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WELCOME

Public Scoping Meeting

Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan
Environmental Impact Statement

March 31, 2021

Agenda

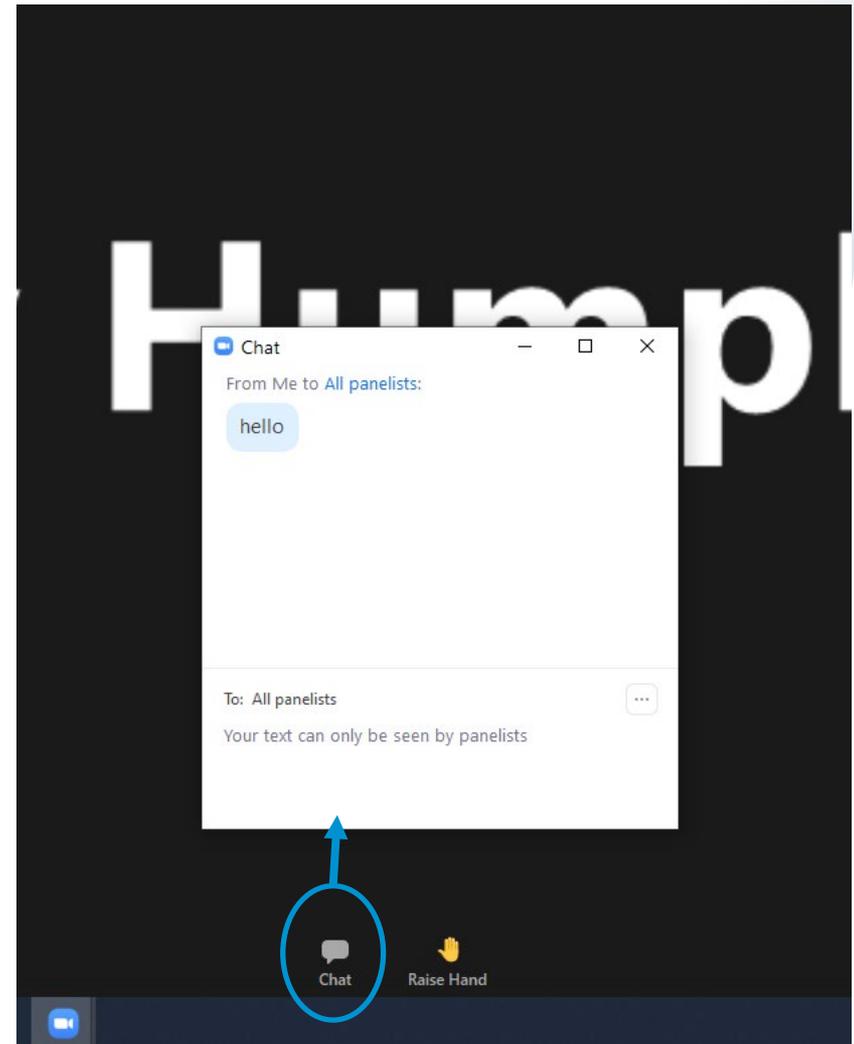
- Technology Review and Meeting Format
- NOAA Fisheries Welcome & Overview
- Habitat Conservation Plan Overview
- Public Scoping & How to Comment
- Clarifying Questions and Answers
- Wrap Up & Next Steps



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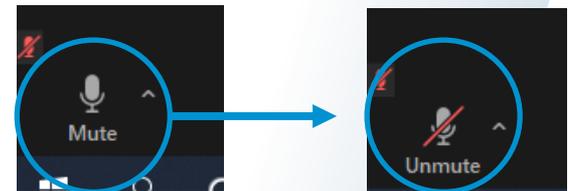
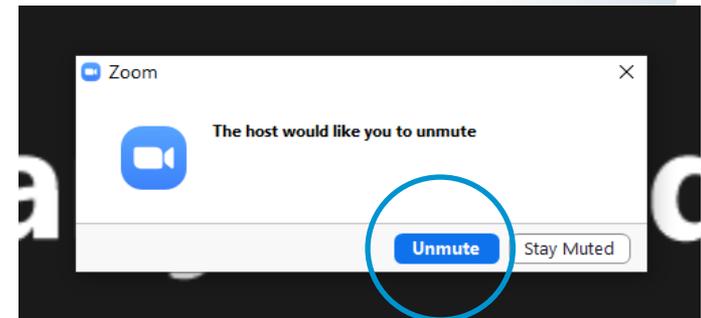
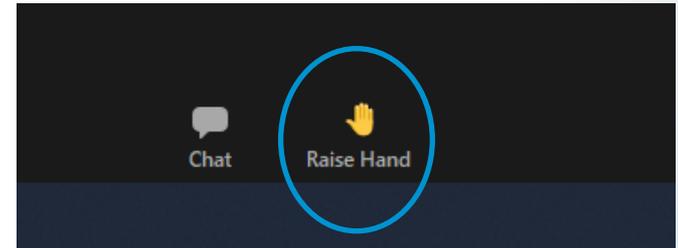
Zoom Webinar Overview

- Use the webinar link to view and participate in the webinar.
- Use computer or phone for audio.
- You will automatically be placed on mute when you join the webinar.
- Use the “Chat” feature for troubleshooting any issues with the Zoom Webinar
- There will be time for clarifying questions and answers at the end of the webinar



Zoom Webinar Overview Cont'd

- If you have a question, please use the “Raise Your Hand” button to get in the queue to ask your question.
- If you are on the phone, use *9 to raise your hand.
- We will call on you and you will receive a prompt to unmute.
- If you are on the phone, unmute and mute your phone using *6
- Say your name and affiliation before asking your question
- Unmute and then ask your question and then please mute yourself.



Meeting Format

- There will be a presentation on the project followed by a question & answer session for clarifying questions about the NEPA process and the contents of the Notice of Intent.
- We will not be taking oral comments on today's webinar.
- All comments should be submitted through www.regulations.gov
- The webinar is being recorded and will be made available online for anyone who could not attend today.
 - NOAA Website:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/notice-intent-prepare-environmental-impact-statement-western-oregon-state-forests-habitat>
 - ODF Website:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Pages/HCP-initiative.aspx>



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NOAA Fisheries Welcome & Overview

Tere O'Rourke, Oregon Coast Branch Chief,
NOAA Fisheries

Why Are We Here?

- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for several species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- In response, NOAA Fisheries will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the HCP
- Both NOAA-Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will use the EIS to make a decision regarding issuance of a permit.



Endangered Species Act

- Species listed as endangered or threatened:
 - “Threatened” means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
 - “Endangered” means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects endangered and threatened species and their habitats by prohibiting “take”
 - Take means “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct”.



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Endangered Species Act

- Section 10 of the ESA allows incidental take of threatened and endangered species, if take occurs under an approved habitat conservation plan.
- *A Habitat Conservation Plan* is a voluntary plan developed by a non-Federal applicant in order to receive an incidental take permit.
- *Incidental Take* refers to take that results from carrying out an otherwise lawful activity



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National Environmental Policy Act

- Requires federal agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major federal actions.
- Issuance of incidental take permits by the Services is a federal action subject to NEPA review.
- The EIS will consider effects of the Services' federal actions on the human environment.
- Preparation of an EIS triggers a public scoping process.



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Purpose of Public Scoping

- Engage Tribal, state, and local governments and the public early in the process
- Gain input and insight from the public
- Help identify the range for reasonable alternatives
- Focus the analysis of the EIS on significant issues



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How do the HCP and EIS differ?

- HCP
 - Applicant's document
 - Supports application for incidental take permit(s) under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act
 - Evaluates effects of the HCP on the covered species
- EIS
 - Federal agency's document
 - Required for the federal agency decision
 - Evaluates effects of the proposed federal action (issuance of the incidental take permit) on the broader environment



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What Are the Federal Agencies' Roles?

