



# MEETING SUMMARY

## FMP/HCP Virtual Meeting Open to the Public

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

In October 2020, the Board of Forestry (BOF) directed the State Forests Division to continue the development of the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and the associated Forest Management Plan (FMP) and Implementation Plans (IPs) for about 640,000 acres of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)-managed lands west of the Cascades. The mission of the Western Oregon State FMP and IP project is to implement the social, economic and environmental values required of state forests. If approved, the Western Oregon State Forests FMP would replace the current Northwest Oregon and Southwest Oregon State Forests FMPs.

#### Purpose of Meeting

- Provide an update on the Draft FMP, Draft Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) and Draft Performance Measures (PMs).

#### Attendees

Close to 40 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 FMP State Partners (state agency 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 distribution to interested parties and posts on the Western Oregon 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 30 responses.



## FMP Affiliation Poll

Poll ended | 1 question | 30 of 34 (88%) participated

1. Which option best describes your affiliation to the FMP? (Single Choice) \*

30/30 (100%) answered



Figure 1. Participant Affiliation Poll – Meeting participants included conservation group representatives (23%), federal or state agencies (23%), members of the public (10%), industry representatives (20%), and recreation representatives (3%). 3% of meeting participants identified as “other”.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, welcomed participants and reviewed webinar instructions and remote participation tips. Sylvia also reviewed the agenda, which included: 1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview, 2) FMP Context and Development Process, 3) Draft FMP, 3) Draft AMP and Draft PMs, 4) Summary and Next Steps, and 5) Discussion on Topics of Interest.

Sylvia Ciborowski introduced Mike Wilson, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) State Forests Division Chief. Mike thanked everyone for joining the meeting and shared that staff and consultants have been working hard over the past year to develop an FMP that provides a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.



## Forest Management Plan Context and Development Process

Mike Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided context for the FMP. ODF is pursuing a new FMP because the current FMP is not designed to align with an HCP. Mike shared that, as a public landowner, ODF manages state forests for social, economic, and environmental values. A key component of this mission includes providing habitat for native fish and wildlife species, including species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). As a result, ODF is also required to comply with federal ESA prohibitions regarding “take” of listed species. There are multiple listed species that occur on state forests managed by ODF, including northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, coastal marten and several species of salmon.

ODF’s current approach to comply with the ESA is to avoid take by surveying for listed species during specific management activities, such as timber harvest. When species are found, ODF provides site-specific habitat protections. This process is costly, creates uncertainty for planning and implementing management activities, and prevents long-term planning for habitat goals.

HCPs solve these problems by allowing land managers to plan for specific habitat goals without having to survey for species at specific sites. This results in more proactive and holistic ecosystem-based conservation, backed by focused compliance and effectiveness monitoring. Allowance for “incidental take” provides certainty for land managers carrying out management activities.

Mike provided additional context for the Western Oregon State Forests FMP.

- **Geographic context:** The FMP includes State Forest lands managed by ODF’s State Forests Division in Western Oregon. This includes 640,000 acres of ODF-managed lands west of the Cascades (614,000 acres of BOF lands and 26,000 acres of Common School Forest Lands).
- **Management context:** Oregon Revised Statutes, Greatest Permanent Value Rule (GPV), and State Forests Planning Rule provide direction for developing the FMP.

Mike situated the FMP in relation to other plans and processes:

- **FMP:** Strategic, long-range plan adopted by the BOF as administrative rule. The FMP contains the Guiding Principles, Management Approach, Goals and Strategies, and Guidelines for Asset Management, Implementation and Adaptive Management.
- **HCP:** Holistic, proactive landscape-scale plan to achieving economic, environmental, and social benefits while protecting federally listed threatened and endangered species.
- **IPs:** Sub-geographic plans with mid-level goals and objectives.
- **Operations Plans (OPs):** Provide operational and project level details.

