

BOARD ISSUES WORK PLAN

Issue #1: Forestry Program for Oregon Implementation

Date Work Plan Approved: March 9, 2005

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

CONTENTS	<u>Page</u>
BACKGROUND	3
Historical Context.....	3
Current Issues	4
GOAL	5
OBJECTIVES.....	5
OBJECTIVE 1: 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 <i>Forestry Program for Oregon</i> strategies and actions as the basis for discussion.....	5
Board Products.....	5
Research and Information Needed.....	5
Stakeholder/Public Involvement.....	5
Timeframe with Milestones	5
Resources Required	5
Monitoring Achievement of this Objective	5
OBJECTIVE 2: Measure progress towards achieving the <i>Forestry Program for Oregon</i> strategies and actions through the selection and use of relevant sustainable forest management indicators.	6
Board Products.....	6
Research and Information Gathering.....	6
Stakeholder/Public Involvement.....	6
Timeframe with Milestones	7
Resources Required	8
Monitoring Achievement of this Objective	8

OBJECTIVE 3: Promote the framework of the <i>Forestry Program for Oregon</i> for its potential value as a model in cooperatively addressing other natural resource issues under the authority of other state boards and commissions, federal agencies, or with other states (i.e., where indicators require a regional scope).....	8
Board Products.....	8
Research and Information Gathering.....	8
Stakeholder/Public Involvement.....	8
Timeframe with Milestones.....	9
Resources Required	9
Monitoring Achievement of this Objective	9
OBJECTIVE 4: Use indicators, other assessment and accomplishment information, and stakeholder involvement as adaptive management tools for current <i>Forestry Program for Oregon</i> implementation and as a basis for development of the next edition of the <i>Forestry Program for Oregon</i> in 2011.....	9
Board Products.....	9
Research and Information Gathering.....	9
Stakeholder/Public Involvement.....	10
Timeframe with Milestones.....	10
Resources Required	10
Monitoring Achievement of this Objective	10
OBJECTIVE 5: Solicit Unfiltered, High Quality Public Input for the Annual Board of Forestry Issue Scanning Process.....	10
Board Products.....	10
Research and Information Gathering.....	10
Stakeholder/Public Involvement.....	11
Timeframe with Milestones.....	11
Resources Required	11
Monitoring Achievement of this Objective	11
WORK PLAN FLOW CHART.....	12

BACKGROUND

Historical Context

In October 2003, the Board of Forestry approved the 2003 edition of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. In September 2004, the State Forester approved the *Oregon Department of Forestry Strategic Plan*. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* is the Board of Forestry's framework for strategic planning. The Department's strategic planning is intended to be a comprehensive, iterative effort that is consistent with the actions listed in the *Forestry Program for Oregon* and applies to the same eight-year planning horizon. The Board of Forestry intends that its and the Department's strategic plans be fully integrated, and that these plans lead to better integration of Department of Forestry programs. This strategic planning effort is designed to help Oregonians achieve the "triple bottom line" of sustainable environmental, economic, and social performance. The current *Forestry Program for Oregon* is entering its second year of what is intended to be an eight-year plan, and all Department programs are now operating under the new agency strategic plan.

In October 2004, Governor Kulongoski encouraged the Board of Forestry to, "Be bold. Be open. And keep your eye on the big picture. . . you can lead Oregon towards its goal of sustainable forests."