- NEPA
 - NOAA Fisheries is the **lead agency** with primary responsibility for complying with NEPA and preparing the EIS
 - FWS is a **cooperating agency** participating in the NEPA process and providing technical support
- ESA
 - Both NOAA Fisheries and FWS have provided technical assistance to ODF in the development of the HCP and will be responsible for making incidental take permit decisions for the species under their authority



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Issuance Criteria

- The taking will be incidental to an otherwise lawful activity;
- the impacts will be minimized, and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable;
- adequate funding will be provided;
- the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species; and
- any other necessary measures are met.



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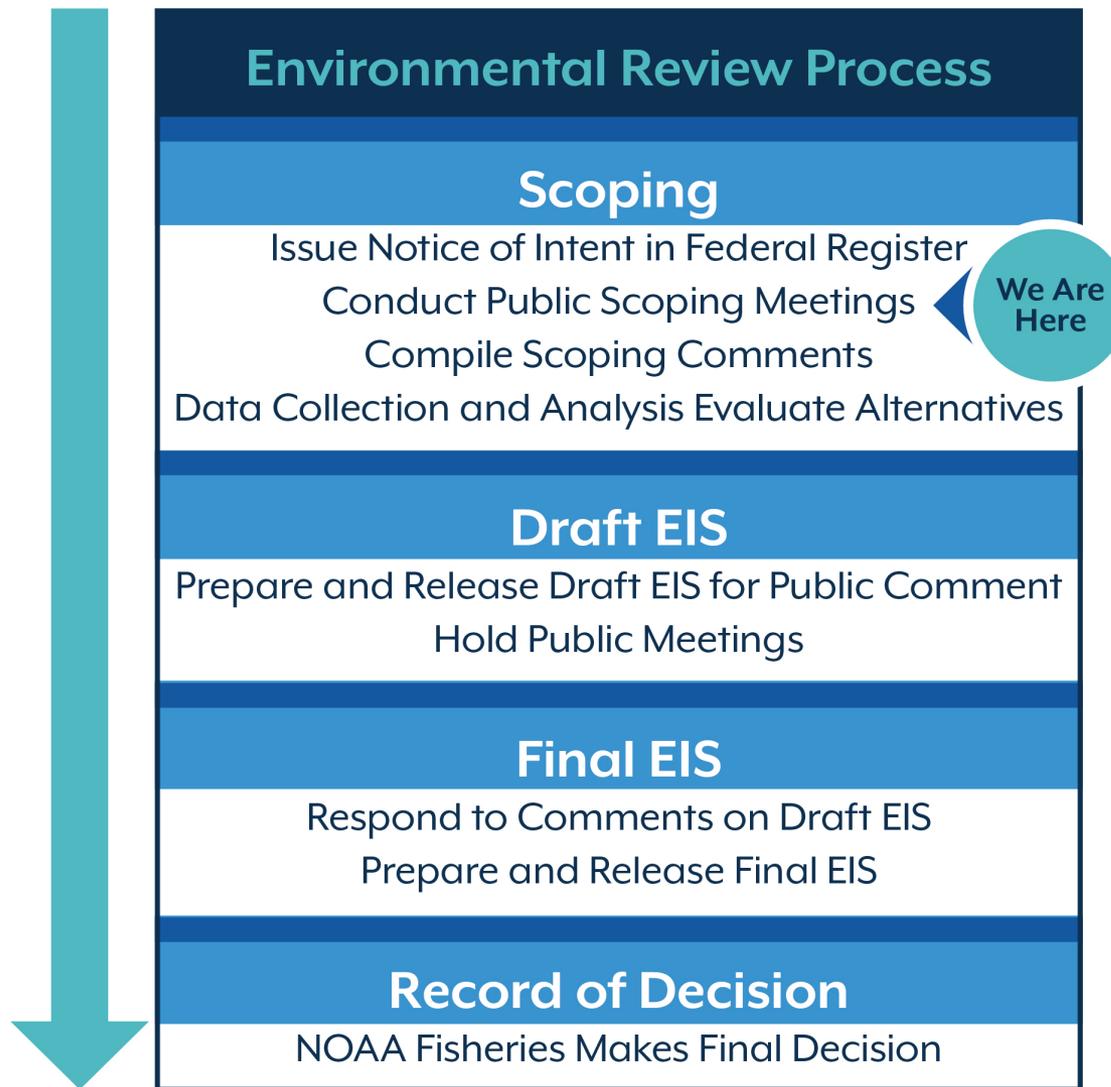
Making Incidental Take Permit Decisions

- Does the permit meet issuance criteria?
 - If not, do not issue the permit
 - If so, issue the permit
 - Or issue the permit with conditions (if needed)



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Environmental Review Process



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HCP Overview

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief,
Oregon Department of Forestry



Western Oregon State Forests HCP Update

NEPA Scoping Public Meeting
March 31st, 2021

Liz Dent

ODF State Forests Division Chief

Brian Pew

ODF State Forests Deputy Division Chief

Mike Wilson

ODF State Forests Resource Support Unit Manager

Cindy Kolomechuk

ODF State Forests HCP Project Lead

Nick Palazzotto

ODF State Forests Wildlife Biologist

Sarah Dyrdaahl

ODF State Forests Aquatic and Riparian Biologist

Troy Rahmig

ICF HCP Project Manager





HCP Purpose

- Creates operational certainty over the 70-year permit term
- Creates certainty in the quality and quantity of conservation outcomes over the 70-year permit term
- Establishes a monitoring and adaptive management program to track progress



**Administrative
Draft Available**

MARCH 2021

**WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**
ADMINISTRATIVE DRAFT



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/HCP-initiative.aspx>



Agenda

Topics to be Covered

- Background and Context
- Components of the HCP
 - Permit Area
 - Covered Activities
 - Covered Species
 - Permit Term
 - Conservation Strategy
 - Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- Next Steps



Western Oregon HCP Project Phases

Phase 1: HCP Initiation

(Timeline: November 2018)

- Engage counties, tribes, public & stakeholders
- Species list
- Business Case Analysis

Phase 2: Strategy Development

(Timeline: October 2020)

- 1st Administrative Draft of the Western Oregon HCP
- Comparative Analysis (Updated BCA)

Phase 3: National Environmental Policy Act Analysis

(Timeline: Feb 2023)

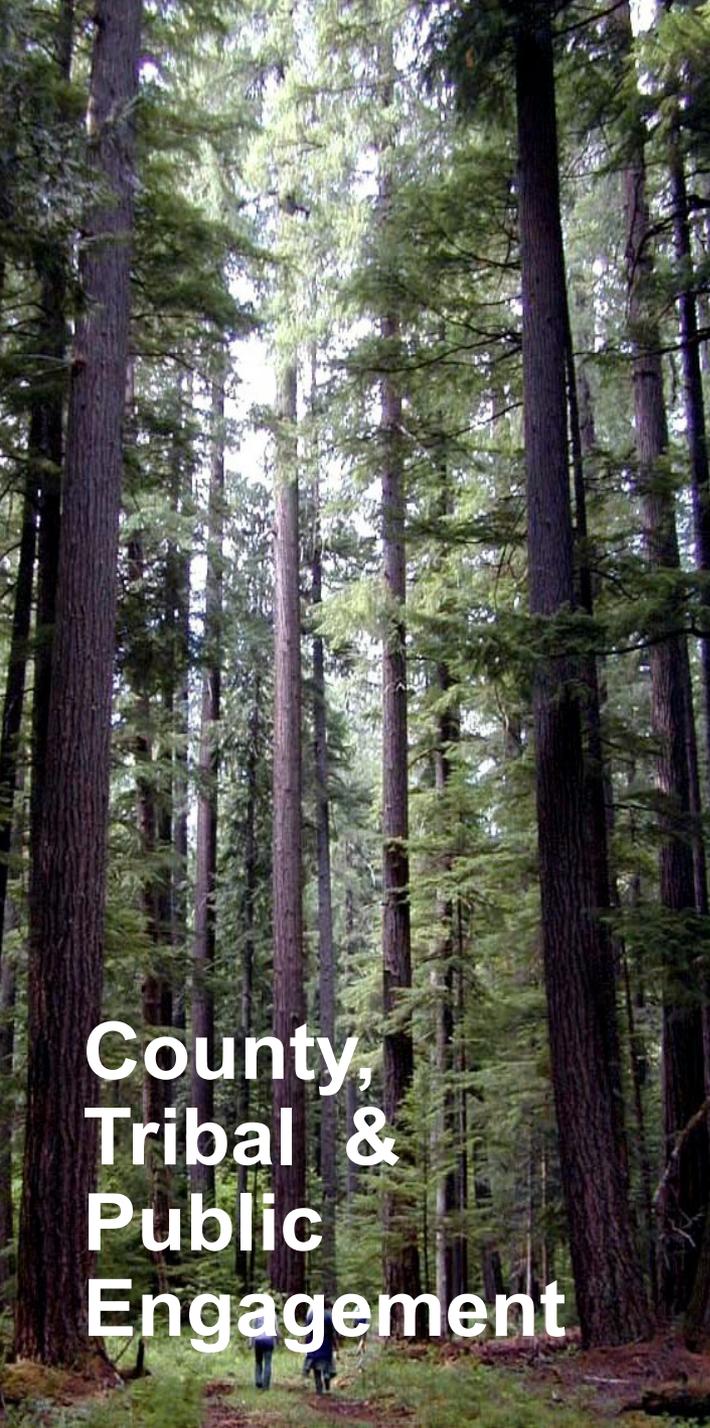
- Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act
- Apply for an Incidental Take Permit



