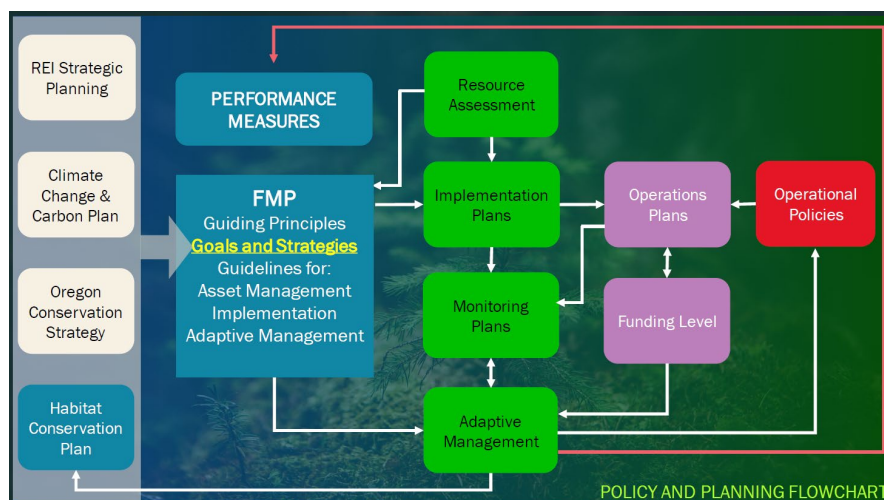
- Annual Operation Plans (AOPs): AOPs are approved by the District Forester and help achieve IP objectives. These plans are district specific fiscal year plans that include operational and project level detail including timber sales and habitat improvements. AOPs are tied to adaptive management and monitoring plans.

The FMP will also contain guidelines for asset management, implementation and adaptive management. IPs, Monitoring Plans and the Adaptive Management Plan will all flow from the FMP goals and strategies. AOPs will be used to fulfill IP objectives. ODF will also develop performance measures containing specific metrics and targets to measure goal progress and provide a “dashboard” for the BOF and the public.

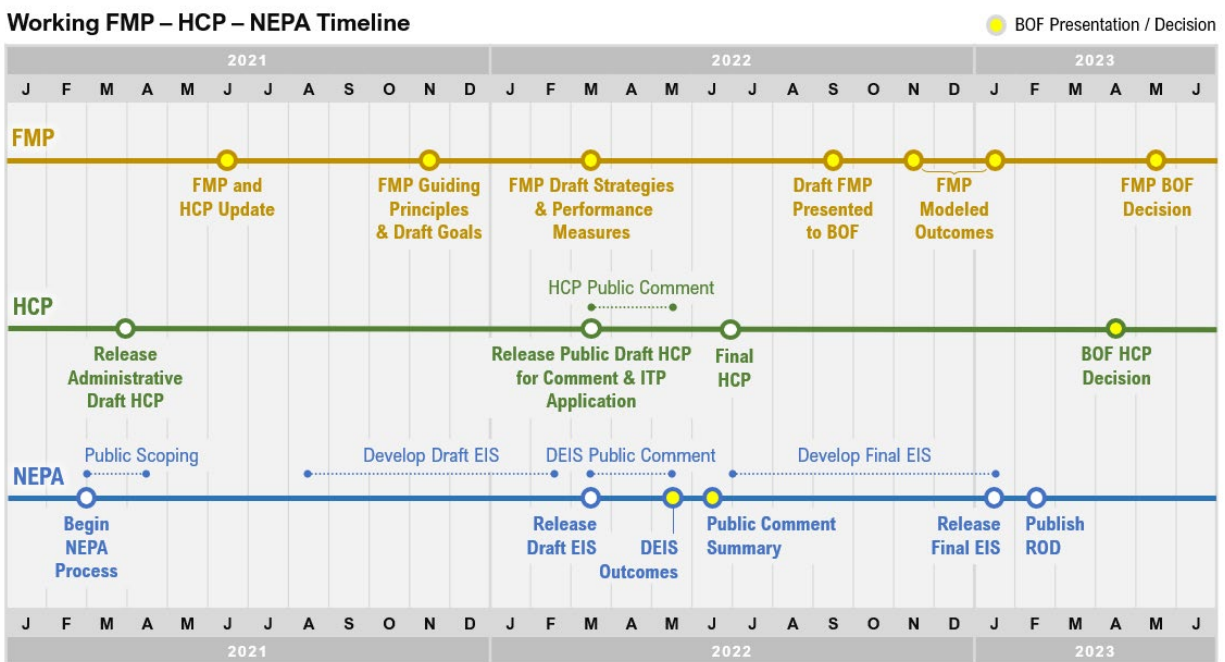
Mike reviewed other planning processes that influence the FMP, including:

