

# Environmental Impact Statement

## Public Scoping Meetings

### Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan



# What's Going On?

## Public Scoping

- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





# Who's Involved?

## Permit Applicants

Oregon Department of  
Forestry

Department of State  
Lands

## Permitting Agency

US Fish & Wildlife  
Service

National Marine  
Fisheries Service

Jones & Stokes Associates

Biota Pacific Consultants

R2 Resource Consultants



# Background

- Original HCP approved in 1995
- ODF wishes to make changes
- Requires USFWS, and NMFS approval, and environmental review
- First step is scoping





# Presentation Outline

- Explain role of ODF, USFWS, NMFS
- Explain Endangered Species Act
- Provide HCP overview
- Describe environmental review process
- Describe how you can help



# Role of ODF

- **Develop revised HCP**
- **Interact with State Land Board and Oregon Department of State Lands**
- **Interact with Board of Forestry**





# Role of USFWS & NMFS

- **Assist in development of conservation strategies**
- **Endangered Species Act compliance**
- **National Environmental Policy Act compliance (NEPA)**



# Federal Endangered Species Act

- Prohibits the “take” of threatened and endangered species
- “Take” includes actions that kill, harm, or harass listed species
- Exceptions to prohibition against “take” (Habitat Conservation Plan and incidental take permit)





# Habitat Conservation Plan

- Describe impacts to species and covered activities
- Take must be incidental to other activities
- Minimize and mitigate impacts
- Can't appreciably reduce likelihood of survival of plan's covered species
- Ensure adequate funding



# HCP Overview

- **Covered species:**
  - Northern spotted owl
  - marbled murrelet
  - coho salmon
  - Bald eagle
  - 22 unlisted species
- **Forest management strategies that focus on:**
  - Using stand structure to measure forest development
  - Designating conservation areas for wildlife
  - Revising special treatment areas along streams





# HCP Overview

## Activities ODF is proposing for permit coverage:

- Mechanized timber harvest
- Forest product transportation
- Road & landing construction, use, maintenance, and abandonment
- Harvest-site preparation
- Tree planting
- Vegetation Management
- Fertilizer Application
- Silvicultural activities
- Fire suppression
- Aquatic habitat restoration
- Gravel mining for roads
- Monitoring & other scientific work



# HCP Overview

Conservation strategy to minimize & mitigate impacts to species could include:

- Maintenance of a diverse range of forest stand structures
- Designation of conservation areas to protect special resources
- Landscape design that provides functional habitat for native species
- Maintenance of structural habitat components throughout the forest
- Stream protection buffers
- Forest road program
- Monitoring and adaptive management program
- Aquatic habitat restoration measures





# Environmental Review Process

## National Environmental Policy Act

- Scoping (internal & public)
- Draft EIS Production
- Public Comment
- Final EIS Production
- Public Review
- Permit Decision



# How You Can Help

- Provide written comments during scoping (now through June 23, 2005)
- Review DEIS, provide written comments





# Providing Comments

- **Comments should be as specific as possible**
- **Comments should consider:**
  - **Environmental Issues**
  - **Alternatives to the Proposed Action**
    - **No-Action Alternative (Current Management)**
    - **Conservation Emphasis**
    - **Wood Emphasis**
    - **Combined Reserves & Intensive Forestry**



# Schedule

- Primary steps, approximate time frames

Scoping – DEIS/DHCP Development

DEIS/DHCP Public Review

FEIS/FHCP Development

May '05

3rd Q '05

1st Q '06

June '06





# What's it all about?

