

# Appendix G

## Public Involvement



Public involvement is critical in developing the best possible Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Elliott State Forest. The public involvement process helps to increase the public's understanding and support for forest management actions. In addition, the public contributes information, ideas, and values that are essential to FMP development.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) planning team carried out extensive public involvement, as detailed in this appendix. The planning team provided information and sought public input at each step of the planning process, and solicited comments on the draft strategies and proposed actions. The two federal agencies involved with the Incidental Take Permit (ITP)—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries)—began participating in the public involvement process in 2001 as contributing members of the planning team.

The public involvement process was integrated with the overall planning process, and covered all parts of the planning process: the FMP, the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, which will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement that will accompany the proposed HCP.

This appendix describes all public involvement for all documents related to the FMP for the Elliott State Forest.

---

# History of Public Involvement

The public involvement process consisted of newsletters, public meetings and forest tours, information on the ODF website, peer review, an independent scientific review, and informal contacts with groups and individuals.

The text of this appendix describes in detail each aspect of the public involvement process.

Table G-1 presents a chronological history of public involvement activities, showing how the activities fit together and in what sequence they occurred. The history includes only activities related to state forest policy and planning. For example, the Board of Forestry (BOF) meets every six weeks and considers many issues related to Oregon forests, but the chronological history shows only meetings at which Elliott State Forest planning was discussed or a decision relevant to Elliott State Forest planning was made.

Newsletters included a number of articles; however, only a few main articles for each issue are mentioned.

## Expectations Newsletter

The ODF published the first issue of the *Expectations* newsletter in May 2001, and continued to publish the newsletter throughout the planning process. The newsletter was dedicated to Elliott State Forest management planning news, and was published on an as-needed basis as work was accomplished and new steps taken. See the chronological history for the exact dates of publication.

*Expectations* was mailed to a list of interested individuals, organizations, and agencies. A broader audience was reached through press releases and articles in western Oregon newspapers. Interested persons and groups were invited to request one-on-one meetings or presentations.

In September 2005, a newspaper insert in The Coos Bay World (circulation 15,500) and the Roseburg News-Review (circulation 19,500) announced public meetings and a comment period for the final draft of the FMP. Letters also were sent out to the mailing list regarding the September 2005 meetings.

**Table G-1. Chronological History of Public Involvement**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>2000</b>	
January 2000	Planning process begins for revision of FMP and HCP
January 2000	Draft report (recommendations) received from Elliott Aquatic/Riparian Task Force, which began meeting in 1998 to review and recommend riparian and aquatic strategies for the Elliott State Forest
July 27, 2000	BOF tour (public invited)
July 28, 2000	BOF meeting
August 1, 2000	State Land Board meeting; State Land Board provides direction to ODF to develop multi-species HCP
August 2000	Public Involvement Plan developed and approved by Steering Committee
October 20, 2000	BOF meeting to provide update on early stages and direction of planning for FMP and HCP
December 6, 2000	Presentation at Coos County Commissioners meeting
<b>2001</b>	
January 2001	Letter sent to mailing list announcing public meetings and inviting participation
January 2001	News releases, public service announcements about meetings sent to media
January to February 2001	Newspaper advertising announcing public meetings purchased in <i>Coos Bay World</i> , <i>Eugene Register-Guard</i> , <i>Portland Oregonian</i> , <i>Roseburg News-Review</i> , <i>Salem Statesman-Journal</i>
January to February 2001	Public meetings held in Coos Bay, North Bend, Roseburg and Salem to provide background on reasons for revising FMP and HCP, and to seek public input on management of the Elliott State Forest
May 2001	First issue of <i>Expectations</i> newsletter published, containing background and purpose of forest, and reason for FMP revision
<b>2002</b>	
January 2002	Second issue of <i>Expectations</i> newsletter published; guiding principles unveiled, outcomes of wildlife and habitat studies, economic study, watershed assessment, and wildlife species study for inclusion in HCP
June 5, 2002	BOF update
September 2002	Third issue of <i>Expectations</i> newsletter published, containing proposed management concepts (conservation areas, structure to define forest characteristics and revised aquatic/riparian areas) introduced; computerized modeling evaluates various management approaches