- ODF’s Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Strategic Planning is ongoing. Goals for recreation, education, and interpretation are high-level in the FMP and further detail will be provided in IPs.
- ODF’s Climate change and Carbon Plan was recently adopted by the BOF and will guide forest management that is resilient to climate change.
- The Oregon Conservation Strategy is the ODFW’s document for the management of native wildlife and provides information and tools for land managers to further develop conservation strategies.

Mike noted that ODF is actively engaged with state partner agencies, including ODFW, DEQ and DSL to ensure alignment with both legal standards and strategic vision.



Mike reviewed the FMP timeline, noting that the FMP Project Team will continue to discuss goals and strategies with the BOF until adoption. From January 2022 through November 2022, ODF will complete additional modeling of the FMP and present modeled outcomes to the BOF. This will inform discussions on tradeoffs and which performance measures will be used to track progress. In May 2023, ODF anticipates a BOF decision to adopt the plan as Oregon Administrative Rule. Mike noted that the timeline may continue to shift to accommodate capacity needs and fire season.



Engagement Update

Mike shared that the draft FMP goals were shared with the BOF on November 3. Mike reviewed the process for developing the draft FMP strategies noting that the strategies are approved internally and then shared with state partner agencies. The draft strategies are also shared with the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC) and the State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) before they are presented to the public for review. After review, the draft strategies are edited and then shared with the BOF for input.

Upcoming Engagement

Sylvia Ciborowski shared that another meeting open to the public will be held in Spring 2022. ODF is hosting stakeholder meetings on December 9 and 13 to review and discuss the draft FMP strategies in more detail. Each meeting will focus on a separate set of resource areas.

Discussion

Question: Who are the stakeholders for the joint stakeholder meeting?



- **Sylvia Ciborowski:** Anyone who is interested in the process is invited to the joint stakeholder meetings. This includes interests from conservation, recreation, and industry. ODF wants to be inclusive and welcome anyone who is interested.

Question: Is there an agenda with specific timeslots for the strategies for the December 9 and 13 meetings?

- **Sylvia Ciborowski:** focusing on specific resource areas for each meeting. Shared the different topics for meeting 1 and meeting 2.

Question: What will the proposed HCP rules include for private timberland owners?

- **Liz Dent:** Information for private timberland owners is provided by the Private Forests Division. This meeting is for the State Forests Division and focused on state lands.

FMP Draft Goal and Strategy Development Discussion

Sylvia Ciborowski reminded the group that during the October meeting open to the public, ODF shared a summary of feedback received on the draft FMP goals. During today's meeting, ODF will highlight how the goals have changed as a result of public, BOF, and county feedback. ODF will then share the process to develop FMP strategies and provide examples of strategies.