Mike described past engagement efforts for the FMP including:

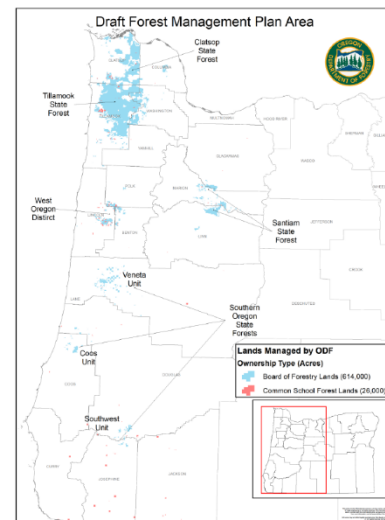


Figure 2. Forest Management Plan Area – map showing Board of Forestry Lands and Common School Forest Lands managed by ODF.



- Tribal Consultation: ODF held six Tribal Work Group meetings from August 2021-August 2022 and continues to engage with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to develop the FMP Cultural Resources Goals and Strategies.
- FMP Meetings Open to the Public: ODF held five meetings open to the public from May 2021 - February 2023. Approximately 40-70 participants attended each meeting.
- FMP Joint Stakeholder Meetings: ODF held three joint stakeholder meetings from August-December 2021. Approximately 20-40 participants attended each meeting.
- FMP Draft Goals and Strategies Public Feedback: ODF held meetings open to the public, joint stakeholder meetings, and shared surveys with the public to inform development of draft goals and strategies. ODF received over 3,500 comments and over 300 emails on the draft goals and strategies. Several updates were made to the goals and strategies to reflect public input including consolidation of strategies, clarification of intent, and connection to key themes.
- Board, Committee, and Partner Engagement: ODF continues to engage with the BOF, Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC) and State Partner agencies on FMP development.

## Draft Forest Management Plan

Ron Zilli, ODF, noted that the [Draft FMP](#) was posted online and shared with the public via email notification in July 2023. He provided an overview of the FMP components:

- Chapter 1 Introduction: Describes the purpose and scope of the plan, including guiding principles, ownership and location of the lands governed by the plan. Outlines plan themes, such as greatest permanent value (GPV), diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), climate change, sustainability, and adaptive management. Summarizes how the FMP relates to other plans and processes.
- Chapter 2 Management Approach: Provides a vision for how the management of resources is integrated across the landscape and describes the need to adapt management as new information becomes available to sustainably deliver a diverse array of benefits to Oregonians.
- Chapter 3 Forest Resources, Goals and Strategies: Describes the forest resource conditions to provide context for management. The chapter also includes the FMP goals and strategies. The goals are what ODF intends to achieve for each forest resource in the planning area. Strategies describe how ODF will manage the forest resources and identify management techniques the State Forester may use to achieve the goals.
- Chapter 4 Guidelines: States general guidelines for asset management, implementation, adaptive management, plan revision, and public engagement.

### *Management Approach*

Ron provided additional information on the FMP Management Approach. Ron shared that the Management Approach is a high-level vision for management across the forest to achieve Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) and to meet key themes including sustainability; climate change; diversity, equity and inclusion; and adaptive management.

**GPV means** “healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon”.



Ron noted that one way to think about ecosystem function and related social, economic, and environmental benefits, is in terms of ecosystem services. Ecosystem services can be categorized into four groups:

- **Provisioning services:** These are resources that the forest ecosystems provide and include goods such as food, fuel, timber, other forest products and mineral resources, and services such as clean air and water.
- **Regulating services:** Forests help regulate many resources including water, climate, and carbon.
- **Supporting services:** Forest ecosystems support the function of many important systems and processes including nutrient cycling and soil formation, primary productivity, and biodiversity.
- **Cultural services:** Forests provide for recreational, aesthetic, spiritual, and scientific benefits, and values as numerous and diverse as the people that use them.

