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Biomass

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
11	Engage on biomass issues	Adam Serchuk
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This commenter raises many important issues. This general topic is already being addressed through Objective 4 of the Forest Vitality Work Plan and is of interest across the state. The comments have been forwarded to the Oregon Forest Biomass Work Group for action.	
94	Utilization of Small Diameter Material	Andrea Rabe
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This topic is beeing addressed by Objectives 1 and 4 of the current Forest Vilatility Work Plan. Ms. Rabe may find it useful to review the report of the Oregon Forest Biomass Work Group. Contact: Joe Misek, (503) 945-7414.	
107	codify definition, lead policy development	Rex Storm
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This topic is being addressed through Forest Vitality Work Plan Objective 4. Staff recommends this issue be referred to the Forest Biomass Work Group for discussion and development of potential 2009 legislative concepts.	
115	support and assist in development	Jake Gibbs
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This topic is being addressed through Forest Vitality Work Plan Objectives 1 (developing forest policies to ensure forest sustainability while improving forest-sector economic contributions) and 4 (promoting incentives for sustainable forest health restoration, including market-based solutions to reduce fire, insect and disease risks). Staff recommends this issue be referred to the Forest Biomass Work Group for discussion and necessary action.	
162	Small scale, value-added projects	Brett Brownscombe
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This topic is being addressed through Forest Vitality Work Plan Objectives 1 (developing forest policies to ensure forest sustainability while improving forest-sector economic contributions) and 4 (promoting incentives for sustainable forest health restoration, including market-based solutions to reduce fire, insect and disease risks). Staff recommends this issue be referred to the Forest Biomass Work Group for discussion and necessary action.	



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Biomass

4b Issue for staff to address

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
83	Provide inventory of available biomass from Santiam State Forest	Rob Freres
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>Under current management strategies, the total biomass on the Santiam State Forest can be divided into categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The volume of biomass in the forest that provides the current forest habitats and will provide harvest for future revenue; •Managed levels of snags and down wood to provide wildlife habitat in clearcuts and across the landscape; •Current timber harvests that provide saw logs and pulp to the timber industry and revenue to local governments •Excess material available for other uses, such as firewood or biofuels. <p>The management practices that implement the forest management strategies leave little biomass available for other uses. Between the high utilization standards and reserved snags and down wood requirement, the timber harvests contain little biomass for other uses. However, a limited amount of biomass may be available from landings on partial cut operations where whole tree yarding occurred. On these operations, the non-merchantable tops of trees are left after the operation is complete. In keeping with the Program's mandate to generate revenue, the district does market this material; contacting them directly would be appropriate for interested parties. Due to the limited quantity, and the infrequent availability of biomass, conducting an inventory would not be cost-effective.</p>	

Board of Forestry

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
51	too much process	Chris Jarmer
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>We agree with the desire to keep process to a minimum and share concerns about the slow pace of work on providing policy recommendations to solve federal forestlands issues. However, the work of the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee (FFAC) is one of those cases where we felt that process was necessary. The charge from the Governor was to create "a unified vision" for federal forestland management. Through Senate Bill 1072, the Legislature also encouraged the Board to "create a forum for interagency cooperation and collaborative public involvement regarding federal forest management issues."</p> <p>Citizens of the state are deeply affected by the management of federal forests and deserve a stronger voice from their State Government. While ODF staff might be able to generate ideas for policy changes, those ideas would only represent a single voice on controversial topics and would have a lower probability of being implemented. In order to be more effective, State Government needs a common set of goals and to speak with a single voice. It is important to hear ideas and concerns from a broad range of interests, so that collaborative solutions can be developed that will represent the views of the majority of Oregonians. Any recommendations supported by the full membership of the FFAC will be much stronger than recommendations from ODF staff. While ultimately this process may not produce all the recommendations we would like to propose, we also feel that this process is a necessary first step.</p>	



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Board of Forestry

3 General Comments Not Related To Specific Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
8	viewpoints	Bhagwati Poddar
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This comment may have some applicability to the State Forests and Forest Regulation Work Plans but it appears to be a general value statement about personal viewpoints of Board members and politics surrounding forest management issues	
36	number and priority of work plans, consensus process	Gary Springer
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This comment is applicable to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans, and raises issues for Board consideration as it uses the issue scan to help plan its future work. The work group appointed by the Board to review the issue scan input identified issues such as those raised by Mr. Springer as key for the Board to address.	
73	Enhancing board accomplishments	Paul Adams
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This comment is applicable to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans, and raises issues for Board consideration as it uses the issue scan to help plan its future work. The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input recommends that the Board focus and prioritize the work currently before it rather than taking on new work plans at this time.	
74	Forestry professionals as stakeholders	Paul Adams
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This comment is applicable to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans. Opportunities for anyone to comment on any topic are provided at all Board meetings and public comments are regularly solicited on specific Board initiatives. Comments from the Society of American Foresters and other professional organizations are always welcome and encouraged in these processes.	
80	Balanced representation	Lisa Arkin2
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>ORS 526.009 outlines the board appointment process. The seven-member citizen Board is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. No more than three members may receive any significant portion of their income from the forest products industry. At least one member must reside in each of the state's three major ODF administrative regions - east, south and northwest.</p> <p>Under 527.710 the Board shall consult with other agencies of the state regarding programs affected by forest operations. This includes the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Health Division, and Water Resources Department.</p> <p>There are currently four standing committees to the board; Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee, Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, Committee for Family Forestlands, and Forest Resource Trust Advisory Committee. Each of these except the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (which by law is made up of representatives of counties that deeded land to the state) has representation from the environmental or conservation communities. These committees have only a tangential relationship to public health and public health officials are not standing members.</p> <p>Foresters and landowners with a variety of interests are on each committee and could be considered representatives as suggested by this issue scan. Some are foresters; others are rural residents.</p>	