Bodie Dowding, ODF, reviewed goal feedback and changes. Key changes include:

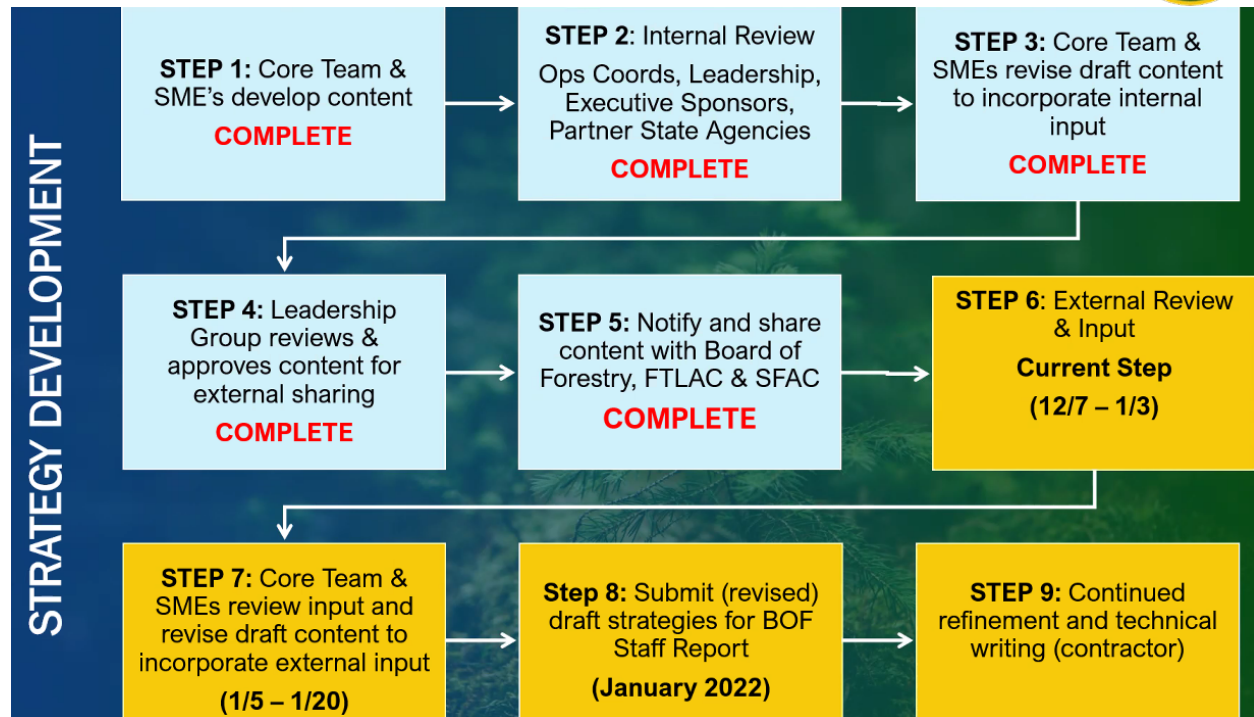
- Adding a drinking water goal to "protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use".
- Modifying the carbon goal to "contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products".

Bodie noted that ODF is moving forward with draft FMP goals, but the public can continue to provide feedback through BOF meetings and public comment on the Draft FMP.

Bodie described the differences between goals and strategies:

- Draft goals are designed to provide economic, environmental, and social values from state forests.
- Draft strategies provide management direction for state forests to achieve the draft goals.

Strategies were developed through a series of steps:



After input is received in early January, ODF will edit strategies and submit them for review to the BOF. Strategies will continue to be modified based on feedback from the BOF. Bodie noted that ODF is also conducting a strategy mapping exercise to determine strategy implementation, interconnections, planning level touch points, and possible performance measures to determine success.

Bodie shared strategy examples for forest resilience, noting how the strategies are written to apply to the goal. Bodie reminded the group of upcoming joint stakeholder meetings and ongoing opportunities to provide comment at future BOF meetings. The public can also provide direct input on the draft FMP strategies through an online survey. Ellen Palmquist, Kearns & West, provided a demo of the draft strategies survey. Responses to the survey are due January 7, 2020.