Ron noted that, in this framework, timber and economic benefits to local communities are compatible with other values or benefits. They are part of the many services the forest provides. The concept of ecosystem services creates a framework that recognizes how social and economic needs are supported by healthy ecosystems.

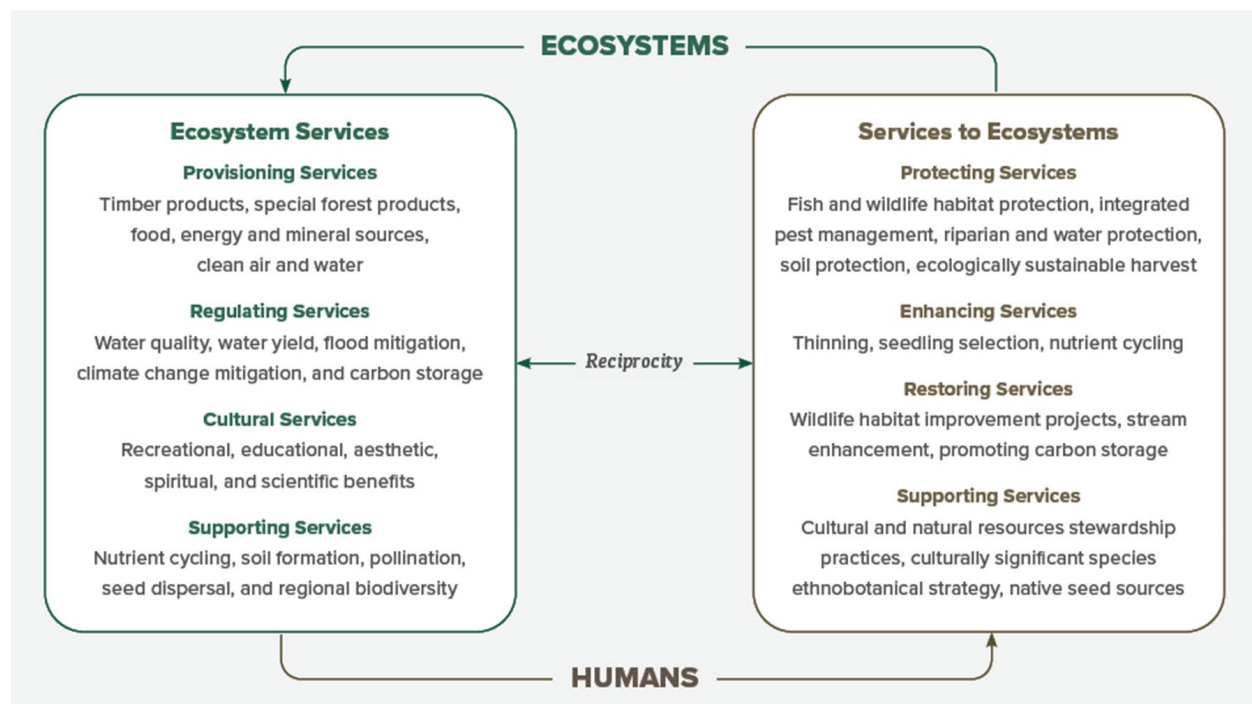


Figure 3. Ecosystem Services Framework – diagram describing the different types of ecosystem services and services to ecosystems provided by humans.



Under the new FMP, ODF will use an ecologically sustainable approach to forest management.<sup>1</sup> This approach focuses on creating healthy, diverse, productive, and resilient forests to maintain and enhance ecosystem services and benefits to the public. The Management Approach describes how strategies to improve resilience and adaptive capacity vary across the landscape and uses the Forest Land Management Classification System (FLMCS) to describe the different types of management.

FLMCS

- General Stewardship
- Focused Stewardship
- Special Use Areas
- High Value Conservation Areas

In this framework, the types, and proportions of services that any given acre contributes to will depend on landscape context. The forest as a whole provides the full suite of services the public demands from state forests within the context of GPV.