HCP Contributors

Western Oregon HCP Contributors

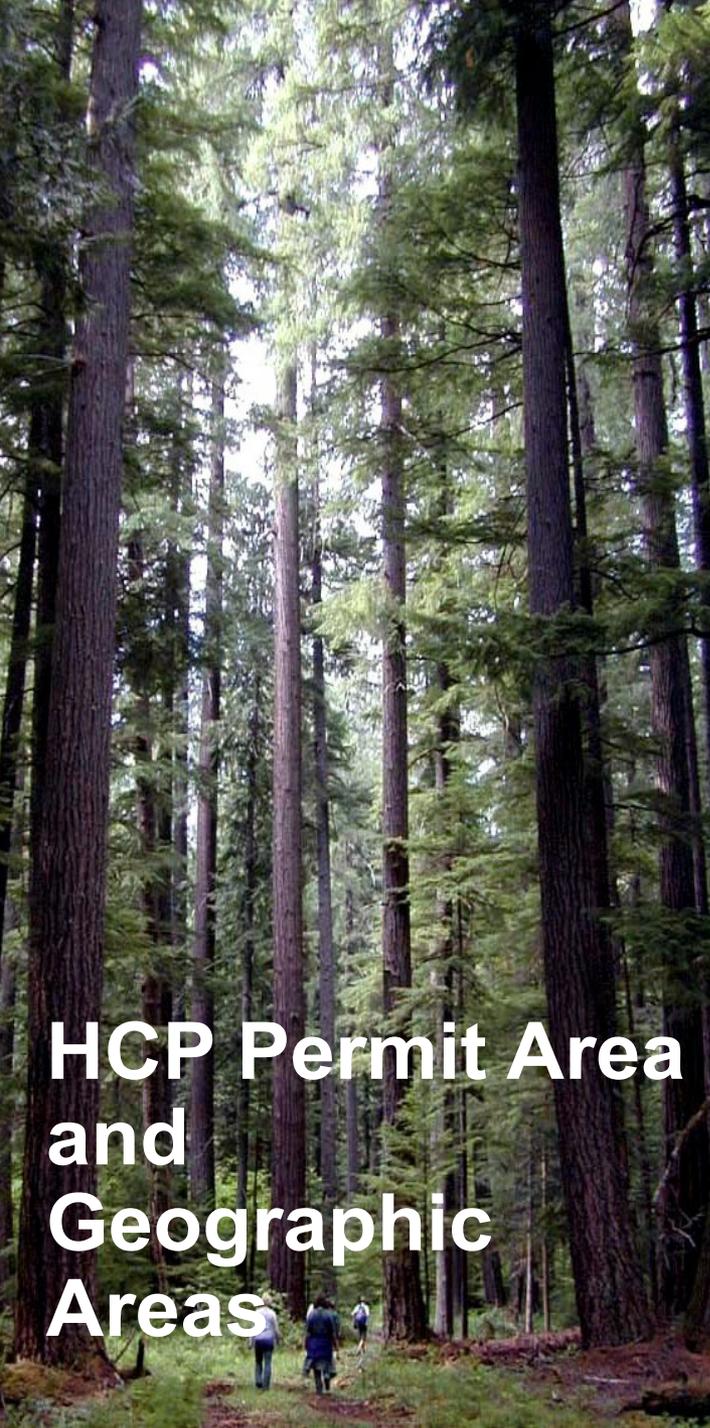
- Oregon Department of Forestry (Convener)
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon State University
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA Fisheries



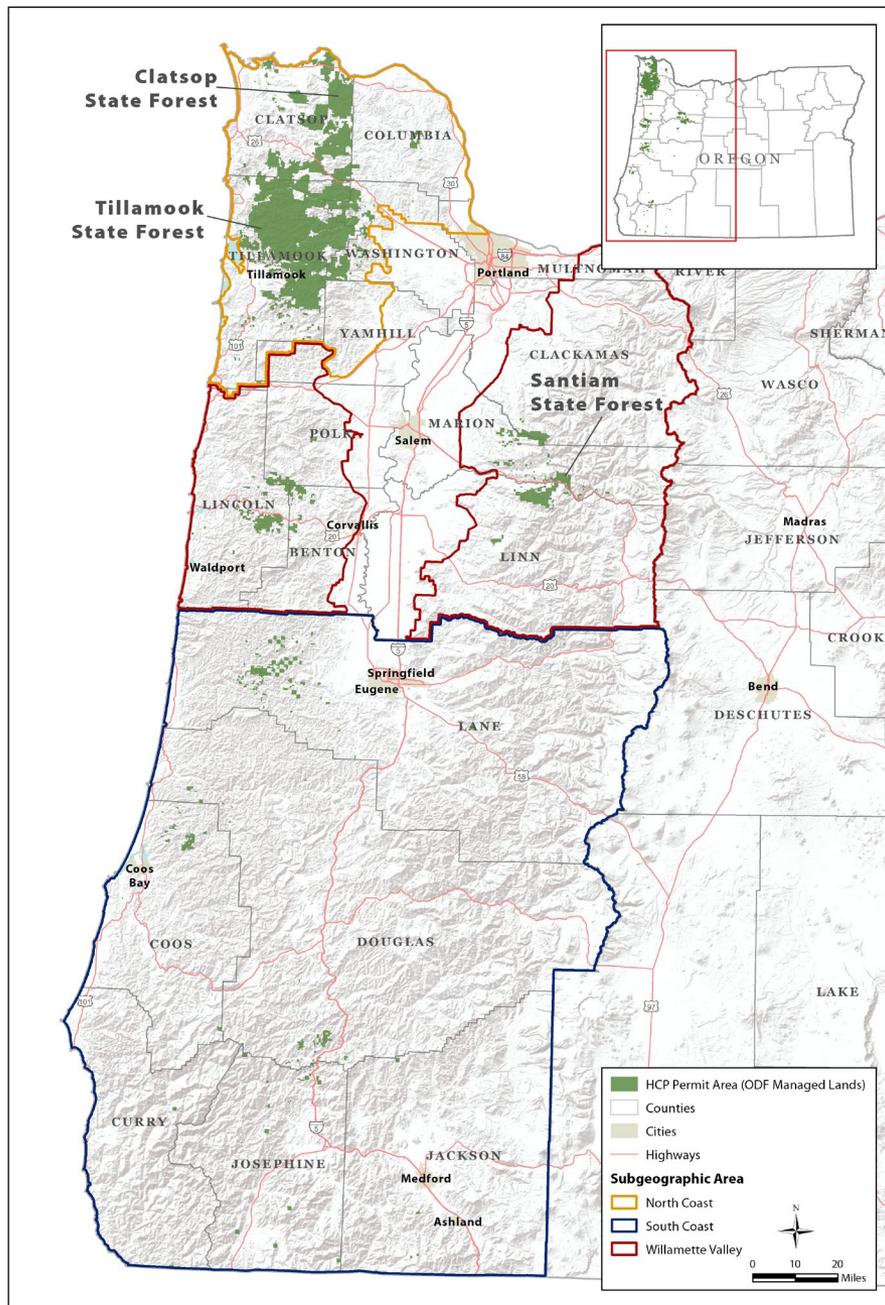
County, Tribal & Public Engagement

External Engagement

- Broad Public Outreach—open to everyone
- County Engagement
- Information Sharing Meetings with Tribes
- Stakeholder Meetings
 - Conservation
 - Recreation
 - Industry



