

State Forests and the Habitat Conservation Plan

Messages and Talking Points

Topline: Support the passage of the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative 3. Alternative 3 is a better path for fish and wildlife species, their habitat, and broad conservation values on state-managed public forests to benefit current and future generations of Oregonians. It also would provide more timber and more jobs than the No Action Alternative. At the same time, we support the Governor's pledge to find alternative funding sources for local services that might experience temporary funding gaps due to fluctuations in timber harvest, markets and pricing.

Pass Alternative 3

- While even greater protections are needed, HCP Alternative 3 offers necessary, long-term protections for fish and wildlife in the face of climate change.
- HCP Alternative 3 establishes dedicated stream and forest conservation areas in the Tillamook, Clatsop and other state forests in western Oregon. It improves conservation protections for logging on steep slopes and to address the impacts of logging roads.
- Approving a strong HCP not only brings more certainty to habitat conservation, it enhances recreation, economic diversity and ongoing timber production.
- Alternative 3 would produce more timber, more jobs and more revenue than taking no action. (Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Table 3.12-14)
- In the Linn County decision, the courts have affirmed the state's mandate to manage state forests for the greatest permanent value for all Oregonians, it's time to support a strong Habitat Conservation Plan that meets this standard.
- Oregonians overwhelmingly support [prioritizing fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation on state lands](#) in a recent poll. A strong HCP protects Oregon's public lands legacy.

Healthy state forest lands mean healthy local economies and communities.

- More than 500,000 people in Northwest Oregon get their drinking water from streams and rivers that flow out of state forest land.
- State forests provide substantial economic benefits by supporting fish and wildlife habitat, drinking water, recreation, carbon sequestration and climate stabilization.
- State forests on the North Coast anchor a \$550 million a year tourism and recreation economy in the region that contributes over \$50 million a year in tax revenues to local communities.

- The State Forest HCP Alternative 3 would serve multiple purposes including habitat protection, carbon sequestration, ensuring a healthy economy and providing certainty to the timber industry and tax districts.
- The HCP would provide 28% more timber and employment than the No Action Alternative. It would provide more revenue for local services while improving protection of habitat for salmon and wildlife.

Climate – manage conservation areas for carbon as well

- Conservation Areas, both Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) and Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) should be co-managed for the protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species and as carbon reserves. This will support implementing the Climate Change and Forest Carbon Plan (CCCP) adopted by the Board of Forestry in 2021.

Public lands belong to all Oregonians

- Public lands must be managed for the public good of all Oregonians, for current and future generations.
- The fish, wildlife, rivers and forests that exist in our state lands belong to, and are the responsibility of, all Oregonians.
- We have an obligation to plan for the protection of watersheds, soils and climate now and for future generations.
- Oregonians overwhelmingly support [prioritizing fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation on state lands](#).

HCP necessary to protect, preserve, and restore habitat

- Tillamook, Clatsop and other state forests have been overcut and underprotected for a generation, following long recovery after the Tillamook Burn.
- Clearcut timber harvest is the greatest limiting factor to the survival of covered threatened and endangered species over which we have direct control.
- A strong HCP based on Alternative 3 is essential, and is the minimum of what we should be doing to ensure the survival of salmon and other endangered species.
- A permit term of 50 years can and should more sharply focus attention on adaptive management efforts to improve opportunities for survival of covered species.