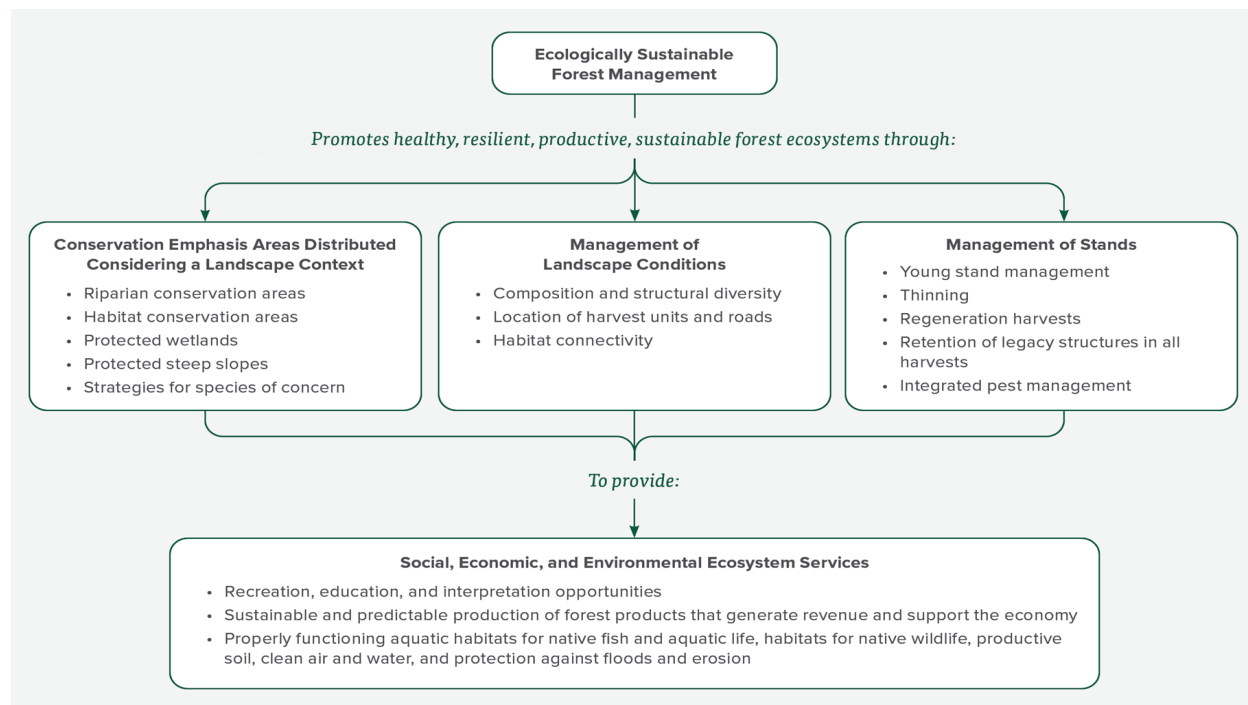


Figure 4. Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management – diagram showing how ecologically sustainable forest management promotes healthy, resilient, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems.

Ron shared a map to illustrate what emphasis areas might look like on the landscape. View A includes Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) in blue with Habitat Conservation Areas in yellow. Unshaded areas represent lands managed with a timber production emphasis. The circles highlight different types of

<sup>1</sup> Lindenmayer, D. B., J. F. Franklin, A. Löhmus, S. C. Baker, Juergen Bauhus, W. Beese, A. Brodie et al. "A major shift to the retention approach for forestry can help resolve some global forest sustainability issues." *Conservation letters* 5, no. 6 (2012): 421-431.



harvest units, including regeneration and thinning. View B includes recreation, interpretation, and education opportunities dispersed across the landscape.