**Table G-1. Chronological History of Public Involvement (continued)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>2002</b>	
September to October 2002	Open written comment period for public input on proposed management concepts of FMP
October 17, 2002	BOF meeting update on FMP planning
October 8, 2002	State Land Board meeting update on FMP planning
October 2002	Presentation to Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership
December 18, 2002	Presentation to Coos Bay Optimist Club
December 19, 2002	Meeting with Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
<b>2003</b>	
January to March 2003	Public comments evaluated for applicability to revision process
February 10, 2003	Meeting with Coquille Indian Tribe
May 2003	Recommendations on public comments made to Core Planning Team for inclusion in planning process
July 25, 2003	BOF update
November to December 2003	Peer review of draft landscape strategy
<b>2004</b>	
January to February 2004	ODF response to peer review comments
April 13, 2004	State Land Board meeting
April 22, 2004	BOF tour (public invited)
April 23, 2004	BOF meeting in Coos Bay
May 3, 2004	FMP draft strategies available to public
May 10, 2004	<i>Expectations</i> newsletter mailed
June 10, 16, 17, 2004	Three public meetings (Salem, Coos Bay, Roseburg) to discuss FMP strategies
June to August 2004	Open written comment period on draft FMP
October 12, 2004	State Land Board meeting
October 22, 2004	BOF meeting

**Table G-1. Chronological History of Public Involvement (continued)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>2005</b>	
January 21, 2005	Presentation to Douglas Timber Operators
February 8, 2005	State Land Board meeting (Elliott Cost/Benefit Study)
February 18, 2005	Presentation to Coos Chapter, Society of American Foresters
February 2005	Notice of public scoping meetings: Federal Register Notice that the ODF is developing an HCP; and that ODF (with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries) has scheduled public scoping meetings (on FMP, HCP, EIS)
February 8 2005	State Land Board meeting (Elliott Cost/Benefit Study)
March 17, 2005	Presentation to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
May 24, 25, 26, 2005	EIS scoping public meetings
June 2005	State Land Board meeting
June 2005	BOF meeting
September 2005	Newspaper insert inviting participation at public meetings on FMP
September 7, 2005	BOF meeting
September 20, 21, 2005	Public meetings to discuss final draft FMP – Coos Bay; Roseburg
October 11, 2005	State Land Board meeting
October 13, 2005	Presentation to Douglas Timber Operators meeting, Roseburg
October 20, 2005	Presentation to Governor’s Rural Policy Advisory Committee - Coos Bay
December 9, 2005	Presentation to Friends of New and Sustainable Industries - Coos Bay
December 13, 2005	State Land Board meeting
<b>2006</b>	
January 4, 2006	BOF approval of FMP and submittal of HCP
February 14, 2006	State Land Board approval of FMP and submittal of HCP

## Forest Log Newsletter

The ODF publishes a newsletter, the *Forest Log*, which covers all of the ODF's activities. Approximately 3,500 copies are mailed every two months to interested individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies. Several articles covered the development of the FMP and HCP. The articles included contact information and explained how individuals could become more involved in the planning process. The main articles in the *Forest Log* are listed below.

- The January–February 2003 issue of the *Forest Log* contained an article explaining the forest management planning process for the Elliott State Forest, the concepts of structure-based management, and how to receive more information.
- The annual reports for the ODF appear in the March–April editions. In 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, each of these reports offered a section from the Coos District on current planning for revisions to the FMP and HCP.

## Public Meetings and Tours

Public meetings were held at major steps of the planning process. Along with discussion of the FMPs, the meetings also included discussion of the need for the HCP, the planning process for the HCP, and the relationship between the FMP and the HCP.

Public meetings were publicized in the newsletters, through press releases and media coverage, and letters to the *Expectations* mailing list. The meeting locations were in Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Salem. Written comments were received after the meetings.

In addition, ODF planners met with interested individuals and groups over the course of the planning process. These contacts included informal meetings and tours, telephone conversations, distribution of informational materials, and outreach to local news media.

## World Wide Website

The ODF used its website to include information about Elliott State Forest planning, beginning in 2001. The web site address is

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/elliott.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/elliott.shtml).

## Notice of Intent

On May 9, 2005, the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries published a notice of intent in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS. The notice stated that the EIS would examine the proposed approval of the HCP and issuance of an ITP, to the ODF. The notice further stated that the USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and ODF had jointly scheduled a series of public scoping meetings on the project. The notice also gave a brief overview of the project and listed the species and activities to be covered by the ITP (Federal Register, May 9, 2005, Volume 70, Number 88, pages 24450–24452).

## **Steering Committee**

The planning process for the Elliott State Forest was guided by a steering committee consisting of managers from the ODF, the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Justice, a Coos County Commissioner, and the Superintendent of the South Coast Education Service District. This 11-person group was advisory to the State Forester and Director of the DSL on the Elliott State Forest planning process. It provided overall direction to the planning team and comment on key issues during the process. In addition, the steering committee members kept community leaders and others informed of planning issues and progress.

