



MEETING SUMMARY

FMP/HCP Virtual Meeting Open to the Public

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 | 2:00 PM – 5:00 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 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 NEPA 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 Forest Management Plan (FMP) & Regional Implementation Plan (IP) Project and describe the engagement process for this effort
- Provide an update on the Western Oregon State Forests Administrative Draft HCP
- Provide an update on the HCP NEPA process

Attendees

Over 70 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.

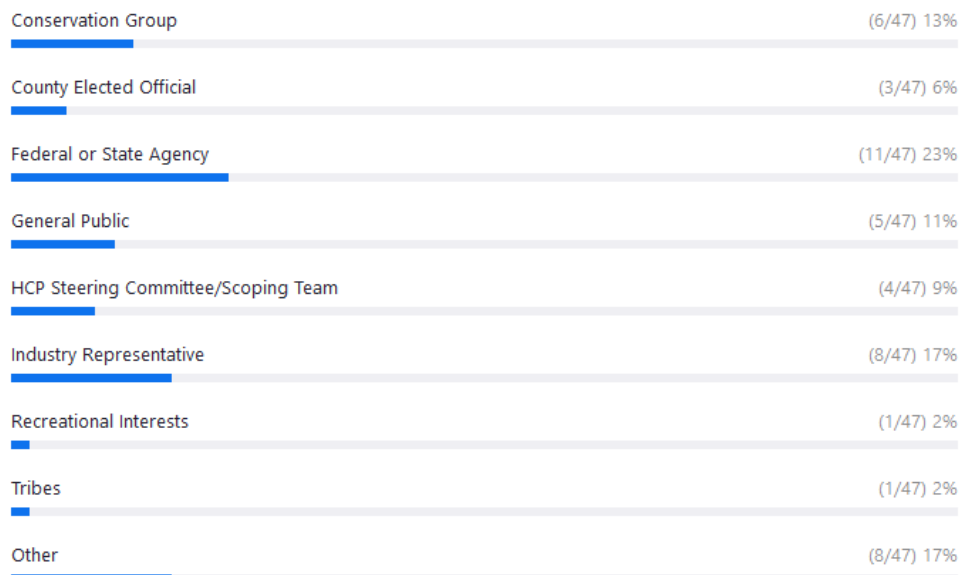
Participants were encouraged to write and confirm their name as they joined the webinar to track attendees. Participants also received the opportunity to provide their affiliation through a webinar poll. The Participant Affiliation Poll received 47 responses.

Affiliations Poll

Poll ended | 1 question | 47 of 69 (68%) participated

1. Which option best describes your affiliation? (Single Choice) *

47/47 (100%) answered



MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview

Sylvia welcomed participants and asked the Project Team members to introduce themselves before launching an affiliations poll and reviewing the agenda. The agenda included: 1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview 2) Review: Forest Management Plan and Implementation Plans, 3) Forest Management Plan Draft Goal Development, 4) Western Oregon HCP and NEPA Process, 5) Summary and Next Steps, 6) Discussion on Topics of Interest.

Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, reviewed webinar instructions and introduced Liz Dent, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Liz thanked everyone for attending and for their interest in the



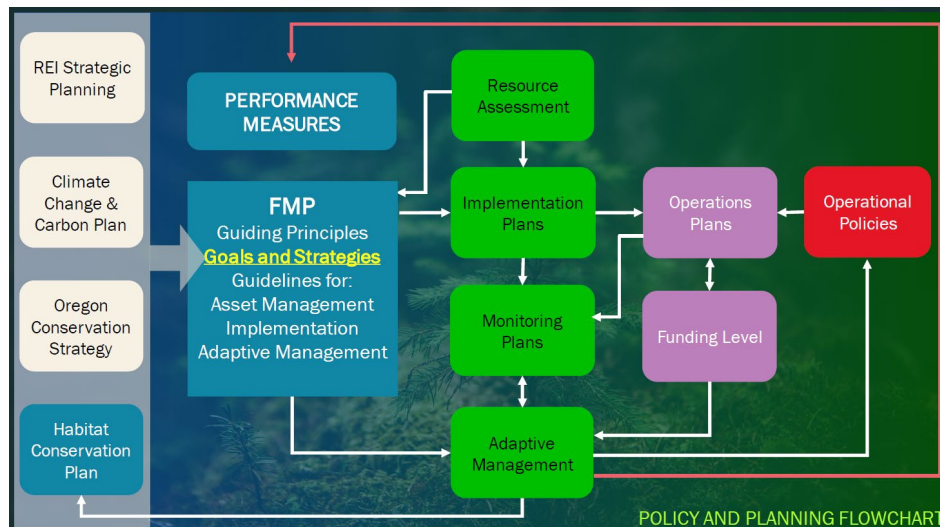
management of state forests. Liz provided a holistic overview of the Forest Management Plan (FMP), noting that the plan will provide the State Forests Division with clear direction on how to manage state lands in the decades to come. Liz also provided background information on the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), sharing that 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Liz stressed that public input on the HCP will be facilitated through the federal process when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is shared with the public in February 2022. Liz explained that the meeting would be focused on the FMP and, more specifically, introducing the public to the draft FMP goals.