HCP Permit Area and Geographic Areas





Covered Activities

- Timber Harvest
- Stand Management Activities
- Road System Management
- Recreation Facilities and Infrastructure
- Conservation Action Implementation



Covered Species

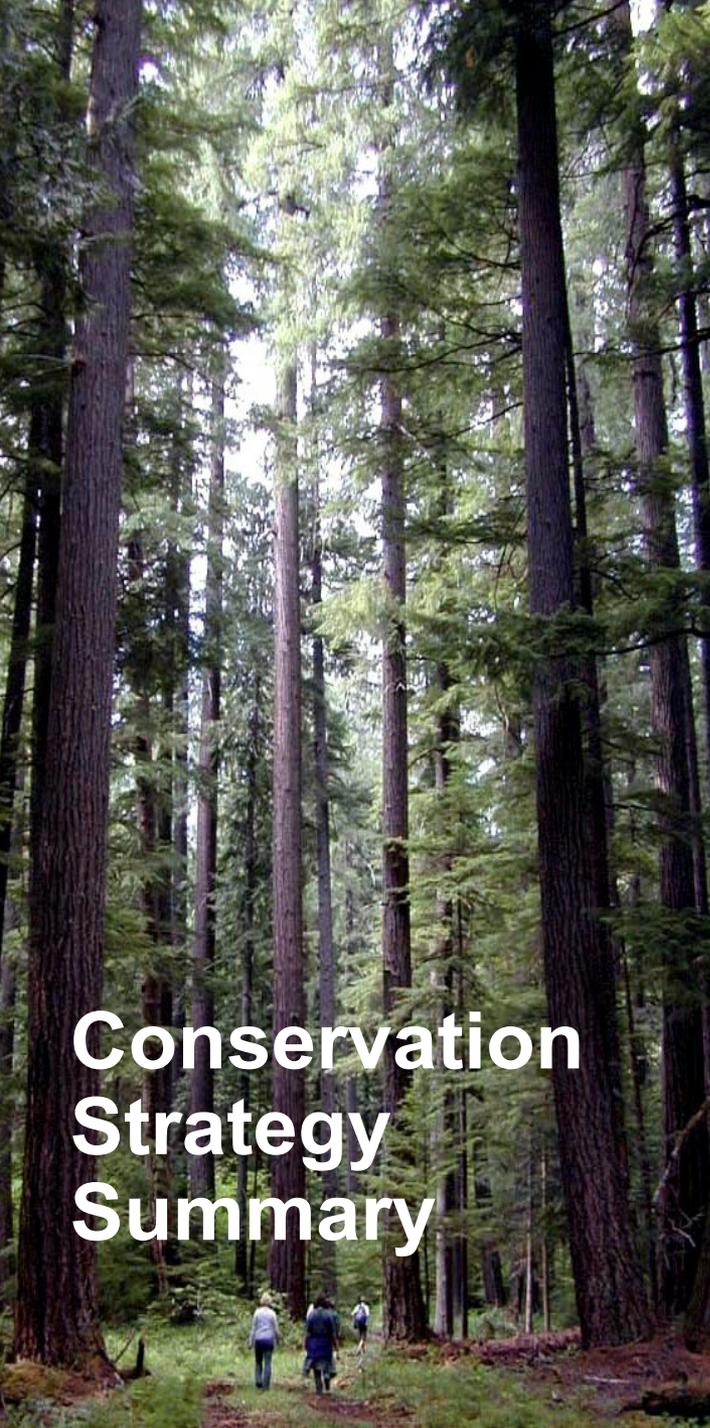
- Oregon Coast coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
- Lower Columbia River coho (*O. kisutch*)
- Oregon Coast spring chinook (*O. tshawytscha*)*
- Southern Oregon/Northern California Coastal spring-run chinook (*O. tshawytscha*)*
- Upper Willamette River spring chinook (*O. tshawytscha*)
- Upper Willamette River winter steelhead (*O. mykiss*)
- Lower Columbia chum (*O. keta*)
- South Oregon/Northern California coho (*O. kisutch*)
- Lower Columbia chinook (*O. tshawytscha*)
- Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)

- Oregon slender salamander (*Batrachoseps wrighti*)*
- Columbia torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton kezeri*)*
- Cascade torrent salamander (*R. cascadae*)*

- Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*)
- Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

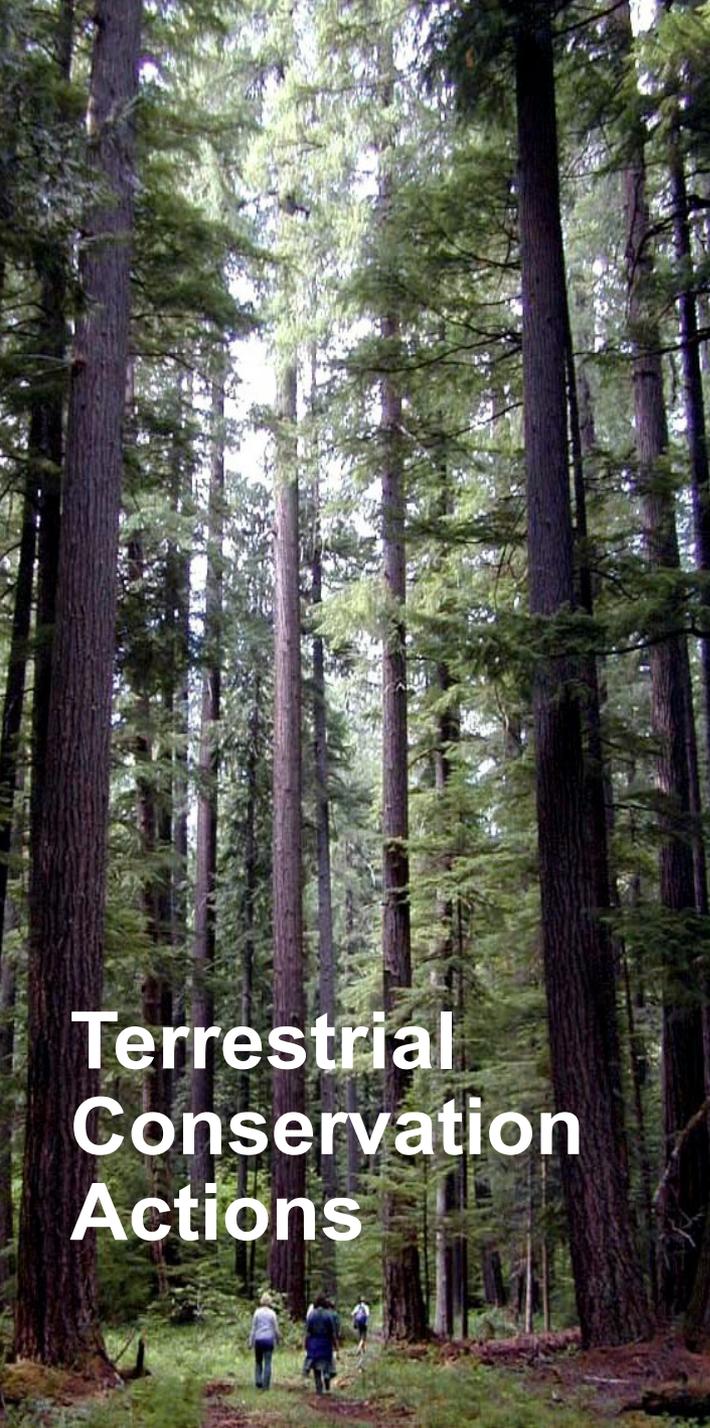
- Red tree vole (*Arborimus longicaudus*)*
- Coastal marten (*Martes caurina caurina*)