Decision-makers want answers to questions about the condition of many different forest resources at the landscape and watershed scale. Assessments of relevant sustainable forest management indicators will provide better knowledge of current forest conditions and trends, plus answer questions about inter-resource trade-offs. It is vital for policy-makers to use this information to integrate the needs and values of Oregonians into policy proposals. Considerable work has already been accomplished in this regard through the Department's ongoing Forest Assessment Project¹. It is envisioned that assessment information, based on the indicator framework, will play a key role in the next update of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Under each of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies, potential indicators are listed that could be used to measure progress toward achieving the goals of that strategy. These indicators are a subset of 67 internationally recognized indicators. They include environmental, economic and social elements. Adequate consensus is needed within the Oregon forestry community on whether these are the appropriate and measurable indicators to use to evaluate Oregon's performance for the Board to be able to formally adopt them. Once they are finalized, these "core" indicators can be used to focus monitoring, assessments, and research, so that Oregon can more clearly tell its own citizens and the rest of the world the story of how well our forests are being managed. Over time, the Board of Forestry and others can use the information collected for the core indicators to establish quantifiable policy targets and then measure and report on progress towards those targets.

¹ For more information, see: *Assessing Forest Sustainability in Oregon: Forest Assessment Project Study Plan to Assess the Condition and Trends of Oregon's Forests*. Oregon Department of Forestry. Forest Resources Planning Program. Draft updated February 2003.

Current Issues

1. Oregon's increasingly urbanized population often lacks a direct connection to forestry issues, current forest practices, sustainable forest management concepts, or the strategies and actions in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.
2. Sustainable forest management and even the seven *Forestry Program for Oregon* Strategies are somewhat abstract and subjective concepts. Consensus among policy-makers, stakeholders, and scientists is needed on sustainable forest management indicators and other desired statewide forest resource assessment information. These data are needed to provide a means for measuring progress towards broad policy objectives and to evaluate the potential environmental, economic, and social effects of alternative policies.
3. The Board of Forestry is charged with leading Oregon on forest management policies. New methods are needed to more efficiently engage Oregonians in a productive, more respectful dialogue with each other and with the Board. Such dialogue is needed to build common ground, to promote sustainable forest management and Forestry Program for Oregon strategies, and to assist the Board in establishing future work priorities.
4. The Board of Forestry has identified "marketing the *Forestry Program for Oregon*" as a high priority issue for 2005 and beyond. This means reaching out to Oregon's rural and especially urban populations with policies, information, and educational tools that promote, and are consistent with, the strategies and actions described in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. It also means ensuring that other work plans and projects undertaken by the Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry also consistent with, and further promote, *the Forestry Program for Oregon*.
5. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* provides a framework of Board of Forestry mission, vision, values, strategies, actions, and potential performance indicators to achieve integrated environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable forest management. This model can also foster greater public understanding, acceptance, and support for a common vision for the future of forestry in Oregon. To successfully implement the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, the Board and the Department of Forestry will need to develop and maintain strong cooperative alliances with state, federal, local government, tribal, and private partners. In addition, the sustainability framework used in the *Forestry Program for Oregon* may be exportable to other natural resource sectors.
6. The Board of Forestry promotes active, adaptive forest management and the outreach monitoring, assessments, research, and evaluations that support it as a continuing learning and improving process for all seven *Forestry Program for Oregon* Strategies. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* is not an end-product. It is the foundation for discussion, planning, and action over the next several years. The Board will use sustainable forest management indicators, other assessment and accomplishment information, and stakeholder involvement as tools to provide an improvement cycle that allows it to make informed changes to its strategies, actions, and policies. This may occur through implementation of the current *Forestry Program for Oregon* and through future updates of this strategic policy document.

GOAL

To lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's 29 million acres of public and private forests. (from the Board of Forestry's mission statement)

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1: 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.

Board Products

The Board of Forestry will be asked to approve a *Forestry Program for Oregon* Communications Plan prepared by the Department. The Communication Plan elements will be incorporated into other Board work plan processes, particularly Outreach to Urban Populations; and an updated Forest Assessment Project Study Plan.

Research and Information Needed

For Objective 1, issues identification and information gathering has already begun through previous ODF and Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) public opinion surveys and the development of the agency strategic plan. The remaining steps involve coordination between the ODF Agency Affairs Program, OFRI, OSU Forestry Extension, and other partners to gather information necessary to develop a comprehensive communications plan for the *Forestry Program for Oregon* and for sustainable forest management concepts.