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Board of Forestry

3 General Comments Not Related To Specific Work Plan

<i>Issue No.</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Submitter</i>
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Others who would like to participate in these processes are welcome. Meetings are publicly announced and opportunities are provided at each meeting for public comments.

105	Streamline, prioritize operation	Rex Storm
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Staff Comment This comment is applicable to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans, and raises issues for Board consideration as it uses the issue scan to help plan its future work. The work group named by the Board to review issue scan work group has identified this as a key issue for the Board to address.

106	Use forestry professionals as stakeholders	Rex Storm
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Staff Comment This comment is applicable to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans. Opportunities for anyone to comment on any topic are provided at all Board meetings and public comments are regularly solicited on specific Board initiatives. Comments from the Society of American Foresters and other professional organizations are always welcome and encouraged in these processes.

113	set priorities and timelines, evaluate needed resources	Jake Gibbs
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Staff Comment This comment is applicable to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans. The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input has identified this as a key issue for Board consideration.

169	Design new delivery systems for landowner/neighbor education	Mike Gaudern
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Staff Comment The portion of this comment referring to setting priorities among existing tasks refers to the Board's decision system which guides all work plans, and raises issues for Board consideration as it uses the issue scan to help plan its future work.

Specifically relating to service delivery, the Private Forests Program is working to stabilize funding for stewardship foresters, particularly funding targeted to providing forestry assistance and support to family forestland owners. Currently there is no State support for providing forestry assistance (outside of Forest Practices Administration), and Federal support for forestry assistance has been decreasing. Historically, the Private Forests Program has been working with numerous partners to improve delivery of education and assistance. The Program will continue to examine innovative approaches with our partners.



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Climate change

Ic New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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3	evaluate implications	Tom Bender
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*Staff
Comment*

This comment is consistent with the direction to the new Oregon Global Warming Commission established through 2007 HB 3543. The Global Warming Commission is charged with tracking and evaluating the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon's forests, alternative methods of forest management that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce the loss of carbon sequestration to wildfire, changes in the mortality and distribution of tree and other plant species and the extent to which carbon is stored in tree-based building materials.

Evaluation of global warming effects on forests is primarily a technical activity and much work on the subject has already been completed. The commenter may also find useful the Oregon Forest Resources Institute report: "Forests, Carbon, and Climate Change: A Synthesis of Science Findings."

ODF staff is also working to begin implementation of the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management, which include Indicator G.a.: Carbon stocks on forestlands and in forest products. This indicator will attempt to track the amount of carbon stored in Oregon forests and forest products as well as how the rate of storage may be changing. Indicator G.a. will be developed in cooperation with OSU.

The work group named to review issue scan input has identified this as a key issue, and suggests that the Board consider updating existing work plans to encompass the issue. Aspects of this may include adapting Oregon's forests to climate change and the role of forests in mitigating climate change effects.

141	mitigate effects through healthy forests	Samantha Chirillo
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*Staff
Comment*

This comment points to the larger question of how forest management in Oregon is affecting carbon storage. In this context it is important to differentiate the carbon sequestration effects of deforestation and forest conversion compared to clearcut harvesting followed by prompt reforestation with native tree species. The life cycle analysis of forest products versus other building materials is another important component of this issue. Considerable information on this topic is already available and is summarized in the Oregon Forest Resources Institute report, "Forests, Carbon, and Climate Change."

On Board of Forestry Lands (State Forests), the management goal is to produce a balance of environmental, economic, and social values. Under the current management strategies, large portions of the forest (approximately 20 to 30 percent) are designated for older forest stand types that will provide for carbon storage. Since 2002, State Forests have clearcut approximately one percent of the forests per year. These clearcuts are conducted to initiate new stands, provide early seral habitat (necessary for several species of wildlife), and produce revenue. In order to provide for more complex habitats, clearcuts on State Forests generally retain five green trees per acre, maintain two or more snags per acre, and leave 600 to 900 cubic feet of down wood per acre; these residual materials also provide for carbon storage.

This comment is consistent with the direction to the new Oregon Global Warming Commission established through 2007 HB 3543. The Global Warming Commission is charged with tracking and evaluating the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon's forests, alternative methods of forest management that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce the loss of carbon sequestration to wildfire, changes in the mortality and distribution of tree and other plant species and the extent to which carbon is stored in tree-based building materials.

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The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input has identified climate change as a key

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Climate change

1c New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

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	issue for Board consideration, and recommends that it be addressed where appropriate across the Board's work plans.	