*Species that are not currently listed under the endangered species act



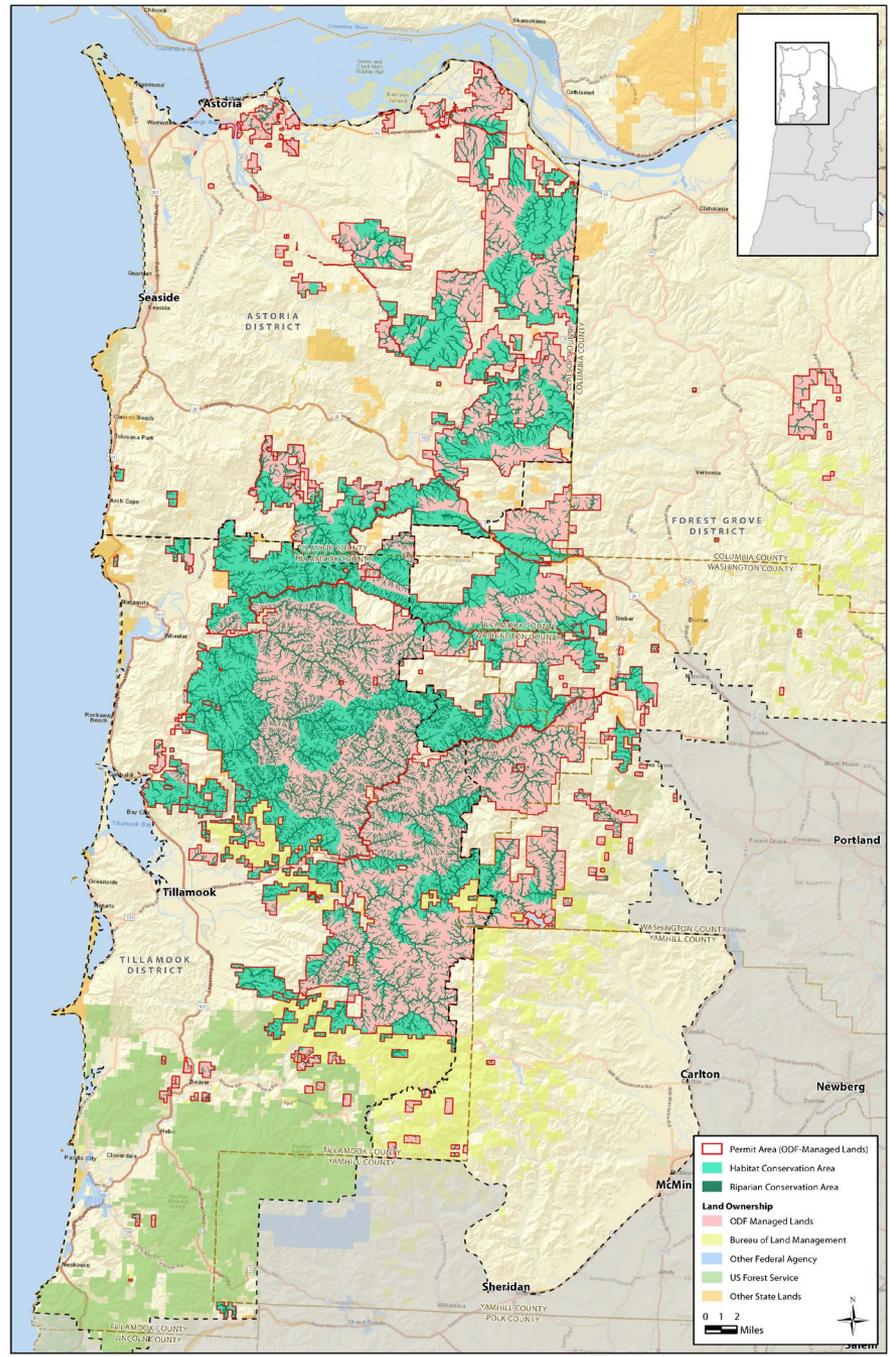
Conservation Strategy Summary

- **Aquatic Conservation Strategy**
 - Riparian conservation areas
 - Road system management
 - Stream enhancement
 - Barrier removal
- **Terrestrial Conservation Strategy**
 - Habitat conservation areas
 - Upland habitat management
 - Retention commitments
 - Barred owl management
- **Establish Conservation Fund**
 - Supports terrestrial & aquatic restoration activities



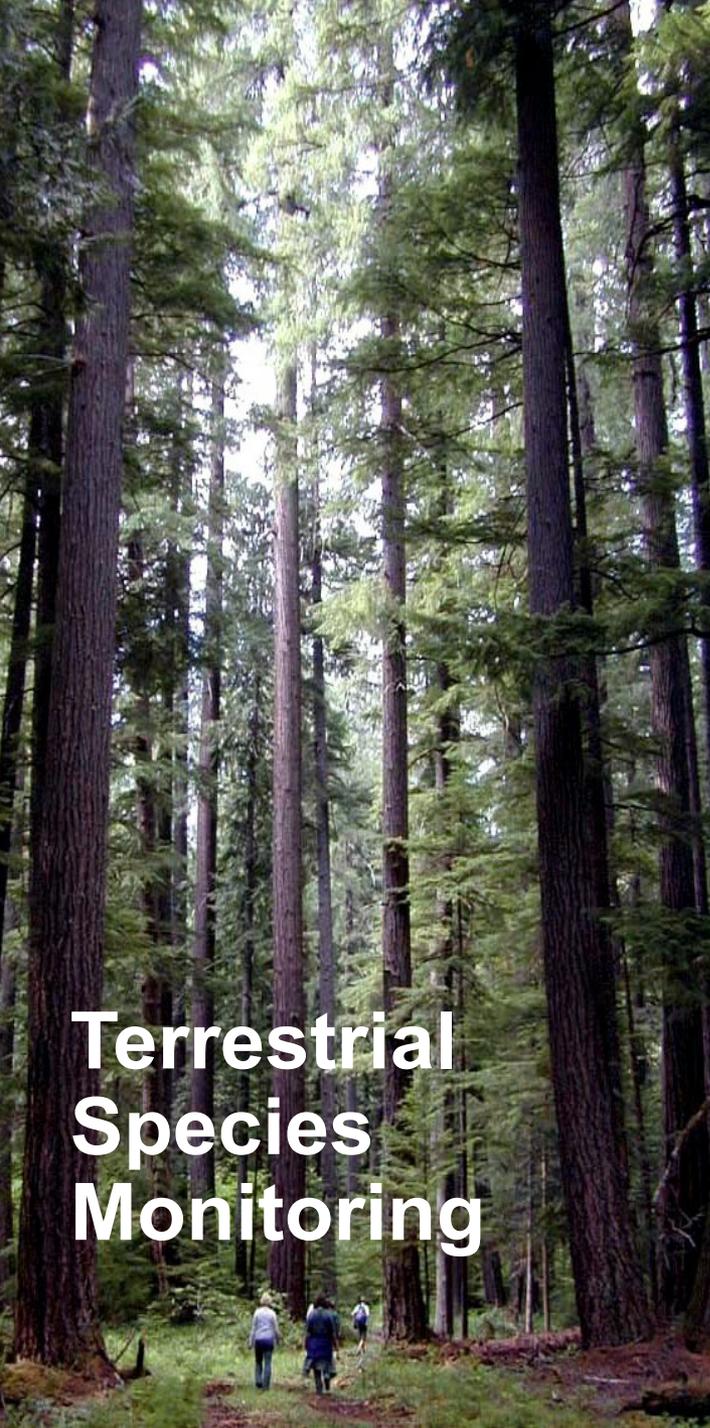
Terrestrial Conservation Actions

- Establish Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs)
- Prioritized areas in HCAs where:
 - Species are known to occur,
 - Suitable and highly suitable habitat occurs or will occur,
 - Habitat connectivity on the landscape
 - HCAs encompass nearly all suitable and highly suitable habitat in the permit area now, and nearly all known species occurrences



Western Oregon State Forest HCP – Habitat Conservation Areas, Astoria, Forest Grove, and Tillamook Districts





Terrestrial Species Monitoring

- Focus on changes in habitat quality over time (every 5-years)
 - Habitat lost to covered activities
 - Habitat gained through growth
- Currently suitable habitat and species occurrence
- Species response to newly suitable habitat
- Silvicultural actions in HCAs to manage the pace and scale
- Tied to broader Adaptive Management program and Implementation Plans

Riparian Conservation Areas

Table 4-3. Minimum Buffer Widths (Horizontal Distance) for All Type F and Large and Medium Type N

| Stream Type | Minimum Management Area Width (feet) | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Type F | Type N |
| Large | 120 | 120 |
| Medium | 120 | 120 |
| Small | 120 | See Table 4-4 |
| Seasonal ^a | 120 | See Table 4-4 |

^a Seasonal: A stream that does not have surface flow after July 15.