Stakeholder/Public Involvement

Public input on the *Forestry Program for Oregon* Communications Plan will be solicited and considered by the Department prior to presentation of a draft to the Board. Additional public input on the plan will be sought through regular Board of Forestry business meetings.

Timeframe with Milestones

1. June 2005: -- Board consideration of a proposed *Forestry Program for Oregon* Communication Plan COMPLETED

Resources Required

No additional resources required.

Monitoring Achievement of this Objective

Feedback will be provided through periodic progress reports by the Agency Affairs Program, OFRI, and OSU Forestry Extension. Department of Forestry and OFRI public opinion surveys will provided statistically valid monitoring results.

OBJECTIVE 2: Measure progress towards achieving the *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies and actions through the selection and use of relevant sustainable forest management indicators.

Board Products

The Board will be asked to adopt:

1. Recommended indicators, data sources, and data collection protocols for sustainable forest management jointly developed by a diverse policy advisory committees with technical input. Forestry community consensus is needed on 15 to 25 sustainable forest management indicators representing all seven *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies. Consensus will also be reached on data sources and data collection protocols. Forest Assessment Project implementation will be ongoing.
2. Recommended desired future outcomes for the indicators.

Research and Information Gathering

The Department's goal is to provide the Oregon Board of Forestry, our partners and cooperators, Oregon citizens, and potential purchasers of Oregon forest products with a comprehensive but manageable set of indicators to assist them in understanding Oregon's forest conditions and trends. The project will collect data on a set of indicators that is broad enough to provide the most important information needed to address the seven *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies, yet focused enough to allow efficient and cost-effective assessment and tradeoff analysis to be completed in a timely fashion for policy analysis. The indicators will be a mix of spatial and non-spatial data that can be used to display the condition of Oregon's forests at multiple scales (i.e., the ecoregion, county, or watershed scale), depending on the policy question.

It is important to note that the use of statewide sustainable forest management indicators will require formation of a coalition with other agencies and organizations to create a common language used to communicate about forest conditions and monitor trends over time. Fortunately, the indicator framework being used has been endorsed by the federal government, which manages 57 percent of Oregon's forest land base and recognized by 12 nations that control 90 percent of the world's temperate and boreal forests. Where possible, the Department of Forestry will coordinate data collection with other state and federal agencies to create economies of data collection. The resulting information can feed directly into future regional, national, and international evaluations of sustainable forest management. For example, Oregon data may be used in the update of the National Report on Sustainable Forests planned for 2008.

Stakeholder/Public Involvement

Public input on recommended indicators for sustainable forest management and desired future outcomes for those indicators will be obtained through the formation of an ad hoc policy committee advised, as needed by technical experts. The State Forester and the Board Chair will establish an ad hoc Sustainable Forest Management Indicator Advisory Committee. Department staff will coordinate with expert staff in other organizations to form technical work groups to provide support to the Advisory Committee. The charge to the committee will be to:

1. Coordinate with technical work groups 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. Clear roles and open dialogue between the advisory committee and technical work groups will be established.

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.

Committee recommendations will be supplemented by invited outside reviewers and by public comments at regular Board of Forestry business meetings. A panel of committee representatives will be specifically invited to discuss this topic with the Board at the appropriate regularly scheduled board meeting. The committee's work is expected to be completed in one year.

It is also important that the sustainable forest management indicator project remain open and transparent to all stakeholders. The Department proposes the formation of an internet-based "Oregon Sustainable Forest Management Indicator Network" where both technical and policy information regarding the indicator development, data collection, and reporting can be exchanged. The network will also provide opportunities to link the core indicators to other related monitoring, assessment, and research efforts.

