



Federal Forestlands Project – Background and Progress Report

Board of Forestry / Federal
Forestlands Advisory Committee




Governor's Charge to the BoF

Create a unified vision of how federal forestlands should contribute to sustainability, and to make that vision action-oriented and comprehensive – following through to the last step including implementation.



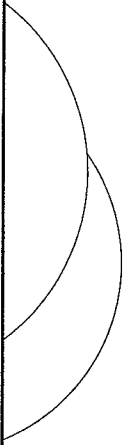
3 Questions

1. Why are we doing this? Is there a serious problem, or opportunity, that needs to be addressed? What will happen if nothing changes?
2. Why does the State deserve a stronger voice in federal policy? Whose quality of life will suffer?
3. Why is the Board of Forestry the proper place to have this discussion?



Is there a problem?

- No clear goal for sustainable forest resources.
 - Forest policy is governed by a patchwork of overlapping laws
 - No common goal
 - Address broad-scale, highly interconnected challenges as if they were confined within discrete boundaries



Looking at forest resources, the threats they face and the inadequacy of our current answers to these threats...

clearly we have no coordinated, unified goal to achieve a sustainable forest resource in this country.



Some examples:


- Growth exceeds harvest, but the U.S. is a net importer of wood
- 1982-97 U.S. lost 10 million acres to development
- Massive changes in the ownership of industrial forest properties
- Half of all forestlands are at risk of catastrophic fire
- Millions of acres of predominately dead standing trees, due to insect and disease, with no foreseeable treatment

Some examples (cont.):

- Rural economic concerns about community health and viability
- Federal budgets show a long term trend of disinvestment
- Real estate market value dwarfs the value of forest products
- Land sales and development can cause forest fragmentation
- Loss of logging and milling infrastructure – difficult for non-industrial private landowners

'The Process Predicament' on federal lands

- **Excessive analysis**—confusion, delays, costs, and risk management associated with the required consultations and studies
- **Ineffective public involvement**—procedural requirements that create disincentives to collaboration in national forest management
- **Management inefficiencies**—poor planning and decision-making, a deteriorating skills base, and inflexible funding rules



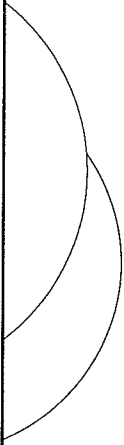
What will happen if nothing changes?

- Timber harvests will decline
- Continue adding large amounts of fuel and large numbers of trees
- Insect epidemics will leave a legacy of dead and dying trees
- Catastrophic fires will remove key ecological components
- Mills will go out of business, and forestlands will be developed
- Rural communities will lose critical high paying jobs, and essential services like roads and schools will suffer



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Federal lands are owned and generally managed for a national constituency.

While all Americans share ownership of the land, the way the land is managed has unequal affects on the citizens' quality of life.




Quality of life values

- People living at a distance
 - Mainly existence values
- People living locally
 - Drink the water
 - Work in the forest
 - Provide access to the land
 - Provide critical services
 - Primary recreation users
 - Threats from wildfire



Complex Governance - State's Rights

- The powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States
- Reserved authority to manage wildlife and allocate water
- Delegated authority to manage water quality



In exchange for services, State's share in the revenues

- State and local governments provide protection for health and safety and access

In exchange:

- Payments to local governments
 - General funds
 - Roads
 - Schools




Oregon's sustainable future depends on federal forests

- Of Oregon's 62 million acres
 - 28.5 million acres are forested
 - 57% are federal forestlands
- They provide
 - critical family wage jobs
 - important wildlife habitat
 - recreational opportunities
 - financial support
- Oregon needs a "place at the table"



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Provide a foundation to increase the state's role in federal forest policy-making, planning, and management.

Forests are extremely important to Oregon's quality of life.

Citizens deserve a stronger voice from their State Government. In order to be more effective, State Government needs a common set of goals and to speak with a single voice.



Why the Oregon Board of Forestry?

- The Board is:
 - a group of citizen volunteers
 - appointed by the Governor
 - confirmed by the Senate
- Specifically tasked to develop policies for the long-term protection and utilization of our forests



State Policy Direction to BoF

- Governor
 - Directed the Board to “create a unified vision of how federal lands should contribute” to sustainability
- Legislature (SB 1072)
 - Encouraged the Board to create a forum for interagency cooperation and collaborative public involvement regarding federal forest management issues



The Board of Forestry – with continual input from concerned citizens and stakeholders –

is **the** body and forum where these discussions can be held, and action can be taken to craft a future of sustainable forest management across all of Oregon’s forestlands



Process

- Advisory Committee
 - Broad-based representation
 - State Boards and Commissions
 - Local Government
 - Conservation groups
 - Forest industry
 - Labor
 - Tribes
 - Other
- Consensus based w/ neutral facilitator/mediator



Product - Guidance Document

- Potential Sections
 - Background
 - Vision
 - Goals
 - Most Pressing Problems
 - Legal/policy changes
 - New initiatives we can undertake



Vision

- *Federal forestlands in Oregon are a legacy, a refuge and a resource, loved and celebrated by our citizens, inhabited by healthy populations of fish and wildlife, managed with humility, wisdom and innovation to sustain the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of our rural and urban communities.*



Goals


- Flesh out the vision
 - Visions are short and broad
 - Goals add detailed aspirations
- Help identify problems
 - What are the differences between the Goals and the current situation
- Tool to review plans/projects
 - Guide for agency reviews
 - Broaden perspective of individual agencies
 - Are plans/projects consistent with the goals?