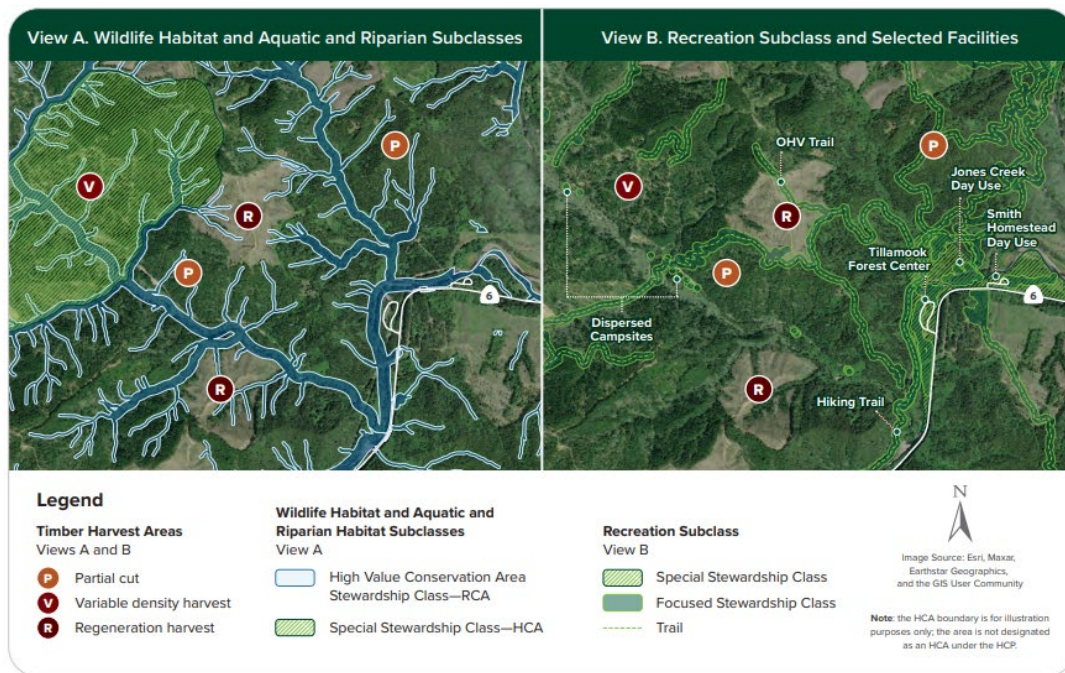


Figure 5. Examples of Emphasis Areas Across the Landscape – map showing how active management could be integrated across the landscape guided by resource management emphasis areas.

### Forest Resources

Ron shared that the Forest Resources chapter describes the current condition of various forest resources and details the associated goals and strategies. The FMP includes 13 resources, including:

- Transportation
- Cultural and Historical Resources
- Recreation, Education, and Interpretation
- Visual Resources
- Special Forest Products
- Mining, Agriculture, Grazing, Administrative Sites
- Soils and Geology
- Carbon
- Air Quality
- Aquatic and Riparian Resources
- Wildlife Habitat
- Sensitive Plants

Goals lay out what the State Forester intends to achieve for each forest resource within the planning area, consistent with GPV, and strategies describe how the State Forester will manage the forest resources in the planning area to achieve the goals.



## Guidelines

Ron introduced the FMP Guidelines, sharing that they describe the processes for how the FMP will be implemented and revised, and how the public will be engaged. The Guidelines include asset management, implementation, and adaptive management.

PLAN LEVEL	PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AREAS
Adaptive Management Plan	Provide comment on performance measures at Board of Forestry Public Meetings
Implementation Plan	Levels and types of planned management activities
	Priorities and general location of planned management activities
Operations Plans	Suggestions to improve efficiency and effectiveness
	Clarify how planned operations are described
	Offer solution-oriented comments to further achieve Greatest Permanent Value

Figure 6. FMP Guidelines for Public Engagement – table detailing public engagement opportunities for the AMP, IPs, and OPs.