Review: Forest Management Plans and Implementation Plans

Mike Wilson, ODF, highlighted the difference between ODF's plans and how they help ODF manage state forests to provide greatest permanent value (GPV) to Oregonians:

- Forest Management Plan: The FMP is a strategic, long-range plan adopted by the Board of Forestry (BOF) as administrative rule. It provides overall high-level forest management goals and strategies. FMPs are reviewed every ten years and are designed to persist with minimal revision.
- Habitat Conservation Plan: The HCP provides the majority of ODF's conservation strategies and allows for more certain and cost-effective implementation of the FMP.
- Implementation Plans: 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, goals, and plans. IPs contain a district overview of key resources and land ownership, average annual harvest objectives, and the desired future forest condition.
- Annual Operation Plans: AOPs are approved by the District Forester and help achieve IP objectives. They are district specific fiscal year plans that include operational and project level detail including timber sales and habitat improvements.

Mike noted that a number of other planning processes influence the FMP, including ODF's Recreation, Interpretation, and Education Strategic Planning efforts; ODF's Climate change and Carbon Plan, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and ODF's Habitat Conservation Plan.

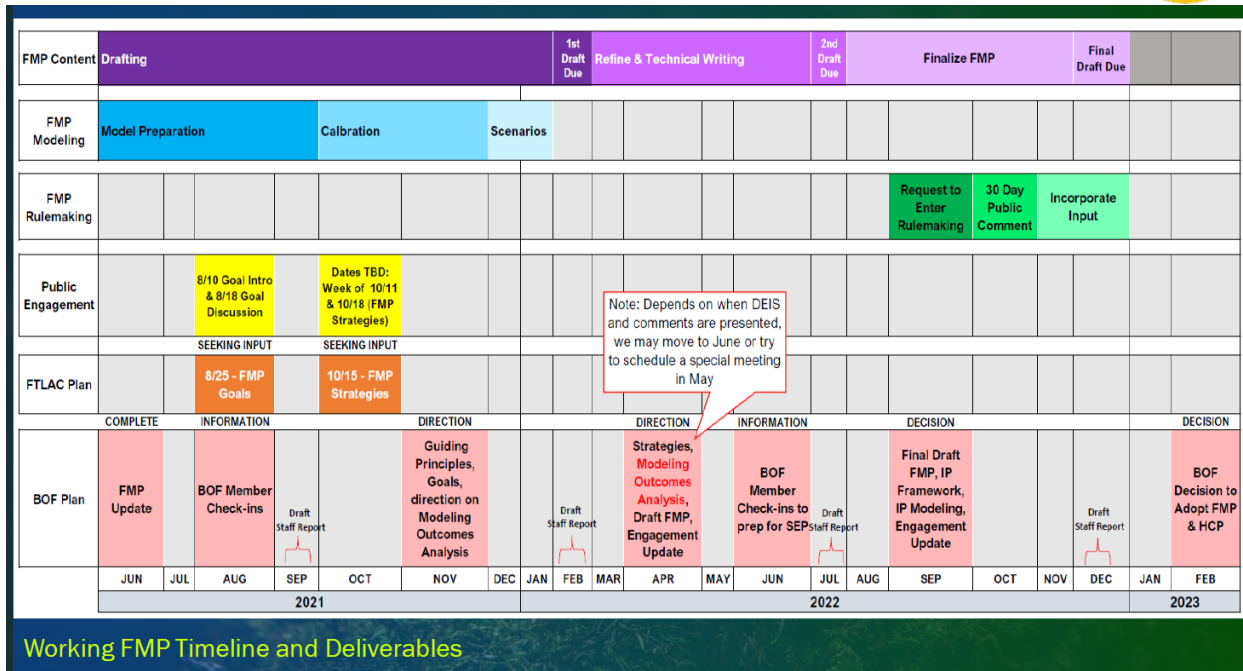


Sarah Lathrop, ODF, reviewed FMP project management and timelines, noting that deadlines are subject to change.

