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November 3, 2006 Board of Forestry Workshop Minutes

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Items listed in order heard

Attachments (hard copy)

- (1) Greatest Permanent Value Rule - OAR 629-035-0020, Item 2
- (2) Model Comparison Graphs, Item 2
- (3) "The Purpose of State Forest Trust Land and the Interest of Trust Land Counties", Paul Levesque, Item 3
- (4) Presentation - Scientific Peer Review of H&H Model Project Review Results, Item 4
- (5) Report and Presentation - Additional H&H Model Runs and Analysis, Item 5
- (6) Public Comment, Dick Shouten, Item 6
- (7) Public Comment, Bob Van dyk on behalf of a coalition, Item 6
- (8) Public Comment, Carolyn Eady, Item 6
- (9) Handout - Summary of Key Issues, Item 7

OREGON STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY
November 3, 2006 Workshop Minutes

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held at the State Forester's Headquarters, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon.

Chair Hobbs called the public meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Steve Hobbs, Chair	Larry Giustina	Diane Snyder	Chris Heffernan
Jennifer Phillippi	Barbara Craig	Bill Hutchison	

Others Present:

Brett Brownscombe, Oregon Trout
Linc Cannon, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Mike Carrier, Governor's Natural Resource Advisor
Marci Dension
Carolyn Eady
Donald Fontenot, Sierra Club
Wayne Giesy
Kevin Godbout, Weyerhaeuser
Carl Harrison, McFarland Cascade
David Ivanoff, Hampton Affiliates
Chris Jarmer, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Tim Josi, Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee
Paul Levesque, Tillamook County
Michele Logan, Department of Justice
David Marmorek, ESSA Technologies
Mike McArthur, Association of Counties
David Moskowitz, Wild Salmon Center
Dick Posekany, Frank Lumber Co.
Mike Propes, Polk County Commissioner
Bob Rees, NW Guides & Anglers Association
Gil Riddell, CFTLC
Patricia Roberts, Clatsop County Commissioner
Dick Schouten, Washington County Commissioner
Gary Springer, Starker Forests
Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers
Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center
Helen Westbrook, Clatsop County Commissioner
Ray Wilkeson, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Marvin Brown, State Forester
Clark Seely, Associate State Forester
Gayle Birch, Board Support
Pam Stroebel Valencia
Dan Postrel, Agency Affairs
David Morman, Resources Planning
Jeff Foreman
Rob Nichols

Jim Paul, ASF Forest Mgt
Lisa DeBruyckere
Jeff Brandt
Nancy Hirsch
Barbara Lee
Pam Overhulser
David Wilson

Mike Bordelon, NWOA Director
Dave Johnson
Tom Savage
Ross Holloway
Dave Johnson
Gregg Cline
Keith Mills

1. OPENING REMARKS

Following a reminder that testimony would only be taken during the scheduled public comment period, Chair Hobbs articulated the goal of the workshop. The Board was to discuss their views around the current Forest Management Plan and its ability to meet greatest permanent value (GPV) as defined in OAR 629-035-0020 (Attachment 1) and if not, to examine alternatives. In addition, the Board would make significant progress in the identification of appropriate performance measures relative to the broad components of GPV.

2. WORKSHOP OVERVIEW AND REVIEW OF BOARD INTENT STATEMENTS ON FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

Jim Paul, Assistant State Forester briefly reviewed the Intent Statements and provided a handout comparing the 2000 model alternatives with the 2006 Harvest and Habitat model runs (Attachment 2). Mr. Paul referred to the timeline contained in the agenda's Issue Paper, and noted that it was flexible and adaptable.

Mr. Paul served as facilitator for the Board's workshop.

3. FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Tim Josi, Tillamook County Commissioner introduced Paul Levesque, Tillamook County Historian, to provide a history of the "Trust Lands" (Attachment 3).

Summarizing the first three parts of the report, Paul Levesque described the state of affairs in the 1930's, the discussions regarding the disposition of tax-foreclosed county lands, reforestation funding, state acquisition policies, and revenue formula amendments. Mr. Levesque illustrated the counties' investments in the forestlands using the example of timber sale project work.

Focusing on the purpose of the lands, Mr. Levesque stated the historical view has recognized that the lands were acquired to be managed, primarily, for timber production. That primary purpose of timber production was directly linked to meeting greatest permanent value by producing revenue for the counties and state, and jobs in the lumber industry, while protecting other resource values. He closed with quotations that

summarized an historical expectation on the purpose of the lands, and the timber outputs from the lands.

Responding to State Forester Marvin Brown's question, Mr. Levesque stated the historical record showed it was in the State's interest to assemble the lands by consolidating ownership under a single management to be productive for all Oregonians with timber outputs of the forest crop and related jobs, and to provide amenity outputs such as clean water and recreation to all Oregonians.

Larry Giustina added it was also viewed as an economic stabilizer in forest ownership and tax resource to the counties.

Mr. Levesque urged the Board to accept the historical intent that the primary purpose of the lands for timber production would achieve greatest permanent value and not engage in debate of the plain reading of statute.

Responding to Mr. Hutchison's question, Mr. Levesque stated providing the range of resource values occurred at the stand and basin level, contrary to landscape level structure goals. He suggested the Board fall back to historical expectation of timber production as primary, and reformulate an approach from there.

4. HARVEST AND HABITAT (H&H) MODEL PROJECT PEER REVIEW

David Marmorek, ESSA Technologies and Scientific Peer Review Panel Chair summarized the results of the peer review of the Harvest and Habitat Model Project (presentation - Attachment 4).

The Review Panel concluded the appropriateness of the H&H model varied for different types of decisions. In its current form, the model should not be used as a tool for certain decisions; suggestions for model improvement were described and prioritized.