## FMP Modeling

Ron provided an update on FMP modeling. ODF is conducting modeling exercises to provide the basis for PM targets and trends. The results will be presented to the BOF. Modeling includes four harvest scenarios:

- Maximum even flow of timber volume
- Maximum even flow of timber volume with longer rotations
- Maximum net present value (even flow of timber)
- Maximum net present value (uneven flow of timber)

ODF is modeling at two geographic scales:

- District by district (current practice)
- Geographic regions
  - North Coast
  - Willamette
  - Southern Oregon

ODF anticipates sharing modeling results with the BOF and the public in late 2023.





## Draft Adaptive Management Plan and Draft Performance Measures

### Adaptive Management Plan

Tyson Wepprich, ODF, shared that adaptive management is the process by which management is improved by monitoring the outcomes of the FMP strategies in a scientific manner. During the decision-making process, a group may decide that adaptive management is needed to test out management alternatives to find the best outcome if there is high uncertainty about the consequences.

**Adaptive Management** is the “process of implementing plans in a scientifically based, systematically structured approach that tests and monitors assumptions and predictions in management plans and uses the resulting information to improve the plans or management practices used to implement them” (OAR 629-035-0000(2))

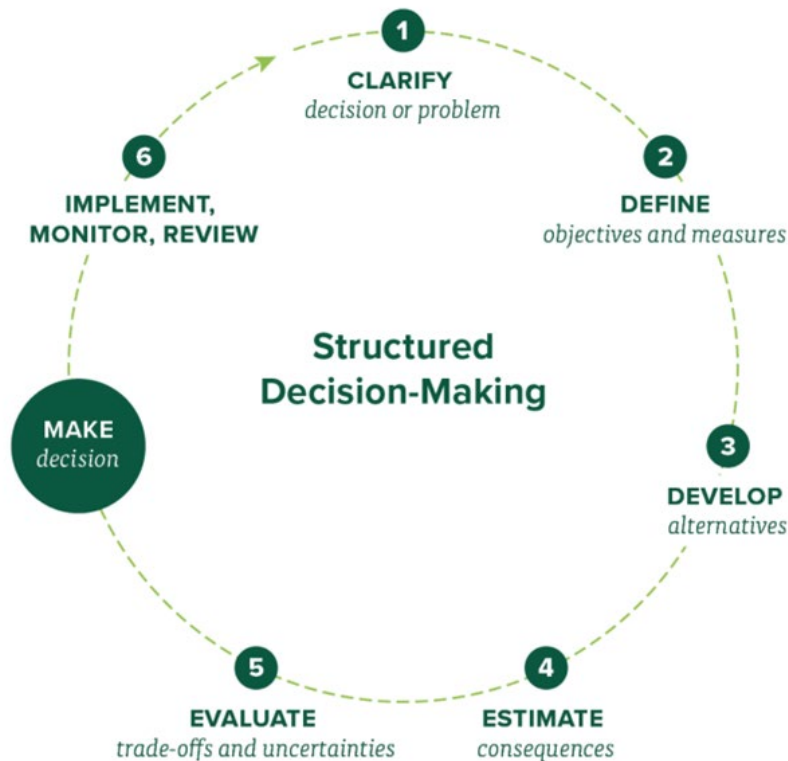


Figure 7. Structured Decision-Making – diagram showing the six step structured decision-making process.

Tyson noted that while adaptive management is outside of the FMP, the outline is described in Chapter 4 Guidelines. The Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) will provide the workflow for:

- Facilitating decision analysis and adaptive management
- Designing monitoring projects
- Reporting monitoring results and decision-making products



- Identifying and integrating information and decision needs within State Forests