FMP Key Milestones

- August – September 2021: Receive public input on draft goals.
- October 2021: Receive public input on draft strategies.
- November 2021 Board of Forestry Meeting: Review draft goals and provide direction on the modeling outcomes analysis.
- June 2021 – January 2022: Model preparation, calibration, and scenarios. Model preparation is already underway and, when data updates are complete and a draft of strategies is complete, model calibration will begin.
- April 2022 BOF Meeting: Review strategies, modeling outcomes analysis, engagement, and the draft FMP. Receive direction in anticipation of the rulemaking process in October.
- September 2022 BOF Meeting: Final draft FMP and IP framework, IP modeling, and engagement update. Request to enter rulemaking.
- October 2022: FMP rulemaking anticipated to begin.
- February 2023 BOF Meeting: BOF decision to adopt FMP and HCP.

Sarah provided additional details about the planning process. The FMP Project Team will review content from the previous FMP effort and revise to create a current draft. The draft will be reviewed by state partner agencies. When this review is complete, the BOF, Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC), and State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) will review it. The draft will then be shared with the public. Meetings will be scheduled to discuss the plan with the public and stakeholders. During the rulemaking process, there will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the final FMP.



Discussion

Question: Will modeling outputs include the impacts of forest operations on drinking water and salmon?

- **Mike Wilson:** Modeling will provide information on the relative amount of different age classes of forests in watersheds and the proportions of forest habitat in the watersheds that ODF controls. There is an appendix in the Administrative Draft HCP that provides details on this and allows ODF to predict when a young forest will be rapidly growing and may affect the available flow of water. This will also be completed as part of the FMP modeling outcomes analysis.

Question: Is additional public engagement scheduled past October of this year?

- **Sarah Lathrop:** Engagement opportunities on the timeline have been scheduled, but ODF will continue to provide opportunities throughout the process.

Question: Will there be public comment opportunities for the draft FMP?

- **Sarah Lathrop:** ODF hasn't planned formal public comment periods for the draft FMP, but the document will be shared with the public and opportunities for feedback will be scheduled throughout the process.

Question: What assumptions are you making related to the HCP and the Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) in the modeling process?

- **Mike Wilson:** The FMP model preparation and outcomes analysis is being completed using a policy overlay from the Administrative Draft HCP. FMP modeling will further refine outputs for a number of different resources. The HCP sets clear standards for the management of riparian



conservation areas (RCAs) and HCAs. Land not in an HCA or an RCA is referred to as matrix lands. The FMP will determine management strategies for these lands through modeling and strategy development. Silvicultural pathways within HCAs will continue to be refined.

Question: Will climate change be addressed in the AOPs as well as the FMP?

- **Mike Wilson:** Climate change will be addressed in the FMP by developing goals and strategies that develop resiliency and identify opportunities to store carbon. IPs and AOPs will implement the climate change goals identified in the FMP.

Question: Will ODF address the economics and social aspects of rural communities as they relate to GPV?

- **ODF:** Yes, ODF will address this through the climate smart forestry goal and strategies that address the resilience of the forest and local communities. There are a number of ways ODF is currently providing support to rural communities, but it has been challenging to find an appropriate metric to measure this.

Question: How was GPV used when clearcutting in Astoria? Did ODF profit from this?

- **Liz Dent:** GPV is a holistic approach used in the context of a working forest. ODF has specific management strategies and actions to minimize the risk of landslides and debris flows in our AOPs. ODF also employs geotechnical engineers to mitigate risk.