Discussion

Question: Will responses to the survey be shared with the public?

- **ODF:** We will develop a summary of responses and a full dataset for the survey. Everyone’s comments will be reflected in the staff report for the BOF meeting in March 2022.

Comment: Supportive of goals 1-12.

Comment: Revenue is only one of a number of goals in the GPV rule. Private companies do not contribute revenue to the counties which increases the pressure for ODF to provide revenue.

Comment: If thinning isn’t conducted at 25 years, side branches die and the fuel to oxygen mix becomes perfect for hot fast fires. As long as there is a high planting maximum, uncontrollable fires will be a concern. Supportive of planting more deciduous trees, including big leaf maple, for carbon storage, soil benefits, and a lower burn rate.



Comment: Interested in seeing a division of the strategies as they apply to habitat conservation areas (HCAs) and riparian conservation areas (RCAs) versus harvested land. These strategies will be different than strategies for harvested land.

- **ODF:** ODF is developing holistic strategies for the FMP. The agency has had internal discussions about how to apply strategies across the landscape. The FMP will explain how strategies will be used at the landscape level.

Comment: Interested in seeing what the FMP looks like now and how it can be modified for the HCAs and RCAs.

- Current Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/aboutodf/2010FMPNorthwestOregon.pdf>

Question: Are areas with layered forest structure and complex forest structure generally not planned for harvest?

- **Liz Dent:** This terminology is used in the current FMP. The current FMP designates areas that will be managed in different ways. Outside of areas designated for layered and older forest structure, there is more flexibility to harvest. The current FMP sets a target that 30-50% of the landscape for each district will be managed for layered and older forest structure. The new FMP will reflect the HCP.

Question: How will the FMP strategies be measured?

- **Mike Wilson:** Strategies will be measured using performance measures. The BOF will inform which performance measures will be used to track progress.

Question: If a performance measure can't be identified for a goal or strategy, should it be included in the FMP? Recommend that goals and strategies tied to conducting business rather than managing the forest are included in an MOU instead of the FMP.

- **Mike Wilson:** It's important to consider if a strategy is tied to management or if it's an operational policy that doesn't need to be reflected in the FMP. ODF values feedback on this because there are different opinions on this approach.

Question: Are the goals listed according to priority?

- **Bodie Dowding:** The order of the goals was not intentionally changed, and they are not organized by priority.

Comment: Will conservation management areas, like Buster Creek, remain the same or is ODF going to change conservation management plans?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF is changing the way habitat and forest types are described to seral stages. Regarding the designation of specific areas, this will be changing from the current desired future condition for complex structure. HCAs are similar to conservation management areas, but not exactly the same.



Comment: Does the State Forests Division use rodenticides for mountain beaver?

- **ODF:** No, ODF made the decision not to use rodenticides.

Comment: Supportive of the new drinking water goal. Interested in understanding how to implement protection for drinking water sources and if drinking water sources could be protected from harvest. Many communities faced water shortages over the past year. How will ODF move forward with drinking water protections?

Comment: Grateful that State Forests continue to contribute to carbon storage and carbon sequestration because young trees sequester at a faster rate. As ODF sets aside large areas with limited to no harvest for 70 years, are there strategies to mitigate wildfire in HCAs?

- **Mike Wilson:** The management focus of HCAs is habitat. Thinning is allowed on a case-by-case basis. Wildfire strategies are included in the FMP. Information on fuels management in HCAs will be available in the Public Draft HCP. This focuses on types of management that could result in larger, well-spaced single-story stands that can mitigate wildfire risk and maintain habitat quality. Fuel breaks will also be an available tool. Detail is limited because ODF does not want to be overly prescriptive to allow for evaluation on a case-by-case basis.

Comment: Building an inventory of carbon pools on the landscape and where carbon moves across pools would be valuable information for ODF and other agencies. Recommend incorporating this into the climate change strategies. Climate change is focused on climate smart management, but part of this is having an accurate idea of where the carbon is on the landscape and how it's changing.