Dynamic Ecosystems

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
49	raise priority	Chris Jarmer
<i>Staff Comment</i>	The Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan was revised by the Board in the Spring of 2007 and initial products are expected in 2008. The Board has instructed ODF to incorporate dynamic forest ecosystems science into policy work now, even as we await formal Work Plan outcomes.	
117	continue efforts, work with others	Jake Gibbs
<i>Staff Comment</i>	The Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan was revised by the Board in the Spring of 2007 and initial products are expected in 2008. The Board has instructed ODF to incorporate dynamic forest ecosystems science into policy work now, even as we await formal Work Plan outcomes.	

Economic framework

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
29	Economic Diversity not Resource Extraction	Doug Heiken
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>The issues Mr. Heiken raises that question economic theory are probably outside the scope of the Board of Forestry and it is unclear which economic assumptions are being referred to as faulty. However, the points made regarding improved integration of economic, environmental, and social values are consistent with the Forestry Program for Oregon and the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.</p> <p>Forest Viability Work Plan Objective#1 calls for development of an Oregon forest sector economic development strategy. Such a strategy need not be limited to resource extraction issues and can provide an opportunity to identify a more accurate and updated economic framework, if needed.</p> <p>One of the Board's Forestry Program for Oregon vision statements promotes active management of Oregon's forests (See FPFO for definition of "active management"). The commenter's call to de-emphasize active management would be contrary to that vision.</p>	
159	Evaluate Non-timber Natural Resource Assets	Brett Brownscombe
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>Indicator B.c. of the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management will partially address this comment. However, the Board's indicators advisory committee concluded in 2005 that methods currently available to develop a meaningful indicator for all non-timber forest products. Further discussion</p>	

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Economic framework

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

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on this topic is provided on the Board's indicators web page, at http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/index.shtml#Sustainable_Forestry_Indicators

The department's ongoing Forest Assessment Project will continue to investigate this issue.

Education

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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13	Public Education of Forest Management Activities	Joe Stoneburg
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Staff Comment Two of the Board's work plans - Outreach to Urban Populations (objectives 3-6) and Implementing the Forestry Program for Oregon (objective 1), have public communication components. The Department also has an overarching communication plan based on key messages (http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/ORGANIZATIONAL_MANAGEMENT/docs/eight_messages.doc), one of which mentions the laws that govern forestry.

The Department will continue to work with partners and the Board, and to conduct its own communication efforts, to educate the public and specific audiences, such as legislators and other policymakers, about the laws governing forestry in Oregon.

22	public relations, bridge with legislators	Ed Livingston
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Staff Comment ODF staff continue to work with partners such as the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and OSU Extension, and with agency field staff, to improve forestry public relations both statewide and locally.

The Board maintains a connection with this topic through work plans that have communication components. These include Urban Outreach (objectives 3-6), and Implementing the Forestry Program For Oregon (objective 1).

The department also continues to maintain and improve relations with the Legislature. Some agency representatives and stakeholders are beginning to discuss ways to create a "natural resources caucus" of interested legislators.

The work plans mentioned above - FPFO implementation and urban outreach - are among ways for the Board to help shape the department's legislative initiatives.



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Education

4b Issue for staff to address

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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14	Update on-line Information about Forest Management	Scott Cooper
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Staff Comment The information referred to in this submission remains online, although access to it may have changed during past Web re-designs. Instructions were sent to Judge Cooper indicating how to locate it. This submission will be forwarded to a group of staff who work to update and continually improve the Web site, while maintaining design consistency standards intended for all of state government.

Family Forestlands

1b New Topic: Incorporate Input Into Existing Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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170	Address Family Forestland Owner Generational Shift	Mike Gaudern
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Staff Comment This issue was also submitted by the Committee for Family Forestland (CFF), is included among the Family Forestland Symposium proceedings, and is in the 2007-08 workplan for the CFF. The issue of generational shift is broader than the inheritance tax, and the CFF is examining approaches to addressing the shift. In addition, ODF is working with OSU on improving assistance on this issue, such as by coordinating on the training and delivery of the "Ties to the Land" tool developed to address generational transfer of forestland.

Ties to the Land is a new educational package of materials developed to help families begin to work through the complicated set of emotional, communication, and legal issues involved in the transfer of property from one generation to the next.

The Forest Vitality Workplan Objective 3 is to keep working forests working. The workplan currently outlines outright purchase of working forests or conservation easements as tools to maintain working forests. Changes to the inheritance tax could reduce the opportunity for land conversion at the time of transition. Exploring these possibilities could be added to this workplan.

The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input has identified challenges facing family forestlands as a key issue for Board consideration.



