

Oregon Board of Forestry
Statement of Intent
For the Use of
Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management
December 1, 2006 Draft

1. The Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management will be used as a key tool for measuring progress toward achieving the seven strategies in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.
2. Our society performs best when we find ways to share our common interests democratically and fairly through constructive communication and consensual agreement. The Board of Forestry believes the use of the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management can lead to clear, unambiguous, consensual, public policy decisions. The indicators are a tool for a learning society to advance systematically, step by step, by making informed decisions and taking sound actions that offer continuing benefits as it steers its way towards environmental, economic, and social sustainability.
3. The Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management should be used to focus and prioritize forest-related monitoring, assessments, and research, so that limited resources for these efforts can be allocated most efficiently and effectively.
4. The initial trend statements for the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management are intended to support public dialogue and promote greater consensus among Oregonians about the meaning of sustainable forest management. While the indicators and their metrics may remain fairly constant, it is the Board of Forestry's intent that the trend statements for the indicators be revisited and updated periodically as more information on the interplay between the indicators becomes available and as societal values evolve.
5. Neither the indicators nor trend statements are intended by the Board to be viewed as policy objectives. Instead, the Board of Forestry intends for them to inform policy frameworks that have already been established and to help interpret the effects of those established policies.
6. It is also the Board of Forestry's intent that over time, perhaps through the anticipated 2011 revision of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, consensus will be achieved on quantifiable policy targets for the indicators so that future statewide forest assessments can measure and report on progress towards those targets. Targets have already been established for two indicators (C.a. and C.b.), since they are also existing Oregon Benchmarks.
7. The Board of Forestry does not intend that the implementation of indicator data collection and reporting detract from the ongoing statutory responsibilities of the department's field programs. While inter-program cooperation will be needed, funding and staff resources already allocated to the Forest Resources Planning Program for ongoing assessments of statewide forest conditions and trends will provide the bulk of the department's contribution to indicator implementation.

8. Implementation of the 19 indicators will require the integration of a wide variety of data from a number of different sources. Most indicators build on current data streams and from historic policy concerns. For some indicators, new data collection methods will need to be developed and either existing funding will require reallocation or new funding will need to be established. The Board of Forestry's intent is that the Department of Forestry will build and maintain a network of cooperators for support of long-term indicators implementation. This means not only the technical experts but also working with executives of cooperating organizations. Such collaboration will foster integration with other data collection and reporting efforts to improve the quality of information while avoiding duplication and maximizing efficiency.
9. For the indicators to remain credible, policy makers and the public will need to see clear linkages between any indicator reports and the more detailed technical and scientific information that supports them.
10. All users of data associated with the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management must understand that the indicators should be viewed and interpreted as an integrated set of measures of environmental, economic, and social performance. The Board's intent is to use all the indicators to provide a sustainable forest management narrative for the State of Oregon. Discussion of the performance of individual indicators absent of this broader, integrated context, is less productive and less desired by the Board.
11. The Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management are intended to provide the basis for a sustainability narrative at a statewide scale. To be meaningful, some indicators may need to report trends at sub-state scales such as counties, timbersheds, watersheds, forest cover types, or ecoregions. All of these analyses can focus on providing a narrative as to the extent that Oregon's forests at a statewide scale are being sustainably managed. The Board of Forestry intends that this state-level effort will complement smaller-scale assessments, such as at county, national forest, or community levels, as well as regional and national assessments.
12. The Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management are intended to complement, and not replace or diminish, other important performance measures, such as the Oregon Progress Board Benchmarks and Department of Forestry performance measures. Within this broader hierarchy of performance measurement, the indicators should be viewed as the "vital signs" Oregon will use to track the environmental, economic, and social benefits and values we derive from Oregon's forests and our progress on the journey towards sustainability.
13. The Board of Forestry's intent is for future users of data produced by the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management to understand that factors outside the direct control of Oregonians may significantly affect indicator trends. Such external factors may include, but are not limited to: global economic cycles and forest products market forces, climate change, population growth, and invasive species.
14. The dynamic, disturbance-drive nature of Oregon forest ecosystems will also affect indicator trends, potentially in both in positive and negative ways. It is the Board of Forestry's intent that the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management be viewed and interpreted within the context of dynamic forest ecosystems, rather from a static ecosystem perspective.