Forest Management Plan Draft Goal Development

Mike Wilson reviewed draft goals for the following resources:

- Forest Health
- Climate Change
- Aquatics & Riparian
- Wildlife
- Wildfire
- Pollinators and Invertebrates
- Plants
- Timber Production
- Forest Carbon
- Air Quality
- Soil
- Recreation, Interpretation, and Education
- Cultural – *Cultural goals are under development and ODF is consulting with the tribes.*
- Transportation System
- Scenic
- Special Forest Products
- Mining, Agriculture, Administrative Sites, and Grazing



Sarah Lathrop shared a link to the Draft FMP Goals Survey and explained that the survey is the preferred method for providing feedback. Sarah also shared upcoming key dates for the FMP project:

- August 18 Joint Stakeholder Meeting to discuss draft FMP goals
- August 27 FTLAC Meeting
- September 8 deadline for written input on the draft FMP goals
- October 12 FMP-HCP Meeting Open to the Public
- October 20 and 22 Joint Stakeholder Meetings to discuss draft FMP strategies
- November 3 BOF Meeting

Next Steps for the FMP include strategy development, modeling, and outcomes analysis development.

Liz Dent noted that the goals are high-level and strategies will provide more direction and specificity.

Sylvia Ciborowski asked anyone interested in attending the FMP Joint Stakeholder Meeting to send a message to Erin Bothwell, Sarah Lathrop, Cindy Kolomechuk, or Jason Cox.

Discussion

Question: The goals are very basic and general with no metrics. When do you anticipate providing more detailed strategies?

- **Sarah Lathrop:** Strategies are currently under development and will be available to the public in late September or early October.

Question: Why are overstory tree species that provide habitat for sensitive species not specified in the plant goal?

- **Mike Wilson:** Several resources, including plants, are required by the Planning Rule. This is intended to cover non-tree species. Tree species are addressed through the wildlife habitat goals and timber production goals. Tree species will also be addressed through strategies for climate change and resiliency, and pollinators and invertebrates.

Question: How is the Forest Management Plan related to the Forest Practices Act?

- **Mike Wilson:** Lands covered by the FMP are subject to the Forest Practices Act, but the FMP goes beyond Forest Practices Act standards for most resources.

Question: Is ODF considering using longer rotations periods and conserving mature trees, 80-100 years and older, for endangered species?

- **Mike Wilson:** HCAs and RCAs will conserve mature trees, but these areas are not management free. ODF will conduct healthy conifer management, density management, and treat for disease to improve stand health where needed. Outside of HCAs, ODF will focus on leaving residual trees and retaining green trees to foster larger trees across the landscape.

Question: Why does the second timber production goal call out Common School Fund Lands and not Board of Forestry lands?



- **Mike Wilson:** These lands are separated to recognize the different economic drivers and revenues associated with each.

Comment: Hampton Lumber has worked with the state to plant pollinator friendly plants and can share the results of this work with ODF (Laura Wilkeson).

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF will follow-up.

Comment: The forest carbon goal needs to reference carbon stored in forested wood products.

Question: What is the best type of input to provide for the high-level goals?

- **Mike Wilson:** Any comment identifying what you value in the plan is helpful. If it's too specific, it may be reflected in a strategy or a metric rather than a goal. If you don't see your feedback represented somewhere, bring it to ODF's attention.

Question: An OSU research paper emphasized the value of conserving forests older than 80-100 years old for water production. How can we work towards a goal that reflects recent research?

- **Mike Wilson:** Many stands in HCAs are over 120 years old. There are also young stands that will grow into older categories. When managing stands, ODF considers a variety of factors including economics, habitat quality, and the type of wood products the stand provides. The intention is to maintain a balance across the landscape.

Question: Due to dire wildfire circumstances, can you share recommendations to appropriate entities?

- **Mike Wilson:** Wildfire protection strategies are implemented at different scales depending on the interaction. For the wildland urban interface (WUI), ODF is looking at how the agency fits into community wildfire protection programs and existing WUI work. Within the FMP, a strategy might be to use existing resources to develop plans going forward. More specific actions would be available in an IP or AOP plan.

Question: Can you provide more information on tree ages and rotation?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF does not typically set a rotation age for stands. Harvesting can happen at a variety of ages for different reasons. Within HCAs, ODF still needs to determine implementation. There is language that allows for fuels management, but it is not the focus in HCAs.

Question: Will management also include clear-cuts or modified clear-cuts?