Comment: Supportive of the drinking water goal.

Comment: For strategy 10.1.a, recommend consulting the Water Resources Department to identify domestic water resources and the Department of Environmental Quality for source water assessments.

Updates on the Western Oregon HCP and NEPA Process

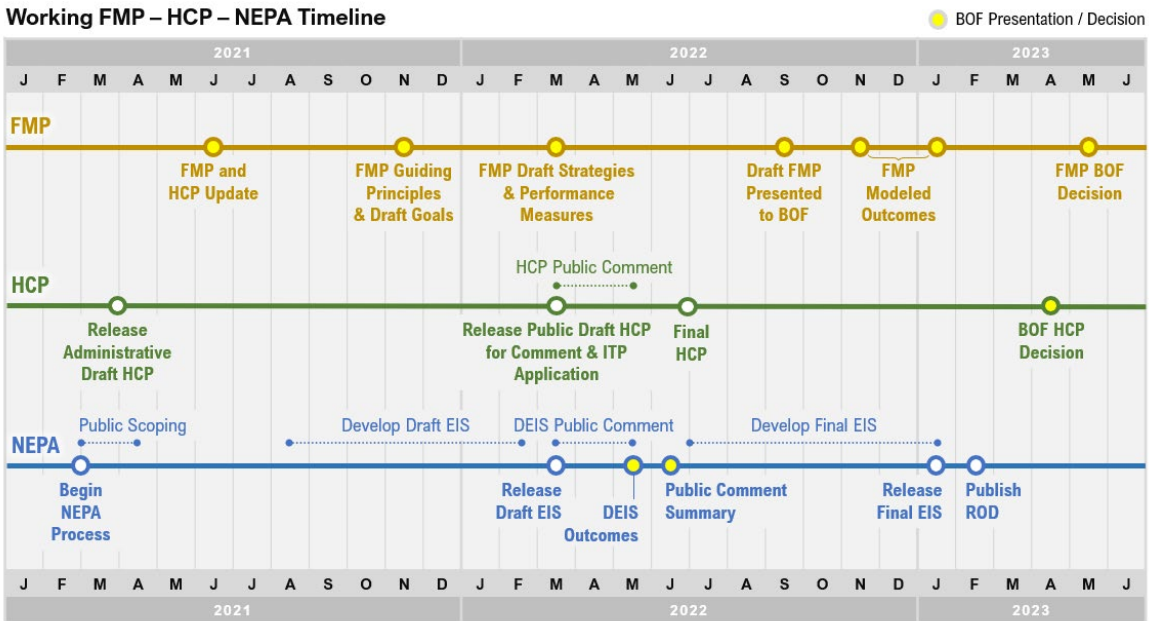
HCP Update

Melissa Klungle, ICF, provided an overview of progress on the Public Draft HCP. Since the October meeting open to the public, the HCP team has been working on finalizing the Public Draft HCP. ODF recently released a [summary of key changes](#) made to the Administrative Draft since March 2021. Key changes resulted from an operational review by ODF staff and additional review by the HCP Scoping Team. The Public Draft HCP will be released with the Draft EIS for public comment in spring 2022.

Cindy Kolomechuk, ODF, shared the project timeline:



Working FMP – HCP – NEPA Timeline



Cindy noted that yellow circles denote BOF engagement and white circles indicate project milestones. The next major project milestone is the release of the Draft EIS and Public Draft HCP for public comment. ODF is anticipating holding a BOF workshop on the alternatives and analysis in the Draft EIS in early May 2022. ODF will return to the BOF in June or July to summarize additional public comment. At this time, the BOF will provide direction if any modifications are needed to the proposed action. Following this, the Final EIS will be released and the BOF will make a decision on the HCP in April 2023. Cindy noted that the timeline has shifted because public analysis and modeling is taking longer than anticipated.