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Family Forestlands

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
100	Intergenerational Transfer of Family Owned Forestlands	Gary Groth
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>Issues surrounding the intergenerational transfer of family forestlands are addressed in the Board's Forest Vitality work plan. These issues, including tax ramifications, also were the subject of the family forestlands symposium held at OSU in the spring of 2007. The symposium findings have been made a part of the issue scan.</p> <p>The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input has identified intergenerational transfer and other issues related to the sustainability of Oregon's forest land base as key for Board consideration.</p>	
110	curb loss	Rex Storm
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>This submission identifies that forest regulations contribute to the conversion of forests to non-forest uses. This is recognized by the Board through the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) in Value Statement 4 and elements that address this concern are in the Forest Vitality Workplan and the Forest Regulation Workplan.</p> <p>The board is addressing some of the proposed solutions from the family forest symposium through the workplan process. The recommendations of the symposium have been entered into the issue scan process for evaluation along with other submitted issues.</p> <p>The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input has identified this as a key topic for Board attention.</p>	
166	Need for support of Forest Sector Economic Base	Mike Gaudern
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>This issue is being addressed through the Board's Forest Viality Work Plan. Specifically, Objective#1 calls for development of an Oregon forest sector economic development strategy. Staff has been pursuing coordination with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department to work with stakeholders to develop and institutionalize such a strategy.</p> <p>The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input has identified issues relating to forestland ownership change and forestland conversion as key issues for Board consideration.</p>	
171	Symposium recommendations	Ron Cease
<i>Staff Comment</i>	<p>This letter represents the formal entry of the forestland symposium recommendations into the issue scan process.</p> <p>Although the preliminary staff analysis places this submission in category 2 "addressed in current work plan," it is recognized that not all of the recommendations that emerged from the symposium are being addressed.</p> <p>Further board consideration, with input from the issue scan work group, will be necessary to set priorities among the recommendations.</p>	



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Federal Lands

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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16	take more active role	Tom Partin
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*Staff
Comment*

The Board has identified these concerns in several strategies of its Forestry Program For Oregon.

The Board's Forest Vitality work plan also addresses these issues and related ones in Objective 2 (Create a unified vision for how federal forestlands should contribute to the environment, economic and social stability of all Oregon forest resources) and 4 (Promote incentives for sound, sustainable forest health restoration).

Several comments in the issue scan raise concerns about the adequacy of current efforts in this area, and the Board may wish to consider reviewing and revising some objectives and milestones in the Forest Vitality Work Plan.

103	Salvage and Reforest Damaged Forests	Rex Storm
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*Staff
Comment*

Mr. Storm correctly states that the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee under Forest Vitality Work Plan Objective 2 is working to address the stated issues.

The Board has identified these concerns in several strategies of its Forestry Program For Oregon.

The Board's Forest Vitality work plan also addresses these issues and related ones in Objective 2 (Create a unified vision for how federal forestlands should contribute to the environment, economic and social stability of all Oregon forest resources) and 4 (Promote incentives for sound, sustainable forest health restoration).

A concern remains that the FFAC process will not result in meaningful changes in federal forest policies. Mr. Storm emphasizes the need for immediate action but does not state what specific actions or policy solutions can be reasonably implemented in the short term. This is the same problem the Advisory Committee is charged to address. Continued active involvement by AOL in the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee process is encouraged.

The Board may wish to consider reviewing and, if necessary, revising Forest Vitality Work Plan Objective 2 products and milestones.

111	Federal Boundaries De-Value Neighboring Property	Rex Storm
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*Staff
Comment*

The Board has identified these concerns in several strategies of its Forestry Program For Oregon.

The Board's Forest Vitality work plan also addresses these issues in Objective 2 (Create a unified vision for how federal forestlands should contribute to the environment, economic and social stability of all Oregon forest resources) and 4 (Promote incentives for sound, sustainable forest health restoration).

Several comments in the issue scan raise concerns about the adequacy of current efforts in this area, and the Board may wish to consider reviewing and revising some objectives and milestones in the Forest Vitality Work Plan.

155	Oppose BLM Old Growth Logging	Mark Tunno
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Federal Lands

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

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*Staff
Comment*

The Board is addressing federal land management issues through its Forest Vitality work plan, in objectives 2 (Create a unified vision for how federal forestlands should contribute to the environment, economic and social stability of all Oregon forest resources) and 4 (Promote incentives for sound, sustainable forest health restoration).

These comments should be passed along to the Board's Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee.

168 Address Political Issues of Commercial Mgt. of Federal Lands Mike Gaudern

*Staff
Comment*

The Board has identified these concerns in several strategies of its Forestry Program For Oregon.

The Board's Forest Vitality work plan also addresses these issues and related ones in Objective 2 (Create a unified vision for how federal forestlands should contribute to the environment, economic and social stability of all Oregon forest resources) and 4 (Promote incentives for sound, sustainable forest health restoration).

Several comments in the issue scan raise concerns about the adequacy of current efforts in this area, and the Board may wish to consider reviewing and revising some objectives and milestones in the Forest Vitality Work Plan.



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Fire

1b New Topic: Incorporate Input Into Existing Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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21	Prescribed Fire	Ed Livingston
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Staff Comment Prescribed Fire: Mr. Livingston is concerned with the lack of department progress in helping to encourage the use of fire as a fuels mitigation tool. From a landowner's perspective, the liability issue is the greatest stumbling block.

Several years ago the department convened a stakeholder group to consider development of administrative rules to carry out the intent of ORS 526.360 to implement a Certified Burn Manager program. The limits to liability in the statute resulted in a failure to obtain consensus on standards. The main concern from some landowners was the lack of recourse for damaged parties as a result of a non-negligent escape of fire onto their property. In light of this, staff recommends the Board consider the policy issues associated with encouraging prescribed burning where needed and prudent and landowner liability for escapes.

