

OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No: 4 - *Forestry Program for Oregon Implementation - Issue #1*

Date Presented to Board: January 3, 2006

Primary Staff Contact: **David Morman, Director**
 Forest Resources Planning Program
 503-945-7413
 morman@odf.state.or.us

SUMMARY

Department of Forestry staff recommends that the Board of Forestry endorse the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management and the initial desired trend statements for the indicators. To provide context for the future use of the indicators and trend statements, Department staff will also recommend that the Board of Forestry approve a statement of intent. Achieving Board of Forestry, key stakeholder, and general public consensus on the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management and initial desired trend statements will be major steps toward quantifying success in achieving the seven strategies of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* and help to define what sustainable forest management means to Oregonians.

CONTEXT

In March 2005, the Board provided the following charge to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Management Indicators:

1. Coordinate with technical experts to reach both strong policy and technical consensus on a set of recommended sustainable forest management indicators for use in measuring *Forestry Program for Oregon* implementation progress.
2. Solicit and summarize broad stakeholder input on both the usefulness of the selected indicators and the desired future outcomes for these indicators.
3. Provide advice to the Board of Forestry on desired future outcomes for the recommended indicators.
4. Provide advice to the State Forester on future Forest Assessment Project priorities.

In his July 25, 2006 letter to the Board, Advisory Committee Chair Dr. Craig Shinn informed the Board that the Committee decided not to provide recommendations on desired future outcomes for the proposed indicators. The Committee concluded that the Board of Forestry, or some other policy-making body, was a better forum for facilitating public dialogue regarding on this topic.

On September 6, 2006, the Advisory Committee presented 19 proposed indicators and other recommendations regarding implementation of the indicator framework to the Board in its final report.

At the November 2, 2006 Board meeting, Department of Forestry staff presented recommendations for an initial set of desired trend statements for the proposed indicators.

BACKGROUND

The seven strategies of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* form a framework around which forest sustainability issues can be organized and discussed and identify the outcomes the Board of Forestry wants to achieve from a statewide perspective. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* recommends that Oregonians achieve consensus on a set of indicators as useful tools to measure progress towards the goal of sustainably managed forest resources. Once adopted and in place, indicators can provide the Oregon Board of Forestry, other policy-makers, and the public with information describing the environmental, economic, and social conditions of Oregon's public and private forests and provide a cost-effective way to consistently collect important data needed to monitor changes in these conditions over time.

Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management are intended to address all Oregon public and private forestlands and belong to all Oregonians, regardless of their values and perspectives, and not just the Board of Forestry. Oregon indicators may also provide valuable linkages to other sustainability conversations and forest resource assessments at community, regional, national, and international scales.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS REQUESTED

Department of Forestry staff will recommend that the Board of Forestry:

1. Endorse the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.
2. Endorse initial desired trend statements for those indicators.
3. Approve a statement of Board of Forestry intent for future use of the indicators.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Board endorsement, Department of Forestry staff will immediately begin work, in cooperation with other public and private organizations, to finalize data collection protocols and begin collecting data for all 19 indicators. Staff will identify areas of indicator implementation where additional resources or a reallocation of existing resources will be needed to fully complete this work and develop strategies for obtaining these resources. Staff will continue to refine the indicator trend statements as a result of public input and Board direction and, as indicator trend data becomes available, work toward recommendations for quantifiable indicator targets.

The Department of Forestry will continue efforts to build Oregonians' understanding, acceptance, and support for sustainable forest management and increase recognition of the Board of Forestry's role in leading Oregon in forest policy forums using the *Forestry Program for*

Oregon strategies and actions as the basis for discussion. The Department will also coordinate with the Board in using indicators, other assessment and accomplishment information, and stakeholder involvement as adaptive management tools for current *Forestry Program for Oregon* implementation and as a basis for development of the next edition of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* in 2011. Indicator data collection and reporting work will reach a major milestone in 2010 when a comprehensive assessment of Oregon forest resources, organized around the *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies and indicators, is made public. This assessment report will, in turn, provide the foundation for revision of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

GUIDE TO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- Attachment 1: December 1, 2006 Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management Report.
- Attachment 2: December 1, 2006 Draft Oregon Board of Forestry Statement of Intent for the Future Use of Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.