Goals

- **Process**

- Management takes action to address State and local needs
- Clearly defined vision and strategic goals, collaborative partnership for problem-solving and conflict resolution
- Adequate funding for federal agencies to meet their stewardship obligations



Goals (Cont.)

- **Environment**

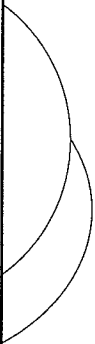
- Forest and rangeland ecosystems are protected, restored, and managed for a full range of sustainable ecosystem benefits

- **Social**

- Federal forestlands respond to site specific variations and community based management principles

- **Economic**

- Federal forestlands provide a predictable, sustainable supply of goods and services - stable jobs and revenues



Key Issues – 'Most Pressing Problems'

- Natural processes disrupted – forest health, hydrology, climate change
- Reduced timber harvest – loss of infrastructure, economic and social losses
- Desired amount of older forests needs to be established/protected
- Governments lack an effective process to coordinate policy decisions
- Funding is not adequate - stable funding to achieve long-term management goals



Overarching Problems

- The legal landscape governing federal forestlands is frequently shifting to meet different policy goals.
- Changing public values and tension between the goals have hampered ability to implement decisions.
- Lack of trust and disputes over sound science have resulted in litigation and have undermined trust.



Draft “Potential Solutions”

Some “Natural Process” concepts being discussed

- Large scale assessments - establish goals and prioritize restoration treatments
 - Comprehensive framework / prioritize action
 - long-term stable, sustainable supply of ecosystem benefits
 - outcome-based performance measures (e.g., reduced fire hazard, improved water quality)



Draft “Potential Solutions”

Some “Natural Process” concepts being discussed

- System of place-based, collaborative processes / action-oriented projects
 - Expand Oregon Solutions Projects
 - Evaluate past work to increase success
 - Increase project size and duration
 - Use local contracting to create restoration jobs
 - Restoration budget line item



Draft “Potential Solutions”

Some “Timber harvest / Infrastructure” concepts being discussed


- Enable Communities to Participate in Management of our Federal Forests and woodlands
 - Action Items
 - Deploy Oregon Solutions to facilitate community collaborations
 - Authorize OECD to fund key community collaboration participants



Draft “Potential Solutions”

Some “Timber harvest / Infrastructure” concepts being discussed

- Provide stable, sustainable woody biomass supply
 - Action Items
 - Ability to enter into longer term commitments – beyond 10 years
 - Make stewardship contract authority permanent
 - Congress should fully fund and support development of the Forest Service Biomass Strategic plan and the commensurate BLM plan.
 - Coordinate biomass offerings within a region - stable supply and attract private investment



Organization - Subgroups

- Natural Process issue
- Timber harvest / Infrastructure Issue
- Older forest issue
- Synthesis group
 - *Integrates FFAC work and materials*
 - *Organize, format, edit report*
 - *Re-examine information and develop new or alternative proposals for FFAC consideration*



FFAC Timelines and Milestones

2006

November: Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting

2007

February: Committee Charter

March: Draft vision

May: Draft list of key issues 'Most Pressing Problems'

June: Joint BoF/FFAC workshop on goals and key issues

June - December: Exploration of key issues

2008

January - March: Continue exploration of key issues

April: Final meeting on policy recommendations

June: Joint BoF/FFAC workshop on draft policy recommendations

July: Advisory Committee revisions to policy recommendations


August: Draft State Guidance Document prepared

September: Draft State Guidance Document sent out for public review

November: Review public comments and finalize Guidance Document

2009

January: Board adopts State Guidance Document and sends to Governor for approval



Opportunities to Participate

- Keep informed
 - <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/FFAC.shtml>
 - Notice of upcoming meetings, meeting summaries, other information
- Project Reviewers List
 - Receive advance meeting materials
 - Asked to provide input at key times
 - Review recommendations
 - Contact Kevin Birch kbirch@odf.state.or.us

Project process map and milestones

2006

- November: Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting

2007

- February: Charter finalized by Advisory Committee; brief report to the Board
- March: Draft vision developed by Advisory Committee
- May: Draft list of key issues created by the Advisory Committee
- June: Board holds work session with Advisory Committee on vision and selected issues and, if necessary, to address any obstacles to moving forward
- June to December: Exploration of approximately 10 key issues in depth, information development and gathering, presentations by technical experts, preparation of draft policy options and recommendations (one meeting, one issue per month)

2008

- January through March (one meeting per month): Continue exploration of key issues
- April: Draft policy recommendations on issues competed and submitted to the Board
- June: Board work session on policy recommendations
- July: Advisory Committee revisions to policy recommendations based on Board review
- August: Draft State Guidance Document prepared
- September: Draft State Guidance Document sent out for public review and comment
- November: Board and Advisory Committee review public comments and finalize Guidance Document

2009

- January: Board adopts State Guidance Document and sends to Governor for approval