Table 4-4. Minimum Riparian Conservation Area Widths (Horizontal Distance) for Small Perennial and Seasonal Type N Streams

| Stream Type | Minimum Management Area Width (feet) | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Within 500-foot Temperature Zone | Upstream of 500-foot Temperature Zone |
| Perennial small Type N | 120 | 35 |
| Potential debris flow track (Seasonal Type N) ^a | 50 | 35 |
| High energy (Seasonal Type N) ^b | 50 | 35 |
| Seasonal other (Type N) ^c | 0 ^d | 0 ^d |

^a Potential debris flow tracks: Reaches on seasonal Type N streams that have a high potential of delivering wood to a Type F stream.

^b High Energy: Reaches on seasonal Type N streams that have a high potential of delivering wood and sediment to a Type F stream during a high-flow event.

^c Seasonal: A stream that does not have surface flow after July 15.

^d A 35-foot equipment restriction zone will apply to these streams.



Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA)



Aquatic Conservation Actions

- **Commit** to aquatic enhancement projects that focus on:
 - Addressing limiting factors for each ESU
 - Improving fish habitat, including large wood placement in strategic locations
 - Removal of fish barriers to increase access to habitat
 - Floodplain reconnection projects
- **Monitoring**
 - Coordinated with ODFW's Aquatic Inventory Program
 - Sedimentation related to fish habitat quality
 - Number of pieces and volume of large woody debris
 - Stream temperature changes over time

HCA and RCA Statistics

All covered species benefit from both

50% of Permit Area combined

7% of Permit Area in RCA

48% of RCA is within HCA

Total Combined HCA and RCA (to nearest 1,000 acres)

| Location | HCAs | RCAs | Total |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Permit Area | 275,000 (43%) | 42,000 (7%) | 317,000 (50%) |
| North Coast | 217,000 (34%) | 36,000 (6%) | 253,000 (40%) |
| Willamette Valley | 33,000 (5%) | 4,000 (<1%) | 37,000 (6%) |
| Southern Oregon | 25,000 (4%) | 2,000 (<1%) | 27,000 (4%) |



Reporting Requirements

▪ Annual Reporting

- Compliance reporting on covered activities
- Species and habitat survey results
- Conservation Fund expenditures

▪ 5-Year Midpoint Check In

- All annual reporting items
- Update on terrestrial species habitat changes (loss/gain)

▪ 10-Year Comprehensive Review

- Assess last 10 years in preparation for next 10-year IP cycle
- Opportunity to adjust policies and programs to more efficiently implement HCP (*adaptive management*)



Adaptive Management Program

Informing Change

- Identifies need for potential adjustments in conservation actions
- Informs changes at both a policy and operational level to most effectively achieve biological goals and objectives
- Timed primarily to match ODF's 10 year Implementation Plan cycle
- Adaptation to climate change in conjunction with other state and federal agencies
- Establishes triggers based on monitoring



Next Steps

- Administrative Draft HCP is available on ODF's website
- Begin development of Companion FMP
- **May 6th FMP and HCP Meeting Open to the Public**
- Final HCP and Companion FMP to the Board in Feb 2023

Next Steps



Thank You!

Western Oregon State Forests HCP

More Information

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/HCP-initiative.aspx>

Contact

Cindy Kolomechuk,
cindy.kolomechuk@oregon.gov,
503-502-5599



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Public Scoping & How to Comment

Deb Bartley, EIS Project Manager, ICF

Purpose of Scoping

- Engage Tribal, state, and local governments and the public early in the process
- Gain input and insight from the public
- Help identify the range of reasonable alternatives considered in the EIS
- Focus the analysis of the EIS on significant issues



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Focus of Scoping Comments: Alternatives

- Input to help develop a reasonable range of alternatives
- For an HCP EIS, alternatives can consider modifications to HCP components such as:
 - Permit term
 - Covered species
 - Covered activities
 - Conservation strategy



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Focus of Scoping Comments: Topics

Example Environmental Resource Topics

- Water Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Vegetation (including forest cover)
- Fish and Wildlife (including covered and non-covered species)
- Climate Change
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice



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Focus of Scoping Comments: Other

- Other topics
- Geographic and temporal scale of analysis
- Analysis methods
- Significant issues
- Existing environmental conditions
- Other data and information



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Keys to Making Effective Comments

- Submit comments that are clear, concise, and relevant to the project.
- Provide constructive solutions with documentation or resources to support your comments or recommendations.
- Avoid simply stating opposition or support, or making broad statements.



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How Scoping Comments Are Used

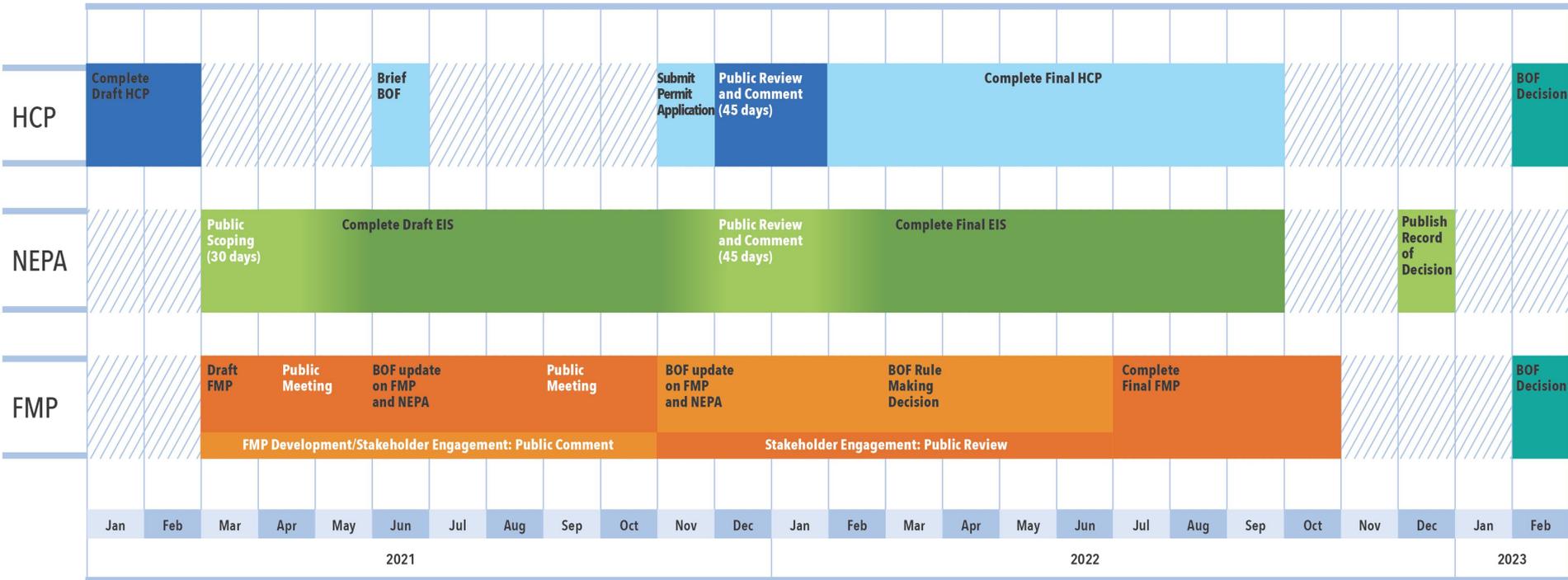
- Comments submitted during the formal scoping period will be considered in determining the scope of the EIS analysis
- Ultimately, NOAA Fisheries is responsible for determining the scope of the EIS