- **Mike Wilson:** It will, ODF manages stands in several ways. One way is healthy conifer stand management for stands that are 30-40 years old and not diverse. Another is variable density thinning to promote and accelerate the development of trees into higher quality habitat. There are two situations in which ODF would clear-cut stands: 1) Swiss needle cast stands that have severe or moderate disease that has slowed stand growth and 2) red alder dominated areas with very little conifer component. For the second situation, ODF will keep other hardwood and conifer species that may be present. Over the 30-year HCP permit term, ODF would manage 45,000 acres of partial cutting in otherwise healthy conifer stands to promote habitat and manage 15,000 acres each of Swiss needle cast and red alder stands.



Question: Some goals reference achieving other goals. Does the department have additional goals that these goals are intended to achieve?

- **Mike Wilson:** This is in reference to the other goals in the plan.

Question: Will you identify projects that would be appropriate for alternatives to pesticides and look at the feasibility and cost analysis of doing so?

- **ODF:** ODF does not have a blanket herbicide approach to every unit harvested. Operationally, we consider management that is best suited for the site. If timed right with logging activities, chemical use may not be necessary. ODF does target shrubs like blackberry and Scotch broom help trees establish. This also allows annuals and pollinator species to come back.

Western Oregon HCP and NEPA Process

HCP Update

Troy Rahmig, ICF, provided an update on the HCP process. ODF posted an Administrative Draft HCP on the project website in March. There is an executive summary at the beginning of the draft, a document that summarizes changes that occurred between the 2020 draft and the March 2021 draft, and a link to HCP key elements that is a snapshot of the plan.

ODF is conducting an operational review of the HCP, including a series of question-and-answer sessions with district staff. The intent of this process is to confirm that the plan is operationally feasible. The HCP Project Team is making updates to the HCP in response to staff comments and reviewing any changes with the HCP Scoping Team. Many of the updates include making sure the language is consistent. ODF has also been working on clarifying definitions of covered activities and monitoring requirements.

Troy reviewed example changes:

- Clarifying language in covered activities
 - Updating definition of landings
 - Updating definition of quarries and borrow sites
 - Moving standards or requirements from covered activities to conservation strategy
- Creating consistent definition of northern spotted owl dispersal habitat for compliance tracking purposes
- Clarifying the types of projects funded using conservation fund dollars

NEPA Update

Tere O'Rourke, NOAA Fisheries, reviewed the NEPA process. The process began on March 8, 2021, with the Notice of Intent to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Scoping Period took place over 30 days and was extended by two weeks. Comments from this process are posted on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Information about the process is also available on the [NOAA Fisheries](#) and [ODF HCP website](#). Tere explained that this NEPA analysis is focused on ODF's proposed action and the decision will be to issue or not issue a permit. NOAA Fisheries is currently conducting modeling and gathering information to create alternatives. Tere noted that none of the comments submitted during the Scoping Period were complete alternatives. The Draft EIS will be published in early 2022 and will include Scoping



Period comments, analysis of important topics, and more. After this, there will be another public comment period for 45 days before a Record of Decision.

HCP	Complete Draft HCP									Submit Permit App.	Public Comment		Complete Final HCP				BOF Decision	
NEPA		Public Scoping	Complete Draft EIS						Public Comment	Complete Final EIS					Publish Record of Decision			
FMP	Initiation & Planning		Draft FMP					Draft Due	Refine Draft FMP	Draft Due	Finalize FMP & Rulemaking	Final Draft Due		BOF Decision				
IPs	Planning & Data Preparation				Draft IPs (includes modeling and analysis)						Refine & Finalize IPs (includes a public comment period)					State Forester Decision		
J F M A M J J A S O N D J J A M J J A S O N D J F M A																		
2021										2022					2023			

*Months highlighted in yellow are planned Board of Forestry engagements

Discussion

Question: Could an alternative brought forward in the process be permitted?

- Tere O'Rourke:** To move through the process, the alternative needs to meet the purpose and need. If it doesn't, it will not move forward.

Question: Is ODF able to choose within the range of alternatives?

- Tere O'Rourke:** NOAA Fisheries is developing the alternatives and seeking advice from ODF about what is operationally feasible. ODF is not selecting alternatives and does not know what the alternatives are. In the future, if there are ideas or thoughts that would enhance the HCP, sometimes an agency will modify the proposed action. This is an optional process for ODF and the BOF. The BOF may direct the HCP Project Team to implement changes based on public comment.

