



Policy Scoreboard

formed of state society policy activities, *Policy Scoreboard* is a regular feature in the *Western Forester*. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity. You are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.

Oregon SAF Presents Testimony on the Habitat Conservation Plan for Western Oregon State Forests

On September 7, 2022, the Oregon SAF (OSAF) presented both written and oral testimony before the Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) on the draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Western Oregon State Forests (HCP). OSAF member Dan Shults presented oral testimony on behalf of OSAF at the Board public meeting while OSAF Chair Dave Wells presented more in-depth written comments to the Board.

OSAF thanked the Board for its leadership in working to resolve the complex issues facing state-owned forestlands while emphasizing the need for science-based active management to

enhance forest ecosystem resilience and ecosystem services. OSAF expressed our concern that prescribed management activities within Habitat Conservation Areas (HCA) and Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) in the HCP are overly restrictive and will not fully benefit from the best and most current scientifically supported forest management practices.

OSAF believes the expansive designations of HCAs and RCAs in the proposed HCP will complicate active management to increase forest resiliency, reduce threats to forests, and accelerate the attainment of desired future conditions needed for the recovery of species. These restrictions are likely to lead to substantially fewer allowable management prescriptions and less flexibility for professional foresters to mitigate those threats and manage for habitat outcomes desired in the HCP.

OSAF suggested that additional considerations be considered including

1. creation of diverse habitat types throughout the planning area;
2. a holistic effort to address Swiss needle cast and “zombie alder”;
3. a more well-rounded adaptive management plan that addressed changes in management availability if species are recovering;
4. management in RCAs based on the best available science, resiliency goals and the achievement of desired future conditions;
5. the climate and carbon benefits of

active management and harvested wood through avoided emissions and a holistic lifecycle of forest carbon; and

6. inclusion of science-based post-disturbance recovery actions and salvage within RCAs and HCAs.

The written statement can be viewed at <https://forestry.org/oregon-position-statements/>.

National SAF Office Responds to Request for Information on Old Growth and Mature Forests

On July 15, 2022, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management published a Request for Information (RFI) on Federal Old-growth and Mature Forests. The request was seeking information that could be used to develop a universal definition of old-growth and mature federal forests. The RFI resulted from direction included in President Biden’s Executive Order EO 14072, Strengthening the Nation’s Forests, Communities, and Local Economies issued on April 22, 2022.

The National Office of SAF submitted comments on the RFI, as well as signing onto and endorsing comments submitted by jointly by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), the Public Land Foundation (PLF), and SAF. The comments express the difficulty of developing universal definitions of old-growth and mature forests at a national scale, the need to consider threats to these forests, the need to apply active management to address threats and maintain old growth and mature forests, and what characteristics should and should not be considered in any definitions, as well as the policy implications.

The full SAF comments as submitted to the agencies can be found at <https://forestry.org/position-statements/>. WF



Reforestation the world since 1889.

**FORESTERS
SEEDLING NURSERIES
CONE COLLECTION & PROCESSING
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC SEED & SEEDLING SALES**

SILVASEED.COM | (253) 843-2246 | INQUIRIES@SILVASEED.COM



ARBOR INFO LLC
Providing information about trees and forests

Tom Hanson
Tom.Hanson@ArborInfo.com
206-300-9711

www.arborinfo.com