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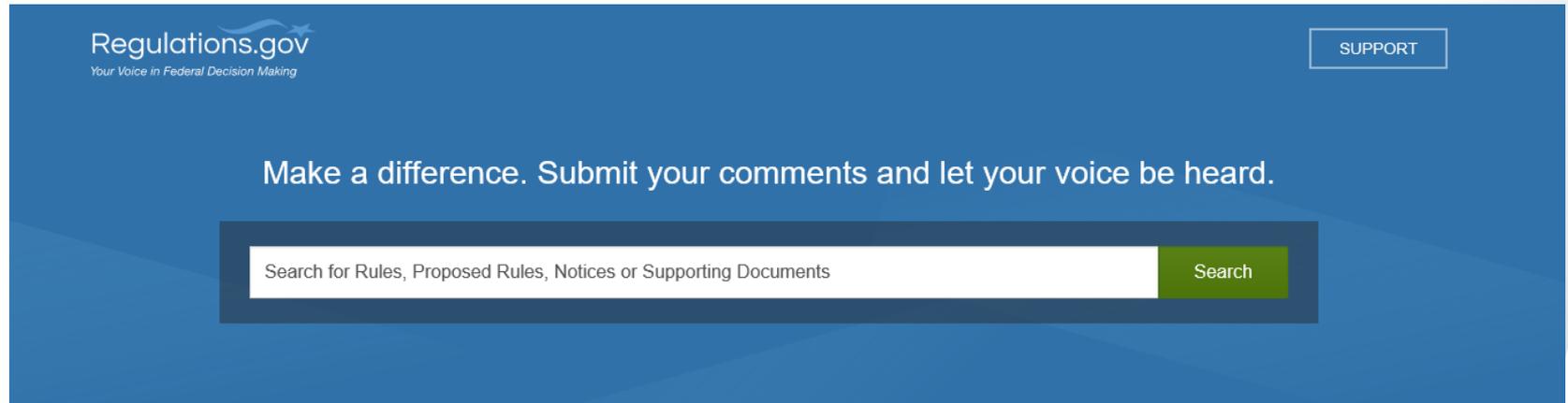
Anticipated Schedule and Next Steps

Working Draft Schedule



How to Comment

Comments may be submitted www.regulations.gov.
Comment Period - March 8, 2021 – April 7, 2021



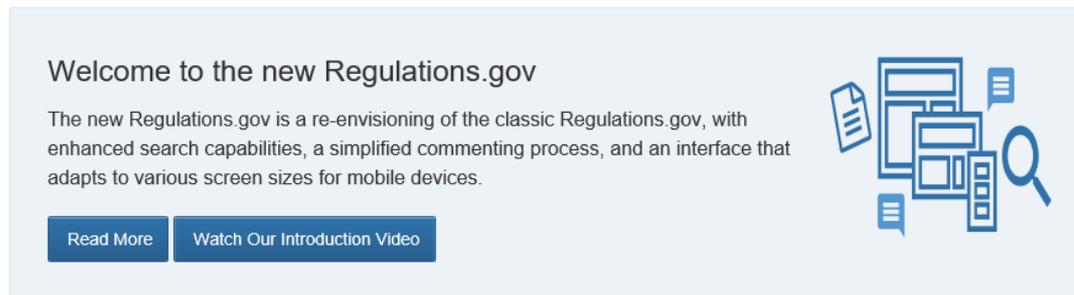
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|-------------------|----|
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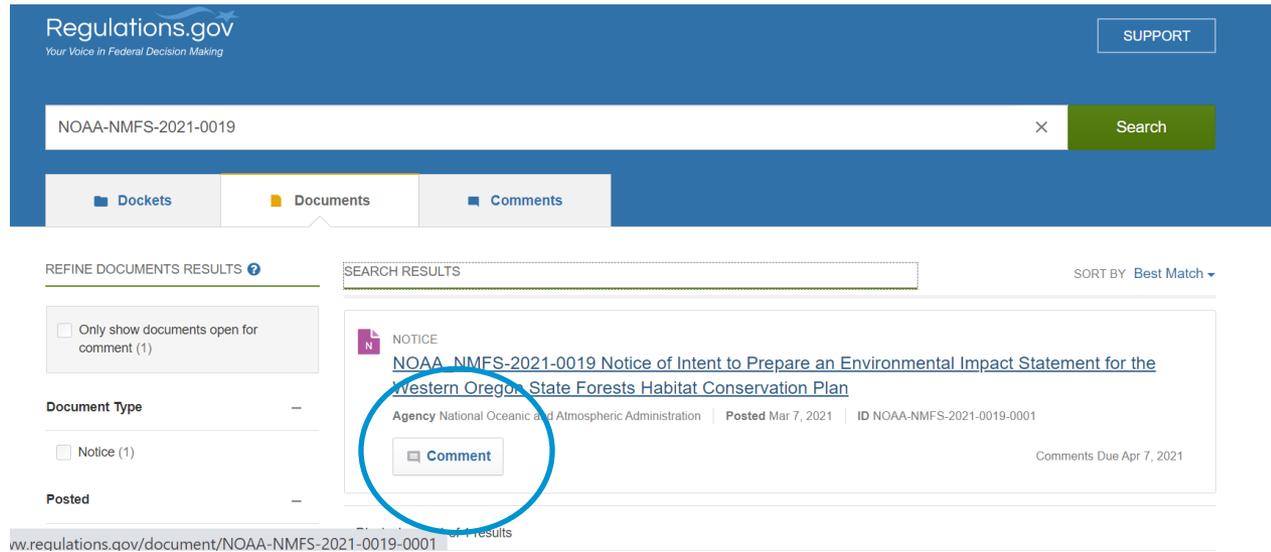
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Dockets Documents Comments

REFINE DOCUMENTS RESULTS

SEARCH RESULTS SORT BY Best Match

Only show documents open for comment (1)

Document Type

Notice (1)

Posted

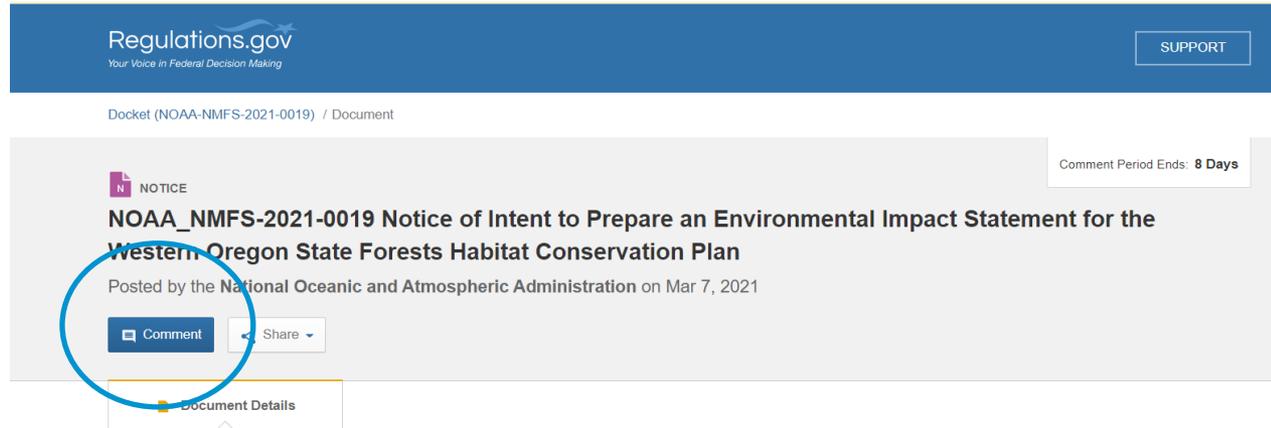
NOTICE

NOAA_NMFS-2021-0019 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan

Agency National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Posted Mar 7, 2021 | ID NOAA-NMFS-2021-0019-0001

Comments Due Apr 7, 2021

www.regulations.gov/document/NOAA-NMFS-2021-0019-0001



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Docket (NOAA-NMFS-2021-0019) / Document

Comment Period Ends: 8 Days

NOTICE

NOAA_NMFS-2021-0019 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan

Posted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Mar 7, 2021

Document Details



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How to Comment Continued

Complete the required fields and enter or attach your comments.