In 2006, the Department proposes to coordinate with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to conduct a statistically valid sample of Oregonians' opinions and values relative to forestry issues and specifically to the core indicators. This survey work will build on samples taken in 2001 and 2002 and will be used to strengthen the utility and relevance of the indicators and future reports. The survey results will also provide a valuable foundation for the next *Forestry Program for Oregon* revision public involvement process.

Timeframe with Milestones

1. June 2006: -- Status report by the Sustainable Forest Management Indicator Advisory Committee to the Board of Forestry on sustainable forest management indicator selection COMPLETED
2. September 2006: -- Sustainable Forest Management Indicator Advisory Committee consensus and report to the Board on selected indicators and recommendations on desired future outcomes for the indicators COMPLETED
3. January 2007: Board final adoption of Oregon sustainable forest management indicators and desired trends COMPLETED
3. October 2010 --Indicator data included in Board-hosted Oregon Forest Assessment Symposium
4. January 2011 --Board begins *Forestry Program for Oregon* revision process that incorporates indicator information as a basis for developing measurable policy targets
5. December 2011 --*Forestry Program for Oregon* update approved by the Board (Also see Objective 4)

Resources Required

No additional resources are required. However, once indicators have been selected, a reallocation of forest monitoring and assessment resources may be needed.

Monitoring Achievement of this Objective

The Board will receive progress reports on the indicator development and implementation processes. Once data are available, the Board will receive periodic indicator reports, not to exceed five-year intervals.

OBJECTIVE 3: Promote the framework of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* for its potential value as a model in cooperatively addressing other natural resource issues under the authority of other state boards and commissions, federal agencies, or with other states (i.e., where indicators require a regional scope).

Board Products

The Board of Forestry will be asked to approve a *Forestry Program for Oregon* Communications Plan prepared by the Department. Communication Plan elements will be incorporated into other Board work plan processes, particularly Outreach to Urban Populations; and an updated Forest Assessment Project Study Plan.

Other products may include formal memorandums of understanding with cooperating boards, commissions, agencies, and other partners

Research and Information Gathering

OAR 629-605-0110 requires that the State Forester meet at least once a year with other state agencies to review the forest practice administrative rules relative to sufficiency. A report is then made to the Board of Forestry. Private and Community Forests has also used these meetings to raise a range of coordination issues with the natural resource agencies. In addition to forest practices, the issues raised and discussed are often related to other Department programs.

Stakeholder/Public Involvement

Public input on the *Forestry Program for Oregon* Communications Plan will be solicited and considered by the Department prior to presentation of a draft to the Board. Additional public input on the plan will be sought through regular Board of Forestry business meetings.

For this objective, the Board of Forestry will, at a minimum, offer presentations on the *Forestry Program for Oregon* framework to the following state boards and commissions and federal agencies and encourage their support and cooperation:

- Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Environmental Quality Commission
- Watershed Enhancement Board
- Board of Agriculture
- Land Conservation and Development Commission
- Economic and Community Development Commission
- Oregon Progress Board
- USDA Forest Service
- USDI Bureau of Land Management

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
NOAA Fisheries
Environmental Protection Agency

The Board will also continue to work with the Governor, the Legislature, and the public to maintain a policy emphasis on sustainable development and sustainable natural resource policies on all land uses. Specifically, the Board will encourage the use of environmental, economic, and social indicators and promote a statewide native plant and animal conservation assessment and policy discussion. Work on this topic has already begun through coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on development of the Oregon Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Timeframe with Milestones

June 2005: -- Board consideration of a proposed *Forestry Program for Oregon* Communication Plan COMPLETED
December 2005: --Board contacts listed agencies, boards, and commissions and offer Department of Forestry staff presentations on *Forestry Program for Oregon* implementation and opportunities for greater cooperation and dialogue. COMPLETED
November 2006: Board receives progress report on contacts with other agencies, boards, and commissions. COMPLETED

Resources Required

No additional resources required.

