

Elliott State Forest Planning Update

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Oregon Department of Forestry
and
Department of State Lands
"Stewardship in Forestry"



Current management

- In accordance with DSL Asset Management Plan:
 - *"...manage forest lands to increase timber harvest levels to the extent possible while maintaining a sustainable, even-flow harvest of timber, subject to economic, environmental and regulatory considerations..."*
 - *ROAV Goal for CSF portfolio of 3-5%*



Current Management

Since murrelet ITP expired in 2001...

- ❑ 1995 HCP for owl
- ❑ Take Avoidance for Murrelet
- ❑ A/R Strategies exceed FPA requirements
- ❑ Average harvest and net revenue 1996-2009:
 - ❑ 25 million board feet per year
 - ❑ Approximately \$10 million per year net



Proposed HCP

Multi-Species FMP/HCP...

- ❑ Enhanced management certainty
- ❑ Covers northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, coho salmon, and other species of concern
- ❑ Average harvest and net revenue:
 - ❑ 40 million board feet
 - ❑ Approximately \$16 million per year



Sustainable Harvest Level

- ❑ Estimated annual biological growth
 - ❑ 75 million board feet per year
- ❑ 2005 Cost-Benefit Analysis by Mason, Bruce, and Girard
 - ❑ Assumed one-third of forest primarily for protection of threatened and endangered species and Forest Practices measures
 - ❑ Resulted in sustainable harvest level of 50 million board feet per year



Current Issues

- ❑ Substantive comments on draft HCP/DEIS
- ❑ Regional joint policy – USFWS/NMFS
- ❑ Center for Biological Diversity Lawsuit
- ❑ Other related issues –
 - ❑ Murrelet listing status
 - ❑ Withdrawal of BLM's WOPR
 - ❑ Vacation of 2008 owl critical habitat revision
 - ❑ Review of 2008 owl recovery plan

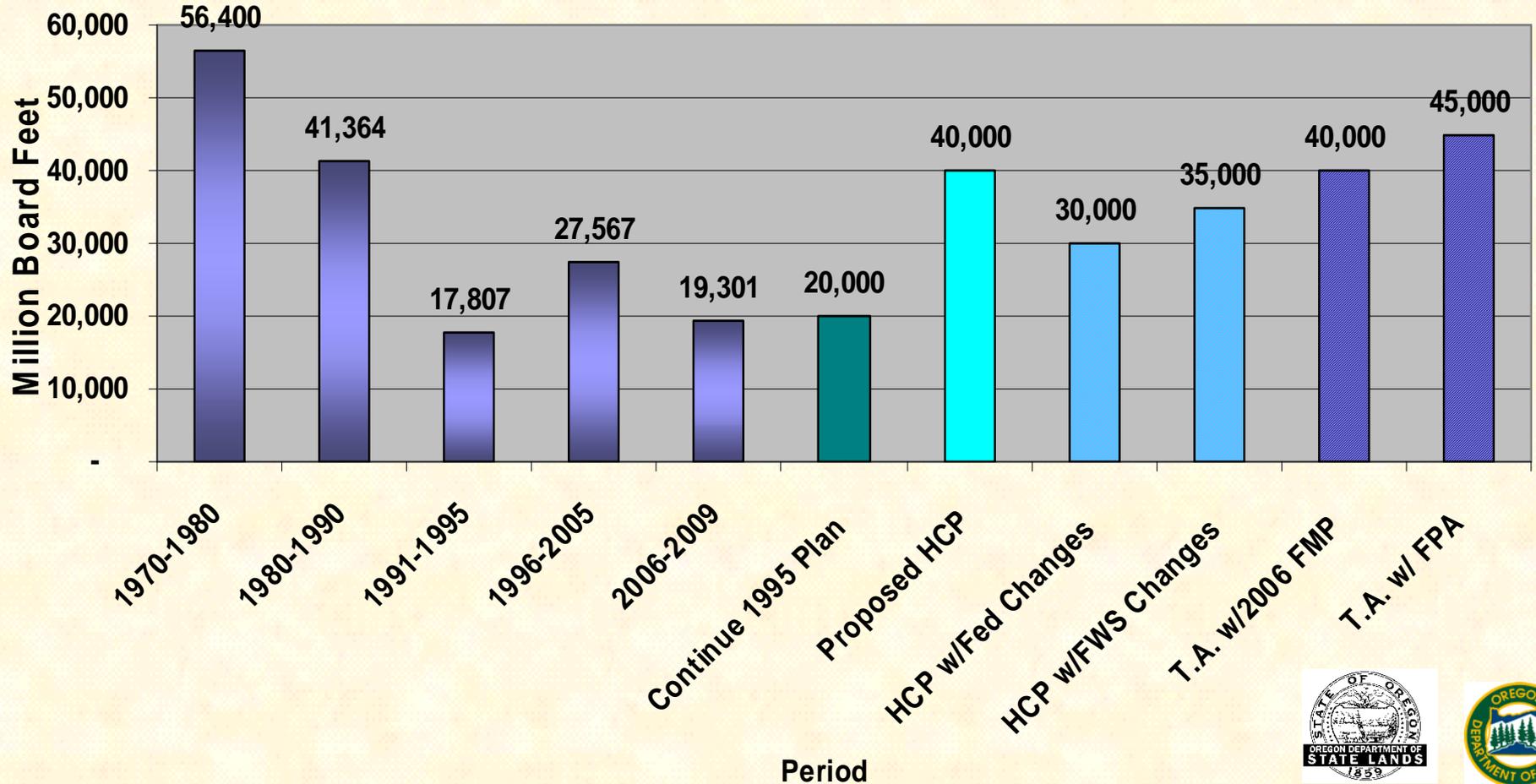


Contingency Planning

- ❑ **A** – Retain 1995 owl HCP and take avoidance for murrelet
- ❑ **B** – Suspend work on revised HCP, develop new plan using take avoidance, terminate 1995 HCP
- ❑ **C** – Continue managing under 1995 HCP and revised HCP until revision process is successfully concluded
- ❑ **D** – Sell Elliott State Forest



Elliott State Forest Annual Harvest Volume (CSFL & BOF)



Basic Policy Questions

- ❑ Is the volume and revenue cost of meeting the federal services request for changes to the HCP worth the management certainty an HCP would provide?
- ❑ Would the potential for increased volume and revenue of a take avoidance plan be worth the uncertainty in sale planning, public trust and potential legal challenges?



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