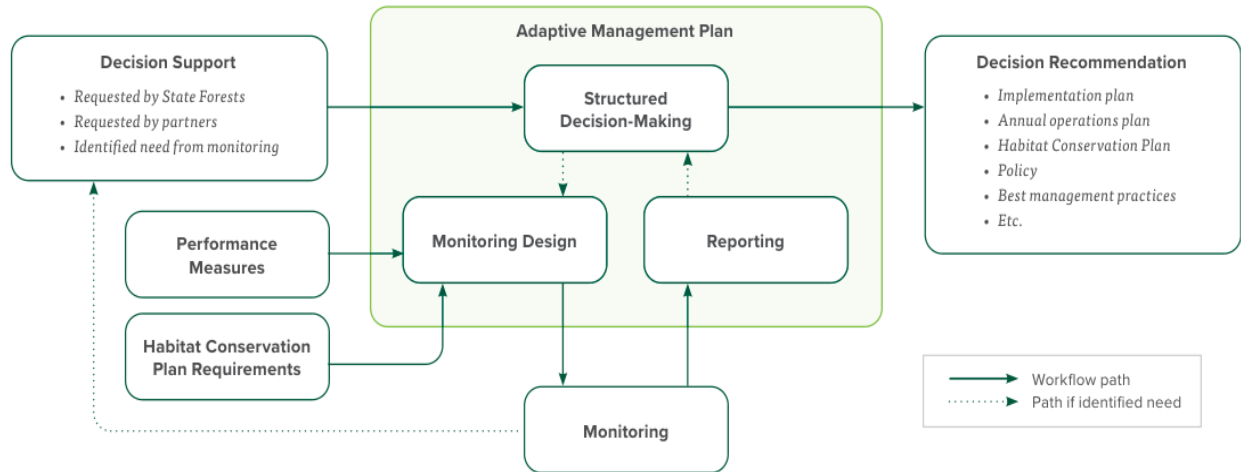


Figure 8. Adaptive Management Plan Workflow – diagram showing the three main roles of the Adaptive Management Plan: structured decision-making, monitoring design, and reporting.

### Performance Measures

Tyson shared that PMs are a select set of metrics that the BOF will use to evaluate management outcomes to see if the FMP strategies are working. Each PM has specific components that will be monitored and reported with targets and acceptable ranges designated by the BOF. The purpose of the PMs is to provide an up-to-date dashboard for the BOF and the public to track management outcomes across a broad range of key ecosystem services provided by State Forests.

Draft PMs include:

- Adaptive Capacity of Forests
- Aquatic Habitat
- Carbon Storage
- Community Engagement and Public Support
- Division Finances
- Economic Opportunities
- Financial Support for Counties
- Harvest and Inventory
- Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Opportunities
- Terrestrial Habitat

ODF will report on a two-year schedule using an online dashboard. Some of the PMs may be quantified in the FMP modeling outcomes presented to the BOF. Targets for the PMs are anticipated to be set in the spring of 2024 by the BOF.



## Discussion on Western Oregon Draft FMP

After the presentation, Sylvia Ciborowski opened the discussion up to questions and comments on the Draft FMP, Draft AMP, and Draft PMs. Participants provided the following questions and comments during the meeting:

### *FMP*

**Question:** When does the comment period end for the Draft FMP?

- **Ron Zilli:** There is no formal comment period open at this time. ODF is bringing the Draft FMP to the BOF in September as an informational item. A formal comment period will be scheduled during the rulemaking process for the FMP, likely in 2024.

**Question:** How was the threatened and sensitive plant list determined in the Draft FMP? Several species that the Oregon biodiversity information center considers sensitive are not included.

- **Tyson Wepprich:** ODF relied on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) rare plant group. ODA is considering new listings of plant species and is in the process of updating their databases. ODF will continue to communicate with ODA and is open to suggestions for species to include.

**Question:** Will a broader economic analysis be completed when the modeling results are available?

- **Ron Zilli:** ODF is working on the economic analysis with ECONorthwest. The results will not be available until 2024.

### *AMP and PMs*

**Question:** Will PMs and targets be incorporated in the Final FMP?

- **Tyson Wepprich:** The list of PMs is currently in the Draft FMP. Targets and specific details will not be included in the FMP because they may need to be updated and adapted over time. The FMP is administrative rule and making changes is more difficult.

