

## 2007 Family Forestland Symposium: Comparison of recommendations with Board work plans

The symposium results are complicated. The proposed solutions resist neat categorization under their various topic headings. Rather, they overlap to address several problems at a time, attesting to the interwoven nature of the challenges faced by family forestland owners. The broad overview identified in the issue scan needs to be dissected into its individual parts for Board analysis.

For this review and staff analysis, the issues identified by the symposium are broken into the following five categories.

### **1. Develop financial incentives (cost-share programs, others) for maintaining and enhancing environmental values and services**

- Develop and increase access to market for carbon sequestration
- Enact tax credits for keeping land in forest use
- Create a “green credit” forest fund to pay for conservation easements on family forestlands
- Develop a multi-level set of performance standards, with policy and market incentives for managing to stricter environmental standards than those in the Forest Practices Act
- Reduce state inheritance taxes
- Enact “hold harmless” agreements protecting landowners from trespasser liability lawsuits
- Improve Oregon’s land-use planning process to increase private flexibility while retaining public value

#### Staff Analysis

*These concepts fit within the Forest Vitality work plan. Carbon sequestration is Objective 5 of this work plan and captures this symposium solution. Objective 3 of this work plan is to keep working forests working. The work plan currently outlines outright purchase of working forests or conservation easements as tools to maintain working forests. Family forest landowners have suggested additional tools or policy changes that could be incorporated in this work plan.*

*Alternatively, some of these concepts could be included in the Forest Regulation Work plan. The Forest Practices Act explicitly recognizes the public benefits provided by private forests, and states that the policy of the State of Oregon is to ensure continuous benefits from these resources. Incentives such as those suggested here could be added to this work plan.*

**2. Solve the conflict of values, reach out to the wider community and build on common ground by**

- Developing more intensive public education on forestry and family landowner issues
- Organizing more family forest tours for the public and school children
- Increasing capacity of family forestland owners to engage the wider community and elected officials
- Partnering with NGOs to find funding, provide training, and develop educational material
- Reaching out to rural property owners with diverging views
- Promoting work opportunities for older children

Staff Analysis

*The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has limited authority and resources for education. In its current strategic planning effort, ODF is re-examining its role in education efforts. The Charter for this effort plans to develop an integrated public education program to improve Oregonians' understanding of forests and forestry and increase knowledgeable public input regarding the uses and benefits of Oregon's forestlands and resources. As this effort proceeds, these educational solutions can be incorporated into a Board work plan. The effort will involve coordination with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon State University's Forestry Extension program.*

**3. Train foresters who interact with family forestland owners to talk to them about the Ties to the Land family succession program**

- Use the Ties to the Land program to engage landowners who are not now being reached by any forestry stewardship programs

Staff Analysis

*This solution is for staff to work on. These trainings could be included as part of regular trainings of field and program staff that work with family forest landowners.*

**4. Build new coalitions among public agencies, private citizens, and industry**

Staff Analysis

*This is an ongoing task of the Board of Forestry and all department staff. The FPFO Implementation Work plan addresses this through promotion of the FPFO, however this is mostly an issue for staff work.*

**5. Expand markets for locally harvested forest products.**

- Develop local farmers' market-style markets for wood products
- Build awareness of and pride in using locally grown wood and other products
- Improve marketing and public relations efforts on behalf of local wood products

Staff Analysis

*These concepts are captured in the Forest Vitality Work plan, especially Objectives 1, 2, and 4.*