



ACTION ALERT: Tell the Oregon Department of Forestry to stop clearcutting older legacy forests, and improve water quality!

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has opened a comment period through January 31, 2026 on a draft Forest Management Plan that will guide state forest management in Western Oregon for the next 10 years. Right now, you have two ways to act for our state forests:

[Send a letter to ODF staff before 11:55 p.m. on January 31!](#)

BACKGROUND: Oregon state forests comprise 640,000 acres of temperate rain forests, concentrated on Oregon's North Coast. These forests once provided a home to massive runs of salmon and thriving populations of northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets and many other species currently at risk. In all, more than **300 species of wildlife and plants** depend on state forests for habitat, including **several species found nowhere else in the world**. In addition, these forests have a tremendous capacity to capture and store carbon, far more than current management practices provide.

Decades of industrial-scale clearcuts and overharvesting have pushed 17 species to the brink of local extinction. Legacy forests continue to be clearcut as habitat for imperiled fish and wildlife dwindles, despite laws requiring protection of older forest stands. As a result, the ODF must adopt a new [Forest Management Plan](#) (FMP) with a habitat conservation plan (HCP) included to prevent the further decline of imperiled fish and wildlife. The HCP does represent progress, but it alone won't result in the recovery of endangered salmon and wildlife populations.

Large-scale clearcutting on state forests has also led to the decline of water quality to the point where nearly half of salmon streams in the Clatsop State Forest are listed as "impaired" for water quality under the Clean Water Act. A final approved FMP must contain strategies to improve water quality for salmon and local communities.

TALKING POINTS: To protect and restore balance to our state forests, the draft FMP should be amended in the following ways:

- **The FMP must be based on the best science available:** Add a requirement for the FMP and all implementation measures to be based on the best science available.

- **Require accountability:** Amend the draft FMP to require compliance with applicable laws, policies, plans and key performance measures adopted by the Board of Forestry or the state legislature. Incorporate these by reference into the FMP so they're enforceable.
- **Bring balance back to state forests:** Delete or amend Principle 3 in the draft FMP. It would require revenue from timber harvest to fund all of state forest management activities, continuing to prioritize logging over all other values in state forests in violation of the law.
- **Restore healthy mature forests:** Halt all clearcut timber harvest of complex layered forest stands on North Coast state forests until a minimum of 30% of the forests are in this condition, as required by current rules and policies. The ODF has ignored this requirement for far too long.
- **Ensure clean healthy waterways for salmon and communities:** Nearly half of the watersheds in the Astoria District have significantly impaired water quality. Develop forest management and restoration plans for watersheds with impaired water quality to restore water quality to levels healthy for salmon and other aquatic species within 10 years.
- **Fight climate change and build climate resilience:** Add strategies to implement the [Climate Change and Carbon Plan](#) for state forests. Shift to longer rotations between harvest, reduce reliance on large-scale clearcutting, and establish a carbon market program.
- **Commit to the recovery of threatened and endangered species:** I support the HCP as a necessary step to prevent the local extinction of imperiled fish and wildlife, but it won't lead to the recovery of these species. The FMP should include specific strategies, in addition to the HCP, to contribute to the **recovery** of the 17 imperiled species clinging to survival in our state forests.