



STAND TALL | OREGON

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 June 30, 2026, on a [draft Forest Management Plan](#) (FMP) that will guide state forest management in Western Oregon for the next several decades. Right now, you have two ways to act for our state forests:

1. [Send a letter to ODF staff](#) before 11:55 p.m. on June 30!
2. Sign up in advance to comment at the virtual hearing on June 25 at 3 p.m. [Sign up Here](#). (Please refer to the talking points provided below. If you don't already have "Teams" software downloaded to your computer, do not attempt to download it when you log into the hearing. Make sure to continue on your browser.)

Each commenter will have two minutes to provide comments.

TALKING POINTS: My name is _____ and I live in _____. State forests are important to me because _____. 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.
- **Commit to ecological forest management across the landscape.** The ODF claims that the final draft FMP is based on ecological forest management, which should prioritize forest ecosystems, biodiversity, and responsible timber harvest over industrial-scale clearcutting. Instead, the ODF proposes to continue to maximize timber harvest volume on more than half the forest and pay for all of its operations through timber sales. The FMP should be amended to ensure that ecological forest management practices are applied across that landscape.

- **Improve agency accountability.** Amend the draft FMP to require the ODF to comply 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 older forest stands until a minimum of 30% of the forests are old growth, as required by current rules and policies. Less than 5% of state forests have trees more than 100 years old and less than 12% have complex layered structure, despite a state law requiring a minimum of 30% of the forest to be in this condition.
- **Ensure clean healthy waterways for salmon and communities.** Nearly half of the watersheds in the Astoria District have significantly impaired water quality. For watersheds with impaired water quality, the ODF must commit to forest management and restoration plans 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.** The HCP is 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.

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](#) with a habitat conservation plan 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.