NEPA Update

Michelle McMullin, NOAA Fisheries, provided an update on the NEPA process. Michelle shared that NEPA is the federal process being used by NOAA Fisheries and USFWS to make a decision about issuing an incidental take permit for the HCP. Michelle reviewed the NEPA process which includes: a Scoping Period, the development of a Draft EIS, a Final EIS, and a Record of Decision.

Scoping Period (completed)

The Scoping Period determines the scope of analysis for the issues in an EIS. The process began on March 8, 2021 with the Notice of Intent to conduct an EIS. The scoping period was originally for 30 days, and a two-week extension was issued. NOAA Fisheries held a public meeting on March 31 and information about the process and meeting is available here:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/notice-intent-prepare-environmental-impact-statement-western-oregon-state-forests-habitat>

Development of a Draft EIS (expected for release in March 2022)

NOAA Fisheries has completed developing alternatives informed by Scoping comments, modeling, and data. The agency coordinated with USFWS and sought advice from ODF on what is operationally



feasible. Michelle noted that none of the comments submitted were determined to be complete alternatives on their own, but the suggestions and intent behind the comments were considered. Alternatives were screened to see if they meet different criteria like the Purpose and Need and this helped to determine which alternatives should be carried forward in the process. Michelle stressed that NOAA Fisheries completed the selection of the alternatives and ODF was not part of the alternative selection. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in March 2022. Scoping comments, alternatives, and analysis of important topics like economics, geology and soils, and cultural resources will be included. A public comment period for review will be held following the release of the Draft EIS and the Draft HCP. The minimum public comment is 45 days, but NOAA Fisheries is anticipating a 60-day comment period. NOAA Fisheries will also hold another public information meeting and will take comments during this meeting and through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Development of a Final EIS (expected for January 2023)

The Final EIS will be developed after public comments are reviewed.

Record of Decision (expected for February 2023)

The decision to issue or not issue the incidental take permit will be made following the development of a Final EIS.

Discussion

Comment: Does ODF use a horizontal measurement setback versus a surface measurement setback?

- **Mike Wilson:** Yes, ODF uses a horizontal distance, not a slope distance.

Summary and Next Steps

Sylvia Ciborowski reviewed upcoming engagement opportunities:

- December 9 and 13 FMP Joint Stakeholder Meetings
- FMP Draft Strategies Survey – feedback due by January 7, 2022
- Spring 2022 Meeting Open to the Public
- March 2022 Public Draft EIS and Draft HCP

Liz Dent thanked everyone for attending and welcomed additional discussion during the final hour. Liz noted the importance of recognizing the differences between the HCP and FMP and explained that there is significant overlap between the two plans. Liz also stressed that ODF is committed to the FMP process and will continue to implement the current FMP until a new plan is adopted.

Discussion on Topics of Interest

No topics of interest were discussed.



Participants

Laura Wilkeson, Amanda Astor, Annabelle Morgan, Betsy Herbert, Bob Reese, Bob Zybach, Brenna Bell, Chris Farrar, Clint Nichols, Darlene Chirman, David Collier, Denise Dethlefs, Elizabeth Dix, Janet McLennan, Jay Haladay, Jason Hayzlett, Jim Boyle, Jodi Kroon, Jordan M, Joseph Youren, Justin Tryon, Ken McCall, Kylie Grunow, Lauren Anderson, Lindsay Anderson, Margaret Magruder, Mark Rogers, Michael Karnosh, Mike Buffo, Mike Totey, Nancy Webster, Nick Wagner, Pam Mattson McDonald, Pamela Wev, Rich Szlemp, Rod Krahmer, Ryan Pessah, Sarah Dyrdaahl, Seth Barnes, Sue Craig, Susan Gilbert, Susan Johnson, Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, Susana Gladwin, Thomas Whittington, Tom Scoggins, Ty Williams, Will Forney