### **Steering Committee Members**

Dan Shults, Southern Oregon Area Director, Chair

Ray Craig/Steve Thomas, Assistant State Foresters

Mike Bordelon/Ross Holloway/Lisa Debruyckere, State Forests Program Directors

Jim Young, Coos District Forester and Project Leader

Mike Schnee/Barbara Lee, State Forests Policy and Planning Managers

Cary Greenwood/Dan Postrel, Oregon Department of Forestry Agency Affairs Directors

John Lilly/Steve Purchase, Department of State Lands, Assistant Directors

Steve Denney, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Southwest Region Director

Ian Whitlock, Department of Justice

John Griffith, Coos County Commissioner

Rick Howell, South Coast Education Service District Superintendent

## **Core Planning Team for Elliott State Forest Management Plan**

The ODF formed a Core Planning Team to be responsible for developing revisions to the FMP and HCP. The team developed resource goals and strategies for the management of the Elliott State Forest. Team members brought a wide range of disciplines to the revision process. The group met nearly monthly, beginning in October 2000.

### **Core Planning Team Members**

Jim Young, Coos District Forester and Project Leader

Greg Kreimeyer, Coos Assistant District Forester, District Representative

Larry Sprouse/Robert Fields/Jennifer Wright, Coos District, Project Coordinators

Marcia Humes, Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Wildlife Biologist

Logan Jones, Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Planning Coordinator (2000–2003)

Mike Schnee/Barbara Lee, Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Policy and Planning Manager (2003–2005)

Jeff Brandt, Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Research and Monitoring Coordinator

Liz Dent, Oregon Department of Forestry, Riparian and Aquatic Specialist

Doug Robin, Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Silviculturalist

Jane Hope/Roger Welty, Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Planning Specialists

Jasen King, Oregon Department of Forestry Unit Forester, Southwest Oregon District, and Project Technical Writer

Jeff Foreman, Oregon Department of Forestry, Public Information Officer

Randy Smith, Oregon Department of Forestry, Southern Oregon Wildlife Biologist

Marnie Allbritten, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Biologist

Howard Crombie/Tom Loynes/Alan Ritchey, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Biologist

**Members for other resources:**

Jon Germond, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (2003–2005)

Lee Folliard/Kevin Maurice/Brian Cox, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Frank Bird/Chuck Wheeler, NOAA Fisheries

**Additional Resource Issue Specialists:**

Wildlife: Randy Smith/Mike Wilson/Matt Gostin Oregon Department of Forestry

Watershed Assessment: Dan Clough, Oregon Department of Forestry

Geotechnical: John Seward/Jason Hinkle, Oregon Department of Forestry

Social & Economic: Gary Lettman, Oregon Department of Forestry

Forest Modeling: Pam Overhulser/Norma Kline/Robert Fields, Oregon Department of Forestry/Dr. John Sessions, Oregon State University

GIS: Chris Bradbury/Lisa Zwart/Ryan Miller, Oregon Department of Forestry

Mapping: Terry Lieschner, Oregon Department of Forestry



Stand Level Inventory: Mike DeLaune/Terry Leischner, Oregon Department of Forestry

Pathology: Alan Kanaskie, Oregon Department of Forestry

Entomology: Dave Overhulser, Oregon Department of Forestry

Technical Writer: Kate Lighthall

Writing Consultant: Linda Lamb

Technical Editor: Bonnie Dash, Envirocal

## **Peer Review**

In November 2003, the ODF asked for professional review and critique of the draft strategies in the FMP. The peer review group included eight recognized forestry and natural resource experts. The reviewers examined the structure-based management strategies and the other draft strategies in the FMP, and provided extensive comments. The peer review of the draft strategies was completed in April 2004.

## **Peer Reviewers**

Dr. Larry L. Irwin, National Wildlife Program Manager, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.

Dr. Bill Emmingham, Professor of Silviculture, Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Dr. Chadwick D. Oliver, Professor of Forestry and Environmental Studies, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Dr. Peter Bisson, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station, Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Olympia WA

Dr. Janet Ohmann, Research Forest Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station, Corvallis, OR

Dr. Robert Gresswell, Research Biologist, USGS, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Corvallis, OR

Dr. Eric Forsman, Research Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station, Corvallis, OR

Dr. Peter Teensma, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Washington, D.C.