Monitoring Achievement of this Objective

The Board will receive reports on the extent to which other boards and commissions and other partners endorse the *Forestry Program for Oregon* and other natural resource agencies' successes in using similar sustainable management models. The Board will also receive status reports on the development of a statewide native plant and animal conservation assessment and policy.

Objective 4: Use 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.

Board Products

Over time, the Board of Forestry and others will use the information collected for the core indicators to establish quantifiable policy targets and then measure and report on progress towards those targets. (Also see Objective 2)

Research and Information Gathering

The Board of Forestry will be provided with the following information:

1. Periodic Department of Forestry performance measure and agency strategic plan implementation updates.

2. Periodic sustainable forest management indicator status reports.
3. Sustainable forest management indicator and Forest Assessment Project accomplishment reports produced by the Department.
4. A comprehensive 2010 Oregon Forests Assessment developed by the Department and cooperating technical and scientific organizations.

Stakeholder/Public Involvement

Public input on Department of Forestry performance measure, agency strategic plan implementation updates, and Forest Assessment Project accomplishment reports will be obtained through public comments at regular Board of Forestry business meetings.

A public symposium will be planned in 2010 to foster broad public understanding and dialogue regarding the 2010 Oregon Forests Assessment. This information and public discussion will form the basis for an update of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Timeframe with Milestones

1. October 2010 --Indicator data included in Board-hosted Oregon Forest Assessment Symposium
2. January 2011 --Board begins *Forestry Program for Oregon* revision process that incorporates indicator information as a basis for developing measurable policy targets
3. December 2011 --*Forestry Program for Oregon* update approved by the Board (Also see Objective 2)

Resources Required

No additional resources required.

Monitoring Achievement of this Objective

The Board will receive annual Department of Forestry performance measure reports beginning in 2006. Indicator reports will occur as data becomes available, culminating in a comprehensive Oregon Forests Assessment Report to be produced in 2010.

Objective 5: Solicit unfiltered, high quality public input for the annual Board of Forestry Issue Scanning process.

Board Products

The Board will be asked to prioritize issues received through the issue scanning process and provide direction for Board work planning for the coming year.

Research and Information Gathering

The Board of Forestry will be provided with public input into Board issues scanning in the form of Records of Potential Board Issues.

The Board of Forestry intends to annually scan issues for prioritizing future work planning. Feedback from the assessment of sustainable forest management indicators, Department of

Forestry performance measures, the Forest Assessment Project, and other Department program monitoring and agency strategic plan progress reports will be important resources for this scanning process. Input from Oregonians interested in the future of our forests, will also be important.

Stakeholder/Public Involvement

On an annual basis, the Board will issue a call for the public to submit Records of Potential Board Issues for issues that any party would like the Board to consider for inclusion in the issue scan for the following year's Board work planning. All Records of Potential Board Issues submitted by the public, other agencies, and Department of Forestry staff will be evaluated by a five-person ad hoc committee annually appointed by the Board Chair. The committee will consist of:

- Two Board of Forestry Members
- Two representatives from standing advisory committees the Board of Forestry
- One representative from forestry academia

The charge to the committee will be to:

1. Issue a call for Records of Potential Board Issues for the upcoming year.
2. Review Records of Potential Board Issues received.
3. Request additional information on submitted Records, if needed.
4. Organize, combine, and recommend priorities for the Records Potential Board Issues for presentation to the full Board of Forestry.
5. Provide feedback to parties submitting Records of Potential Board Issues on how their recommendations were handled by the Board.

Timeframe with Milestones

October 2005: -- First issue scanning committee report to the Board on Records of Potential Board Issues. The Board's first issue scan was completed in early 2006. Subsequent scans can be conducted at intervals determined by the Board.

Resources Required

No additional resources required.

Monitoring Achievement of this Objective

On an annual basis, the Board will receive public input on Board work plan development. Through this process, progress and success on previous work plans may be assessed.

Work Plan Flow Chart

Forestry Program for Oregon Implementation Work Plan