Fire: how can we pay for it?

Equity of the Public Share Fire Fund and the landowner contributions has been a recurring theme as the agency works through the legislative process with its budget. Along those lines, a 2007 Budget Note directs the department to review the landowner in-kind contributions to the Protection Program to better quantify this effort as a part of the equity discussion. Staff proposes to expand the review to include equity from a cause and cost perspective as well as examine the level of protection provided in an effort to minimize total costs and losses. Below is language that was proposed by the agency as a budget note in 2007.

The Department of Forestry should convene an interim workgroup of stakeholders to examine and report back to the next legislature with recommendations on:

(a) The amount and funding strategies that provide adequate aviation resources needed above current regular budgeted capacity. The workgroup should consider alternatives for funding equity, plus issues around recurring severe fire seasons, fuel buildup, declining forest health, cause and cost of fires, reduced firefighting resource availability and rising firefighting costs;

(b) Funding mechanisms and amounts necessary to adequately protect wildlands the Department protects in Eastern Oregon. The workgroup is to consider the productivity of the lands along with the loss of wood processing facilities and the resultant profitability of the lands and the ability to afford fire protection; the cause and cost of fires and the equity of sharing the cost between the public and the private landowner; the effect of fires starting on adjacent federal lands and the resultant impact on the departments resources; the changes in the level of fire fighting resources forest landowners and cooperators have available to assist the department and resultant pressure on budgeted resources; the condition of the department's infrastructure and the capacity of the current management structure to manage the increased workload;

(c) A funding strategy to provide additional statewide supplemental resources to address the most extreme conditions that the strategies in (a) and (b) above are not adequate to address.

109	Public Share of Forest Protections	Rex Storm
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Staff Comment Equity of the Public Share Fire Fund and the landowner contributions has been a recurring theme as the agency works through the legislative process with its budget. Along those lines, the 2007 Budget Note directs the department to review the landowner in kind contributions to the Protection Program to better quantify this effort as a part of the equity discussion.. Staff proposes to expand the review to include equity from a cause and cost perspective as well as examine the level of protection provided in an effort to minimize total costs and losses. Below is language that was proposed by the agency as a budget note

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Fire

1b New Topic: Incorporate Input Into Existing Work Plan

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in 2007.

The Department of Forestry should convene an interim workgroup of stakeholders to examine and report back to the next legislature with recommendations on:

(a) The amount and funding strategies that provide adequate aviation resources needed above current regular budgeted capacity. The workgroup should consider alternatives for funding equity, plus issues around recurring severe fire seasons, fuel buildup, declining forest health, cause and cost of fires, reduced firefighting resource availability and rising firefighting costs;

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(c) A funding strategy to provide additional statewide supplemental resources to address the most extreme conditions for which the strategies in (a) and (b) above are not adequate.

119 quantify landowners' contributions to costs Jake Gibbs

*Staff
Comment*

Equity of the Public Share Fire Fund and the landowner contributions has been a recurring theme as the agency works through the legislative process with its budget. Along those lines, the 2007 Budget Note directs the department to review the landowner in kind contributions to the Protection Program to better quantify this effort as a part of the equity discussion.. Staff proposes to expand the review to include equity from a cause and cost perspective as well as examine the level of protection provided in an effort to minimize total costs and losses. Below is language that was proposed by the agency as a budget note in 2007.

The Department of Forestry should convene an interim workgroup of stakeholders to examine and report back to the next legislature with recommendations on:

(a) The amount and funding strategies that provide adequate aviation resources needed above current regular budgeted capacity. The workgroup should consider alternatives for funding equity, plus issues around recurring severe fire seasons, fuel buildup, declining forest health, cause and cost of fires, reduced firefighting resource availability and rising firefighting costs;

(b) Funding mechanisms and amounts necessary to adequately protect wildlands the Department protects in Eastern Oregon. The workgroup is to consider the productivity of the lands along with the loss of wood processing facilities and the resultant profitability of the lands and the ability to afford fire protection; the cause and cost of fires and the equity of sharing the cost between the public and the private landowner; the effect of fires starting on adjacent federal lands and the resultant impact on the departments resources; the changes in the level of fire fighting resources forest landowners and cooperators have available to assist the department and resultant pressure on budgeted resources; the condition of the department's infrastructure and the capacity of the current management structure to manage the increased workload;

(c) A funding strategy to provide additional statewide supplemental resources to address the most extreme conditions that the strategies in (a) and (b) above are not adequate to address.

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Fire

1b New Topic: Incorporate Input Into Existing Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
131	Forestland Classification	Paul Bell
<i>Staff Comment</i>	There is currently an Ad Hoc committee formed and operating that will bring recommendations that may include proposed legislative concepts. Board approval of proposals will be part of the process.	
153	Un/Under Protected Lands	Bill Lafferty2
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Although much work has been done on unprotected and underprotected lands, there is still much to do. These comments offer a sensible approach to continue the progress on these issues.	
154	Aviation Issues	Bill Lafferty
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Response to the issues will require a commitment of significant additional resources. Proposals to mitigate issues will take the form of budget proposals that would be subject to Board approval prior to submitting to the Governor's office for consideration. Stakeholder support would need to be sought in the budget development process.	