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You are commenting on a Notice by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
NOAA_NMFS-2021-0019 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon State
Forests Habitat Conservation Plan

Comment Period Ends: **22 Days**

Write a Comment

Commenter's Checklist

Comment*
Start typing comment here...

5000

Attach Files

You can attach up to 20 files, but each file cannot exceed 10MB. Valid file types include: bmp, docx, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, pptx, rtf, sgml, tif, tiff, txt, wpd, xlsx, xml.

Drop files here or

Email Address

How to Comment Continued

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

FISHERIES RULES & REGULATIONS

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan

Notice | West Coast

Overview

Action Status

Notice

Published

03/08/2021

Comments Close

04/07/2021 - [Comment Here](#)

Point of Contact

Michelle McMullin, 541-957-3378,
Michelle.McMullin@noaa.gov

Summary

We, NMFS, intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to analyze the potential impacts on the human (biological, physical, social, and economic) environment caused by the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (WOSF HCP) and a range of reasonable alternatives. The WOSF HCP is being prepared in support of a request for Endangered Species Act (ESA) incidental take permits (ITP) authorizing incidental take of covered species by covered activities. We are also announcing the initiation of a public scoping period to engage Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments and the public in the identification of issues and concerns, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose and need for consideration in the draft EIS. The applicant for the ITPs is the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Comments

The NMFS requests comments concerning the scope of the analysis, and identification of relevant information, studies, and analyses. All comments must be received by April 7, 2021.

[Submit a comment >](#)

Question & Answer Session

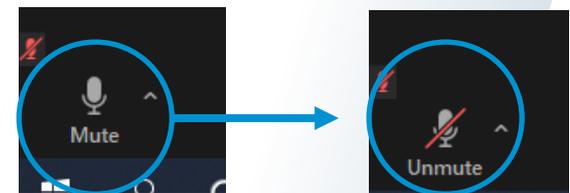
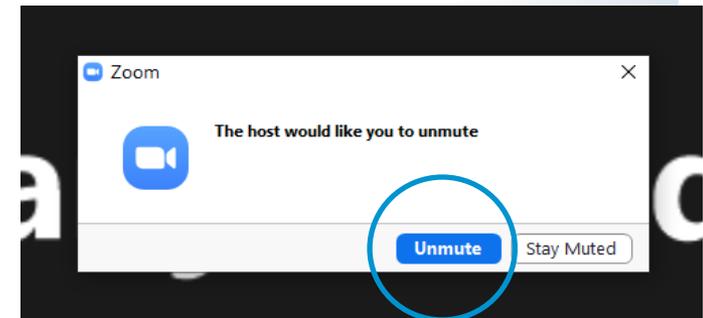
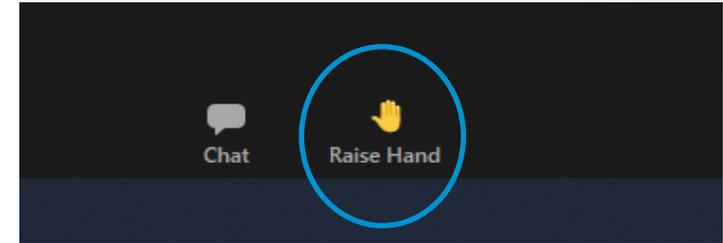
- This question-and-answer session is for clarifying questions about the NEPA process, the contents of the Notice of Intent, the scoping process more specifically, the purpose of the EIS and the project schedule.
- This is not an opportunity to provide oral comments.
- Any comments should be submitted as previously described.



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Q&A Logistics

- Participants will raise a virtual hand if they have a question, and we will take them in the order they appear.
- If you have a question, please use the “Raise Your Hand” button to get in the queue to ask your question.
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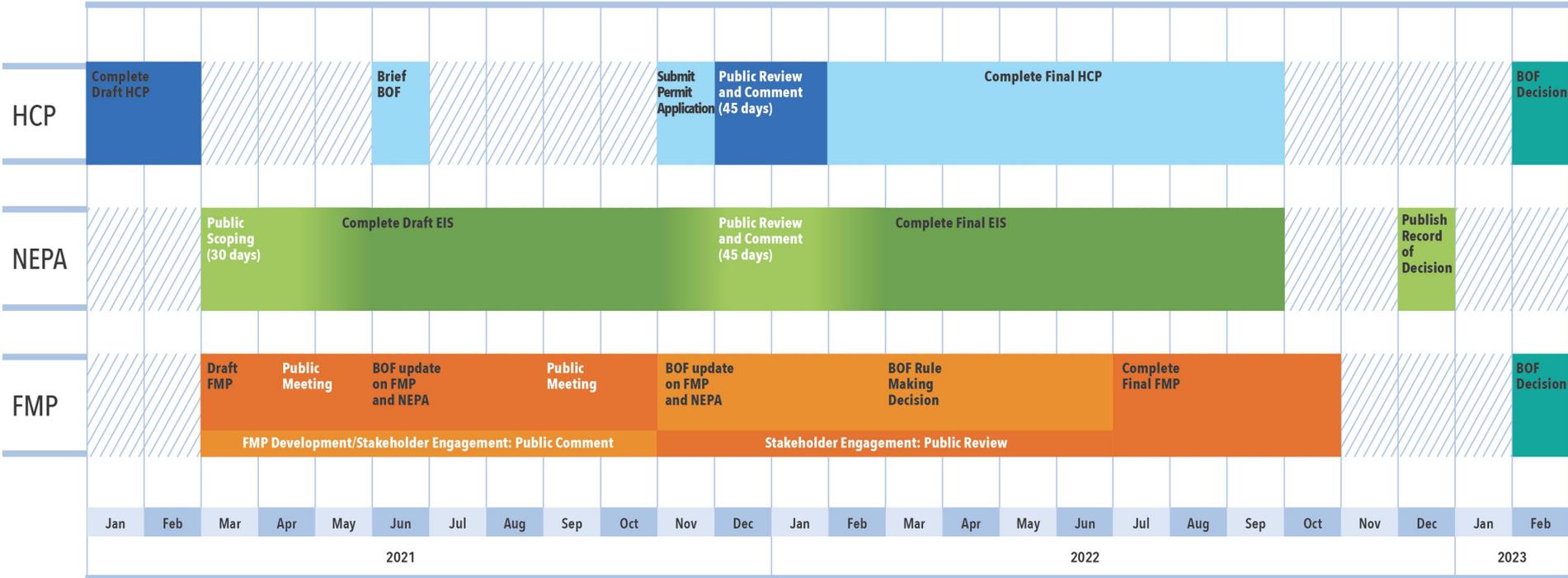


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Wrap up/Next Steps

Anticipated Schedule and Next Steps

Working Draft Schedule



How to Comment

www.regulations.gov

- Enter NOAA– NOAA Fisheries–2021–0019 in the search bar
- Click the Comment Icon
- Complete the required fields and enter or attach your comments.

NOAA Fisheries Website:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/notice-intent-prepare-environmental-impact-statement-western-oregon-state-forests-habitat>
- Click “Comment Here” or “Submit a Comment”

Comment Period - March 8, 2021 – April 7, 2021



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Ways to Stay Informed

NOAA Website:

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

ODF Website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Pages/HCP-initiative.aspx>



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Thank you