

Agenda Item No.	4
Title and Issue #:	Draft Invasive Species Work Plan, Issue 8
Date Presented to Board:	April 29, 2008
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SUMMARY

This agenda item presents the draft Board Invasive Species Work Plan, Issue 8. The goal of the work plan is to:

Support healthy forests that provide a sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits by providing leadership to prevent and control introductions of damaging invasive, nonnative species on Oregon's forests. (Based on Board of Forestry Vision Statement #1.)

The objectives of the draft work plan are as follows:

OBJECTIVE 1: Review the invasive species responsibilities and programs of other agencies and organizations. Review the Forestry Program for Oregon's strategies and actions related to invasive species.

OBJECTIVE 2: Review the statutes, rules, and voluntary measures that affect invasive species and pursue changes as necessary to meet board policies. These statutes, rules and voluntary measures include:

- Oregon Forest Practices Act and Oregon Forest Practices Rules
- State Forest Management Plans and supporting statutes and rules
- Oregon Fire Protection of Forests and Vegetation statutes and rules
- Oregon forest insect and disease statutes and rules
- Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds voluntary measures.

OBJECTIVE 3: Review and approve an agency strategic plan for invasive species affecting forestland in Oregon.

CONTEXT

“Invasive species” means a non-native species whose introduction to an area outside its range does, or is likely to, cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health¹. This definition helps illustrate the threat invasive species pose to the economic, environmental, and social legs of sustainability. Invaders such as Scotch broom have already caused great damage economically and environmentally, and newer invaders such as the sudden oak death pathogen threaten even greater harm.

Because there are many existing authorities and programs, the role of the Board and Department is to provide leadership and coordination within the overall context of many existing authorities and programs. The attached work plan can help the Board define its role in the fight against invasive species in Oregon’s forests. The Department has used existing resources for planning and control programs related to invasive species. Given limited resources for the Board and Department, the Department seeks direction concerning how the invasive species issue fits into Board and Department priorities, and what additional resources should be requested to address the issue.

BACKGROUND

The Board addressed invasive species in its 2003 *Forestry Program for Oregon*, but comments in the Board’s 2006 Issue Scan and in landowner surveys conducted by the Private Forests Program indicate that the subject continues to be of concern. In 2006, the Board elevated invasive species to the status of decision system Issue #8 Invasive Species and directed staff to begin work on a Board of Forestry work plan for the issue (see attachment 1, Draft Board Issues Work Plan Issue 8: Invasive Species). The involvement of other agencies, cooperators, and the public will be incorporated while achieving the workplan objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Board approve this work plan. Approval will lead to the staff starting work on objectives 1, 2, and 3 on the timelines indicated in the work plan.

ATTACHMENTS

(1) Draft Board Issues Work Plan Issue 8: Invasive Species

¹ Oregon Invasive Species Council - <http://www.oregon.gov/OISC/>