1c New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
96	Oregon Administrative Rules update	Richard Gibson
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This topic was submitted by Protection from Fire staff. As proposals for updating Administrative Rules are brought forward, the Board approves sending a package out for public comment and later adopts final rules.	

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
42	Slash burning smoke	Nyles Jahansel
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Smoke management is currently in the Wildfire Risk Management work plan, Objective 3: "Revise the Smoke Management Plan so that land management objectives and air quality requirements are met." Much work and collaboration with interested organizations and landowners has occurred. Many of the issues brought up in Issue ID 42 have been addressed. The combustion of herbicide residues is not addressed in the existing revision of the Smoke Management Plan.	
45	slash burning smoke	Maxine Centala
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Smoke management is currently in Board Issue Work Plan #7, Objective 3, Revise the Smoke Management Plan so that land management objectives and air quality requirements are met. Much work and collaboration with interested organizations and landowners has occurred. Many of the issues	

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Fire

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
	brought up in Issue ID 42 have been addressed.	
	The combustion of herbicide residues is not addressed in the existing revision of the Smoke Management Plan.	
61	slash burning	Robert Purdy
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Smoke management is currently in Board Issue Work Plan #7, Objective 3, Revise the Smoke Management Plan so that land management objectives and air quality requirements are met. Much work and collaboration with interested organizations and landowners has occurred. Many of the issues brought up in Issue ID 42 have been addressed.	
	The combustion of herbicide residues is not addressed in the existing revision of the Smoke Management Plan.	
71	manage to reduce wildfire and health hazards	Paul Adams
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Throughout the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) and especially in Strategy F, the Board recognizes the importance of forest management to reduce wildfire and health hazards.	
	Board Work Plan #3, Forest Vitality, Objectives 2,3 & 4 and Work Plan #7, Wildfire Risk Management, address the stated issues by promoting management of all Oregon's forests to decrease wildfire and insects & disease risks.	
	An agency Key Performance Measure (KPM #629-13) is the percent of aerially surveyed eastern Oregon Forests that are free of insect damage. This performance measure covers all forestland east of the Cascades and provides a measure of forest health regardless of ownership.	
102	Reduce Wildfire and Unhealthy Hazards (primarily federal lands)	Rex Storm
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Mr. Storm correctly states that the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee (FFAC), under Forest Vitality Work Plan Objective 2, is working to address the stated issues. However, a concern remains that the FFAC process will not result in meaningful changes in federal forest policies. Mr. Stormr emphasizes the need for immediate action but does not state what specific actions or policy solutions can be reasonably implemented in the short term. This is the same problem the Advisory Committee is charged to address. Continued active involvement by AOL in the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee process is encouraged.	
	The Board may wish to consider reviewing and, if necessary, revising Forest Vitality Work Plan Objective 2 products and milestones.	
120	Smoke management	Jake Gibbs
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Smoke management is currently in Board Issue Work Plan #7, Objective 3, Revise the Smoke Management Plan so that land management objectives and air quality requirements are met. Much work and collaboration with interested organizations and landowners has occurred, and the Board recently approved a set of rule revisions intended to increase the plan's effectiveness.	



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Fire

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
133	Examine alternatives to burning	John Elliott
<i>Staff Comment</i>	There are two existing work plans that address these comments: The Forest Vitality work plan, Objective 4 (Promote incentives for sound, sustainable forest health restoration practices, including market-based solutions to reduce fire, insect and disease risks), and the Wildfire Risk Management work plan, Objective 3 (smoke management plan revisions).	
139	Minimize Wildfire Risk	Derrick Tokos
<i>Staff Comment</i>	These Comments are addressed in the Wildfire Risk Management work plan, Objectives 1 (includes collaboration with local groups) and 2 (review SB 360 standards for vacant lots). In theory, SB 360 will be implemented in those areas of Multnomah County that are in an ODF Protection District.	

4b Issue for staff to address

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
112	Improve Industrial Fire Data Collection for Forest Operations	Rex Storm
<i>Staff Comment</i>	This comment is in reference to seeking additional data on how fires have been ignited by machinery during forest operations. There is data being requested by the FIRES program but the comment indicates it's not sufficient to specifically determine which equipment is the most prone to cause fires. There is an ongoing effort to update of the database and procedures manual for fire reporting. This comment can be considered as the revision occurs.	
151	Workforce Capacity, Recruitment & Retention	Bill Lafferty3
<i>Staff Comment</i>	The recruitment and retention of our seasonal workforce has become a chronic issue for an increasing number of districts. The department's Human Resources program staff has done some preliminary work regarding this issue but it's time to engage the field and Protection Program as well. Proposals to mitigate issues may take the form of budget proposals that would be subject to Board approval prior to submitting to the Governor's office for consideration. Stakeholder support would need to be sought.	
152	Workforce Capacity - Interagency Contract Firefighting	Bill Lafferty3
<i>Staff Comment</i>	There has been a lot of work already completed toward ensuring a competent and affordable firefighting workforce. There are still many significant issues to address at the staff level, such as cost of contract resources, additional uses for contract resources, other sources for increasing crew availability and requirements for crew members. Staff does not anticipate Board action on this item.	