**Question:** What will be included in the FMP to ensure that ODF is making progress and improving?

- **Mike Wilson:** The FMP sets the high-level direction for ODF. The performance may need to adapt over time as new information is available and as the BOF's values change. ODF fulfills BOF expectations (targets/trends) through the IPs and conducts monitoring over ten-year periods. The HCP also includes commitments and ODF will work with the Services to ensure expectations are met and using adaptive management to respond as needed.

**Question:** How is ODF's Climate Change and Carbon Plan considered or incorporated into the FMP?

- **Tyson Wepprich:** The BOF adopted the Climate Change and Carbon Plan in 2022. The Plan was used to craft the carbon goals and strategies in the FMP, but it isn't reference specifically. Climate change and resiliency is also considered through the management approach. ODF will consider referencing the Climate Change and Carbon Plan in the FMP.



**Question:** Will each PM target include a deadline?

- **Mike Wilson:** When modeling is complete, ODF will present the BOF with a range of options for how to pursue forest management in the general stewardship areas. This will give the BOF an idea of how to balance environmental, social, and economic interests over time. Some PMs will include targets, and some will include trends. ODF will check in on PMs with the BOF periodically and the IPs will be evaluated every ten years.

**Question:** Will ODF use adaptive management to adjust to the acceleration of climate change?

**Question:** Has ODF evaluated the time, staffing, and the money it would take to meet monitoring promises?

- **Tyson Wepprich:** ODF is aware of the capacity limitations with monitoring. ODF is relying on the forest inventory and HCP commitments for annual monitoring requirements. ODF will rely on existing resources at first and then build out the monitoring program over time.

**Question:** When will the BOF make a decision on the FMP?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF anticipates the BOF will make a decision on the FMP in 2024.

**Question:** What will the process for corrective action be if the BOF determines that action needs to be taken because a PM isn't being met?

- **Mike Wilson:** When a problem with a PM is identified, ODF will use a structured decision-making process to move forward. This includes defining the problem and objective, and convening a group, like the State Forest Advisory Committee, to identify options moving forward or working internally to resolve the issue. ODF will evaluate any options identified and consider associated tradeoffs. If there are specific questions about implementation, ODF may work with scientists and experts to identify a solution.

**Question:** Oregon is going to see a sharp reduction in harvest levels following the 2020 Labor Day Fires, the Private Forest Accord, and the HCP and FMP. How is ODF going to conduct timber sales in this new market?

- **Mike Wilson:** Historically, ODF offered volume consistently regardless of the market. ODF has made operational decisions in the past and taken advantage of good timber prices. ODF does not have the same mechanisms as private industry to control sales. ODF needs to be cognizant of when there are extreme shortages and the financial impact and needs to make sure that the chosen strategies for selling timber will have the intended results.

## Summary and Next Steps

Mike Wilson shared that in September ODF will present the Draft FMP, Draft AMP, and Draft PMs to the BOF. ODF anticipates sharing outcomes of modeled scenarios with the BOF in December 2023. ODF will enter a rulemaking process for the FMP in 2024.

Sylvia Ciborowski and Mike thanked participants for attending and closed the meeting.



## Public Participants

Amanda Rapinchuk, Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Bodie Dowding, Candace, Chris Farrar, Darlene Chirman, Denise Lofman, Diana Pace, Doug Robertson, Eric Kranzush, Erik Davis, Erik Metcalf, Ernst, Hope Pelka, Jack Halsey, Jack Halsey, Jeff Peck, Jeff Young, Jerry Keck, John Spahr, Justin Bush, Kelly Lau, Kieran Hanrahan, Mark Rogers, Mike Totey, Rick Cowlshaw, Rob Freres, Scott Killops, Steve Courtney, Susan Gilbert, Tom Riggs, Tom Scoggins, Victoria Frankeny, Xan Augerot