

MEETING SUMMARY

WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS HCP SCOPING TEAM

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

By Webinar/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Participants: Tere O'Rourke (NOAA Fisheries), Rod Krahmer (ODFW), Ryan Singleton (DSL), Mike Wilson (ODF), Sarah Dyrdaahl (ODF), Rich Szlemp (USFWS), Sarah Lathrop (ODF), Nick Palazzotto (ODF), Julie Firman (ODFW), Josh Seeds (DEQ)

Technical Consultant and Guests: Troy Rahmig (ICF), Melissa Klungle (ICF)

Facilitation Team: Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West), Erin Bothwell (Kearns & West),

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, welcomed Scoping Team (ST) members and introduced Sarah Lathrop, ODF, and explained Sarah Lathrop's role in the FMP process.

Sylvia reviewed the agenda, which included: 1) Agency and Stakeholder Engagement Updates, 2) Updates on the NEPA Process, 3) Review Updates to the HCP, 4) Updates on the Companion FMP & IPs, 5) Confirm topics for Steering Committee (SC) Update, and 6) Approach Going Forward, Next Steps, and Summary.

Sylvia noted that a Steering Committee (SC) meeting is scheduled for April 27. Scoping Team meetings may change to an every other month schedule, and the SC may move to quarterly meetings.

AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

Members provided the following updates relevant to the Western Oregon State Forests HCP process:

- **ODFW:** No updates.
- **USFWS:** No updates.
- **Department of State Lands (DSL):** No updates.
- **NOAA Fisheries:** Nothing other than NEPA updates.

- **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF):** 1) The agency is working on the monitoring component of HCP, including working with other specialists to fill out the details. 2) The agency expressed appreciation for the work to extend the NEPA Scoping deadline to provide greater opportunity for public and stakeholder comments. 3) The Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC) meeting on Friday was cancelled and replaced with a Council of Forest Trust Land Counties (CFTLC) meeting.

UPDATES ON THE NEPA PROCESS

Tere O'Rourke, NOAA Fisheries, informed the group the request for a two-week extension to submit NEPA Scoping Comments for the HCP was approved. April 21 is the deadline for comments, and comments should be submitted on regulations.gov. Michelle McMullen is receiving the comments to her email and those should be routed to the website.

Tere debriefed on the March 31 NEPA Scoping Public meeting, which 46 people attended. The main participants were representatives from the timber industry. Many questions were around alternatives development, and NOAA Fisheries hopes the agency's responses helped people to understand that only one preferred alternative will move into the decision-making process, though several could be evaluated in the EIS. The meeting was recorded and will be posted to ODF's website and the regulations.gov soon.

Discussion

Members provided the following comments, questions and reflections on the NEPA Scoping Meeting and public process:

- NOAA Fisheries clarified that the ICF/NEPA team will take the comments received during the Scoping period and summarize main ideas and ideas for alternatives. The ST will likely not be very engaged in this part of the process. The ST will receive updates and hear summaries of public comments and may be asked to provide some technical assistance.
- ODF clarified that feasibility is one screening criteria for proposed alternatives. ODF will help determine whether an idea is operational or feasible.
- NOAA Fisheries will likely have one person instead of two at the ST meetings. Michelle McMullen will lead on NEPA elements, and Jeff Young will lead on Scoping Team and biology findings.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES ON THE NEPA PROCESS

Sylvia provided updates on the stakeholder process:

- A Meeting Open to the Public is scheduled for May 6, from 2 – 4 pm to kick off the FMP development process, let people know where the first Administrative Draft of the HCP is

on website and provide NEPA updates. Kearns & West (KW) will send the calendar invite to ST/SC.

- KW is starting FMP stakeholder interviews with some stakeholders to get early input into the FMP process, and is also working with Sarah to develop an engagement plan for the FMP.

REVIEW UPDATES ON THE HCP

Troy reviewed changes and provided updates on the HCP, and reviewed a summary of key changes between the October draft HCP and the current 1st Administrative Draft. He encouraged ST members to consider how to use ST meeting time in the future to continue to discuss key topics of the HCP if they have additional questions.

The HCP draft was posted on the ODF website last week. Troy shared the cover image of the HCP. The HCP is over 900 pages with appendices. ICF has not printed publicly available hard copies of the draft but can consider other formats if the public inquires.

Key Updates to the HCP:

- Troy shared a summary document which breaks down the changes chapter by chapter. Substantial detail was added to chapter 3.
- Generally, Troy noted where information was moved, significantly revised or additional detail was added in each chapter.
- The previous conservation action 12 was replaced by a new one.
- The biggest change was to chapter 6 – reorganized in response to comments from ST.
- Appendices were added since the October draft.
- Troy will share the commented on/tracked changes versions for ST records via link.

Discussion

The ST discussed the HCP and provided the following questions and comments:

- Will ODF print the final draft of the HCP and make those copies available to the public (for example at libraries)?
 - Tere will check to see what NOAA Fisheries' direction is and then check in with USFWS. NOAA Fisheries does typically make the Draft EIS available in printed form.
 - Mike will ask Cindy about plans for printing copies of the draft HCP.

- Members noted that there may be rules or guidelines around government printing and specific requirements for federal government printing. There may also be accessibility standards and requirements that the document will need to meet when the public draft is available.
- Troy expressed appreciation for the work that all ST members have put into this process. This is a much better HCP because of ST review and time spent reviewing.

UPDATES ON THE COMPANION FMP & IPs

Mike Wilson and Sarah Lathrop, ODF, provided updates on the FMP & IPs. They noted:

- An ODF Leadership Group has been assembled to work on a charter to provide guidance for the Core Project Team going forward.
- Sarah added the short-term goal will be working between April and May on a detailed work plan to determine what is most important in the FMP and create priorities. Sarah is also working to develop a meaningful public engagement schedule built around that workplan.
- Sarah shared project structure team components.
- The four state agencies in the ST will help with crafting the FMP and will meet on a roughly monthly basis.
- Liz Dent is the FMP project sponsor, and the ODF core team includes state forest staff as well as district foresters. Additional groups will support FMP development, including an operational advisory group, ODF subject matter experts, partner agencies, and contractor/consultants (which includes Kearns & West and Oregon Consensus).

Discussion

The ST discussed and provided the following comments and questions:

- ODF asked the federal services to consider how involved they want to be in the FMP, and how frequently and at what level they want to be involved. USFWS and NOAA Fisheries said they would consider this, considering staffing constraints.
- Sylvia added going forward the ST meetings will likely include NEPA, HCP, and FMP updates and discussion of those three topics. The HCP project team will invite ST members to provide ideas for meeting topics prior to meetings.

CONFIRM TOPICS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next SC meeting is scheduled for April 27. The agenda will include a NEPA update, an FMP update and review of key changes to HCP.

APPROACH GOING FORWARD, NEXT STEPS, AND SUMMARY

Next ST meeting is scheduled for May 4. ST members should keep that meeting on calendar.

The future ST meeting schedule should be dictated by topics at hand. We will keep monthly ST meetings and cancel as needed, potentially moving to bi-monthly meetings.

Sylvia thanked members for their participation and reviewed upcoming meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were identified throughout the meeting:

- KW: Send ST/SC invitation to May 6 Open to the Public Meeting
- ICF: Send out W OR State Forests HCP AD Update Summary document
- ICF: Share the commented on/tracked changes versions for ST records via link