

**APPENDIX D
PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR
THE 2009 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

The Oregon Department of Forestry issued a Press Release on February 12, 2008, announcing a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2008 Annual Operations Plans from February 11 through March 26, 2008.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period was to provide an opportunity for the public to review the AOPs, ask questions, make recommendations and offer comments. As a public agency, ODF operates in the best interest of Oregonians, conducting business in an open way with opportunities for scrutiny to foster and maintain public confidence that ODF operations are benefiting Oregonians.

Past experience has shown that public comments have the potential to improve plans, so the objective was not only to inform the public, but to receive feedback that would help to clarify the AOPs, improve their consistency with the long range FMPs and IPs, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

At the end of the public comment period, the Astoria District received 3 letters regarding the AOP. The district considered the questions, comments and recommendations in each letter or email. Factors that affected the districts consideration of the comments included:

- Does the comment enhance the consistency of the AOP with the FMP?
- Does the comment enhance the consistency of the AOP with the IP, for those districts with IPs?
- Does the comment improve the clarity of the AOP?
- Does the comment provide new information that will affect the AOP or an operation?
- Does the comment improve the efficiency and effectiveness (or outcome) of the AOP?

The district then prepared a response for each letter or email that attempted to resolve each question or comment by providing additional information, discussing how the recommendation incorporated into the AOP, or explaining why the recommendation was not incorporated.

In addition to the public comments received, the State Forest Advisory Committee (SFAC) also reviewed the Astoria FY09 AOP and provided comment. Much of their feedback addressed concerns regarding the State Forest Program and the annual operation planning process. There were however, some specific comments related to several of the individual Districts.

Both the public and SFAC comments and the Program's responses are available for public review on the ODF's website at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/2009_AOP_Approved.shtml

Astoria District FY09 AOP Changes Resulting from Public Comment Process

1. Section III, "Proposed Management Prescription", of the Ridge 77 pre-operations report was updated to reflect the "focused visual" considerations that will be followed when harvesting along the Old Vesper 77 road. Also, language was inserted to reflect the conversations with Clatsop County Public Works regarding the removal of trees along the Old Vesper 77 road that may be determined a public safety hazard.