Question: Have there been any significant changes to the HCP that would drastically change the financials submitted in the comparative analysis?

- Troy Rahmig:** No, there have been no fundamental changes that would influence the harvest base or economics.

Question: Will areas outside of the HCAs have a larger focus on financial return to maintain a balance?

- Mike Wilson:** Yes, there is an economic focus outside of HCAs and RCAs and trying to maintain a balance of GPV.

Question: If ODF wants to modify the proposed alternative, how would this work and how much time would it add to the process?

- Troy Rahmig:** Any changes to the proposed alternative or HCP as drafted would come from the BOF after the public comment period. The benefit of having analyzed a range of alternatives is that the NEPA process would still be adequate. If something is outside of the alternatives analyzed during the NEPA process it may trigger additional NEPA review and therefore extend the timeline.



Question: How will this FMP revision maintain flexibility and how is ODF going to balance commitments to the HCP?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF benefits from having HCP strategies for this version of the FMP and these will be directly incorporated in the plan, most likely by reference. Flexibility will also depend on our knowledge of each resource and the metrics available to measure meeting the goals for each resource. ODF also relies on IPs and is working to elevate the role of these plans and increase public engagement.

Question: Can you clarify the process for adopting another alternative?

- **Tere O'Rourke:** This NEPA process is an Endangered Species Act Section 10 process that is optional. ODF is putting the HCP through the NEPA process and a range of alternatives will be created based on the comments received. Any of the alternatives that meet the requirements of purpose and need will be analyzed. If ODF and the BOF are willing to change their proposed actions, it can be incorporated and permitted. Whatever comes forward as the final HCP must be the state's desire.

Question: Once there is a Record of Decision it seems like we would foreclose the other alternatives that were analyzed and adopt one of them.

- **Tere O'Rourke:** That is correct.

Summary and Next Steps

Sylvia reminded the group that the Draft FMP Goals Survey will be used to finalize the goals. Upcoming engagement opportunities include:

- FMP Joint Stakeholder Meeting on August 18
- October 12 FMP-HCP Meeting Open to the Public
- November 3 Board of Forestry Meeting

Liz closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, noting the importance of developing the Forest Management Plan.

DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST

Sylvia Ciborowski asked the group if there were additional topics of interest to discuss.

Question: How is ODF recognizing historical context and the severity of the problems the Pacific Northwest faces in this process?

- **Mike Wilson:** ODF's forest management planning efforts recognizes this historical context and looks for opportunities to restore, maintain, protect, and enhance habitats.

Question: Is there a more recent comparative analysis available to view online other than the October 2020 analysis?



- **Troy Rahmig:** No, that is the most recent analysis. The 2020 analysis was completed to inform a BOF decision to proceed with the FMP. By enlarge, the 2020 comparative analysis still holds.

Question: Oregon Equestrian Trails members build and maintain horse camps and horse trails that end up being multi-use trails. The Santiam Horse Camp maintained a devastating attack by the wildfire last year. How did a devastating fire like this happen?

- **Mike Wilson:** Previously, Districts made their own management decisions regarding recreation. ODF is trying to leverage opportunities to get more people engaged in the forest.

Question: Is the modeling data publicly available? If it's not, can you explain why?

- **Mike Wilson:** The modeling results and workbooks are publicly available, including the GIS source data. ODF will also make modeling results available for the FMP.

Question: We receive our water from forested areas. Are there funds and metrics associated with residential consumption of water similar to those associated with timber?

- **Mike Wilson:** Assigning value to ecosystem services has been a challenge for ODF. ODF typically speaks about resources in terms of quality and quantity. Water will be more of a focus for this FMP.

Question: In Jetty Creek, 80% of the watershed was logged and Rockaway had to put in sand filtration and other methods to filter water. Why is the burden to treat water impacted by harvest activities in the watershed falling on rural communities?

Question: How does the Forest Practices Act apply to ODF's work?

- **Mike Wilson:** All nonfederal timber harvest is subject to the Forest Practices Act and it is the Private Forest Program that administers those regulations. There are important considerations for the state, but the HCP and FMP will not address anything related to private timber harvest. The BOF does oversee both divisions and you can express concerns to the BOF.