Chair Hobbs' questioned the value of the model as a tool when the wildlife habitat output was weak. Mr. Marmorek responded the information was useful, but not adequate for certain long-term decisions without modification. He added that structure classes did not necessarily represent habitat.

5. HARVEST AND HABITAT MODEL RUNS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD

In July 2006, the Board requested additional H&H model analyses for the Astoria, Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. Pam Overhulser, State Forests Program Resource Analyst reviewed the findings of four topics. The remaining topics will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Ms. Overhulser addressed the following questions: (1) maximum sustainable biological potential; (2) maximum sustainable biological potential with Forest Practices Act; (3) maximum treatment of Swiss Needle Cast disease; and (4) industrial forest management rate of return. The complete report and presentation are contained in Attachment 5.

Clarifying a policy question, the Board requested an evaluation of productivity where only the most severely infected Swiss Needle Cast stands were replaced with non-infected stands.

During a discussion of staff's upcoming analysis of the rate of return on asset value, Barbara Craig urged an analysis that would show how the forest was performing under a certain regulatory regime, not just an economic analysis. Marvin Brown noted that projected economic outputs under an assumption of maximum biological potential, management under the Forest Practices Act or the H&H wood emphasis model could all be used for relative comparison.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Noting that societal values change over time, Dick Schouten, Washington County Commissioner urged the Board to pursue a more ambitious recreation plan and to permanently designate certain lands for long term habitat protection (Attachment 6).

Helen Westbrook, Clatsop County Commissioner supported the current Forest Management Plan, urged greater consideration for recreation in Clatsop County such as hiking and biking trails, and to recognize that economic value was more than harvest dollars

Wayne Giesy commented that in 1955, he was serving his first term as State Representative in Oregon's Legislature. He reiterated Mr. Levesque's comment that the State committed to utilization of the land to its maximum degree of production.

Bob Van dyk, Wild Salmon Center, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Rivers Council, Audubon Society of Portland, the Center for Biological Diversity, Trout Unlimited - Oregon Council, Sierra Club - Oregon Chapter, Umpqua Watersheds, the Coast Range Association, the Native Fish Society, Crag Law Center and Oregon Trout, suggested the Board and Department focus on methods to protect and attain complex forest structures, conduct a study of non-timber values from state forests, and consider more ambitious recreation goals (Attachment 7).

Bob Rees, NW Guides & Anglers Association spoke of the benefits of sport and commercial fishing to Oregonians and urged the Board to meet the recovery needs of wild salmon in temperature-impaired forest stream-reaches.

Carolyn Eady expressed concern that harvest levels exceed a sustainable level in Clatsop and Columbia Counties (Attachment 8).

Marci Denison supported the greatest permanent value rule and the current Forest Management Plan, and opposed single-species plantations.

7. ISSUE PAPER OVERVIEW

A handout was distributed (Attachment 9) that summarized key issues contained in the October 12, 2006 draft Adapting the Northwest and Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plans (FMP) Issue Paper relating to structure-based management, the federal Endangered Species Act compliance, forest health, and the FMP strategies and Forest Practices Act (FPA) requirements. Jim Paul led the Board's discussion and review of the issue paper with the goal of capturing additional questions and affirmation of the issues as framed. Evaluation of issue resolution would be tied to performance measures.

Larry Giustina observed that beyond management goals, the dynamic forest system would produce natural occurrences. Structure-based management must be adaptive and cognizant of the forest health effects on stands.

Marvin Brown responded to Bill Hutchison's question stating that alternatives to a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) could not be pursued without amending the Forest Management Plans. Mr. Hutchison noted the bridge between structure-based management and self-sustaining habitat levels for species.

Regarding forest health, the Board added responsiveness and containment, and invasive species to the list of issues.

Mr. Hutchison asked if answering the questions posed would lead to whether or not the Forest Management Plan was meeting greatest permanent value, and if the performance measures help answer the questions raised by the issues.

Mr. Paul noted that feasibility analyses of the performance measures would be necessary to assist the Board's decision-making. He added that the FMP strategies for species of concern, though linked to the HCP, could be modified if the stated goals were achieved.

INITIAL DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Through discussion of the draft performance measures (contained in the agenda), the Board offered cautions and suggestions relating to social license, media representation, integrating proposed indicators and measurements, measurements of community vitality and trends.

For the **social performance measure**, the Board suggested focus on five indicators and requested the development of a comprehensive measure of healthy rural communities and community vitality trends over time; analysis must be in the broader context of the influences on the dynamic ecosystem.

For the **environmental performance measure**, the Board discussed building upon monitoring efforts related to Oregon Benchmarks and other established state benchmarks. Analysis should examine the cause and effect correlation in the overarching state context. The Board suggested risk for uncharacteristic wildfire might be used as an indicator.

Information regarding species diversity and usage (occupancy) was identified as needed; existing methods and measurements were discussed.

Mr. Paul commented the Board must ultimately determine the role of state forests in terms of growing, maintaining and enhancing habitat.

The Board struggled with prioritizing indicators and measures to satisfy the policy questions and meet greatest permanent value.

Mr. Brown noted that third-party certification would evaluate compliance to established standards in the FMP, and verify whether performance measures were being achieved as reported.

Staff was asked to determine if current monitoring components were aligned with the proposed indicators, and which could be added.

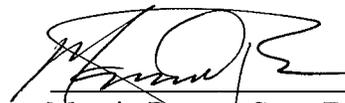
For the **economic performance measures**, the Board discussed combining indicators into an asset value set and the possible components of such a set.

8. NEXT STEPS

Staff will refine the Issue Paper and Performance Measures, perform feasibility evaluations and return to the Board at its January 3, 2007 meeting.

With no further business before the Board, Chair Hobbs adjourned the workshop at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marvin Brown, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

GB