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Forest fragmentation and working forests

1b New Topic: Incorporate Input Into Existing Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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128	Ecosystem Services	Patrik Norris
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Staff Comment This issue closely relates to Issues #134-137. The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input also identified this as an important issue for Board consideration, part of a larger concern about the sustainability of Oregon's forest land base.

Summary: In 2006, the Forest Resource Trust Advisory Committee proposed the development of an Environmental (Ecosystem) Services Program under the Forest Resource Trust statutes. This idea, however, was dropped from final legislation (House Bill 2293-A) passed in 2007. In response, the Forest Resource Trust Advisory Committee held a workshop with members of the House Bill 2293 workgroup that developed the final legislation and invited practitioners and experts involved with ecosystem service markets. The outcome was submittal of ecosystem services as a topic needing broader consideration by the Board.

The advisory committee sees many benefits arising from the Board's broad consideration of ecosystem services and emerging markets and other payment mechanisms to private forest landowners for them. This issue (should it be adopted as a workplan) could be added to the Forest Vitality workplan.

Analysis: Even though further action on ecosystem services is now beyond the scope of the Forest Resource Trust programs, the advisory committee felt it worthwhile to communicate to the Board what it has learned about this important, emerging issue. At a minimum, further consideration and discussion by the Board will inform implementation of House Bill 2293's direction that the Forest Resource Trust assist landowners in securing payments for ecosystem services. More broadly though, the committee would like the Board to review emerging markets for ecosystem services to determine how activities in those markets may contribute to accomplishing the strategies detailed in the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon.

These concepts fit within the Forest Vitality Workplan. Carbon sequestration is Objective 5 of this workplan and captures this symposium solution. Objective 3 of this workplan is to keep working forests working. This objective currently outlines outright purchase of working forests or conservation easements as tools to maintain working forests, however increasing financial returns to landowners through payments for ecosystem services would also contribute to maintaining forestland.

An evaluation of current state policies around each "ecosystem service" would allow the Board to reevaluate each policy and align them with the FPFO.

Alternatively, some of these concepts could be included in the Forest Regulation Workplan since many ecosystem services are, such as water and endangered species, regulated.



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Forest fragmentation and working forests

1c New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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10	smaller landowners	Matthew Krunglevich
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*Staff
Comment*

This submission is fundamental to the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) and the underlying principles of several of the work plans. It relates directly to the department's job to carry out the mission and visions of FPFO. The work group appointed by the Board to review the issue scan input has identified this as a key issue for Board attention. Two of the Board's recently adopted 19 Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management address components of forest fragmentation.

The existing work plans are related to this issue as follows; however they do not address it directly.

Forestry Program for Oregon Implementation: The goal of this work plan is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's forests. This work plan most closely addresses forest fragmentation, however the plan also seeks to communicate FPFO policies and to measure or show changes over time through indicators of sustainable forest management. By implementing FPFO policies, the department should be addressing root causes of forest fragmentation; however fragmentation is not directly addressed by either the FPFO or the workplan.

Forest Vitality: A common theme in this work plan is the need to provide increased leadership, coordination, and organizational capacity to ensure continued vitality of Oregon forests and landowners. This work plan addresses the forest sector economy, federal forest policy, keeping working forests working, biomass, and carbon. Each of these is a small part of the forest fragmentation/landowner education issue, but this work plan does not directly address this issue scan submission.

Outreach to Urban Populations: This work plan addresses public understanding of forestry and forestry issues. It relates to this issue by seeking to increase public understanding of forestry issues. This would include the landowners referenced in the issue scan submission, but does not directly address forest fragmentation.

Forest Regulation: This work plan addresses public expectations from private lands, the financial effects of regulations, voluntary methods to achieve public good, and efficient and effective delivery of the regulatory elements of the FPA. These have implications for forest fragmentation; however also do not directly address the issue.

121	federal partnerships	Jake Gibbs
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*Staff
Comment*

Private forests staff have been engaged with the federal programs as they have evolved. The State and Private Forestry Program of the USDA Forest Service has been redesigned and department staff adjusted processes with the changing needs. The changes move the grant processes more towards competitive allocations. ODF has instituted a grant review team to sort and prioritize ODF's submission. Core to the department's efforts has been seeking assistance where grants can align with Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) strategies and State priorities. There are many uncertainties about the federal assistance programs and this uncertainty spills into the department's budget outlook.



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Forest fragmentation and working forests

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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20	Forestland Purchase	Ed Livingston
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Staff Comment The Board's Forest Vitality work plan Objective Three, Keeping Working Forests Working, is examining ways to keep forestland as working forests. Chapter 530 of the Oregon Revised Statutes establishes the Board's authorities for acquisition and sets out how revenues derived from state-owned forestlands will be used. The work plan is also examining additional ways to fund acquisitions that may be made and added to Board of Forestry forestlands. This work will also include discussions/work to help identify broadly the State's goals for acquiring such lands.

72	sustain working forests	Paul Adams
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Staff Comment The work group appointed by the Board to review issue scan input identified sustaining the working forest land base as a key for Board consideration.

The Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) does not explicitly recognize the importance of sustaining working forests as Mr. Adams frames it, however all of the FPFO Strategies contribute to sustaining working forests. Indeed the definition of "sustainable forest management" includes providing outputs that clearly are products of working forests and the Board's mission statement is to promote sustainable management of Oregon's public and private forests. From the FPFO, it is clearly a priority of the Board to sustain working forests.

Each of the Board work plans has elements that further the FPFO and support working forests.

For instance, the Board's Forest Vitality work plan Objective Three, Keeping Working Forests Working, is examining ways to keep forestland as working forests. Chapter 530 of the Oregon Revised Statutes establishes the Board's authorities for acquisition and sets out how revenues derived from state-owned forestlands will be used. The work plan is also examining additional ways to fund acquisitions that may be made and added to Board of Forestry forestlands. This work will also include discussions/work to help identify broadly the State's goals for acquiring such lands.

92	raise priority	Sara Leiman
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Staff Comment Land conversion is a difficult and pressing issue for all of Oregon. It is also the topic of several issue scan submissions, and the work group appointed by the board to review issue scan input has identified it as a key challenge for Board attention.

The Board's overarching strategy document, the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) recognizes the importance of keeping forestland as forestland through its strategies C and D and others. These are reflected in the workplans, most notably in the Forest Vitality Workplan and Forest Regulation Workplan. The Forest Vitality Workplan focuses on large scale forces of economics, federal processes, land purchases, and insect and disease issues. The Forest Regulation Workplan focuses on more specific projects such as minimizing cost of regulations, maintaining 1 stop shopping, and supporting voluntary and incentive programs over additional regulations. These are all components of preventing land use change.

The issue scan submissions acknowledge that the workplans address the issue of land conversion, but ask the question of scale and priority. Are these efforts enough? Are they coordinated with other processes, such as ongoing work to complete the riparian rule revisions? Will these efforts meet current challenges?

Staff recommends that the Board reflect on existing efforts and choose to continue or revise its course.



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Forest fragmentation and working forests

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
104	Strengthen Working Forest Policy	Rex Storm
<i>Staff Comment</i>	Please see analysis at issue 92	
134	Ecosystem Services	Adam Novick
<i>Staff Comment</i>	There are four issues identified -- Ecosystem Services (134), Conservation Banking (135), Conservation Markets (136) and Conservation Incentives (137). The four are closely related and overlap in scope.	
	<p>The issues raised by Mr. Novick point to the need for the Board to think through potential unintended consequences of actions that seek to support a conservation goal or outcome by increasing the regulation of species, even when such regulation is the basis for actions considered to be market- or incentive-based.</p> <p>In general, Board action along these lines is currently being addressed in the Forest Regulation and Forest Vitality workplans. The emphasis on ecosystem services, conservation banking, conservation markets and conservation incentives cements the inclusion of this issue (should it be adopted as a key issue) in the Forest Vitality workplan, since the overall goal of this workplan is to create the right policy environment and package of markets, incentives or rewards to encourage willing investments in forestland for forestry purposes (including conservation) so as to maintain the forest land base.</p> <p>Mr. Novick cautions government to think through the unintended consequences of taking regulatory, as well as market based incentives dependent on a regulatory trigger, directed at private landowners to achieve conservation goals.</p> <p>The challenge is to avoid regulation that deters positive conservation action. Why would a private landowner take positive action to restore, maintain or otherwise develop habitat for a species subject to regulatory protection when the landowner's success (the habitat is good enough to invite the regulated species onto their land) ends up causing them to lose money or otherwise restricts their economic opportunity due to regulatory restrictions to protect the species?</p> <p>The pitfall or gap with non-market based incentives (voluntary action, financial and technical assistance) is to avoid encouraging the landowner to take positive conservation action that only ultimately makes them subject to regulation.</p>	
135	Conservation Banking	Adam Novick
<i>Staff Comment</i>	See analysis at issue 134	
136	Conservation Markets	Adam Novick
<i>Staff Comment</i>	See analysis at issue 134	
137	Conservation Incentives	Adam Novick
<i>Staff Comment</i>	See analysis at issue 134	
146	Land Acquisition through Bond Measures	Ivan Maluski

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Forest fragmentation and working forests

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
161	Conversion	Brett Brownscombe
<p><i>Staff Comment</i> The Board's Forest Vitality work plan Objective Three, Keeping Working Forests Working, is examining ways to keep forestland as working forests. Chapter 530 of the Oregon Revised Statutes establishes the Board's authorities for acquisition and sets out how revenues derived from state-owned forestlands will be used. The work plan is also examining additional ways to fund acquisitions that may be made and added to Board of Forestry forestlands. This work will also include discussions/work to help identify broadly the State's goals, resources and legal authorities for acquiring such lands.</p> <p><i>Staff Comment</i> Please see analysis at issue 92</p>		

Forest practices

1b New Topic: Incorporate Input Into Existing Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
4	Consider benefits of longer rotations	Tom Bender
<p><i>Staff Comment</i> This submission outlines the possible economic, social, and environmental benefits that longer rotations could provide for private landowners and the public. The paper details how current focus on present net value and shortage of data lead land managers to forgo the increased volume (ft³/acre/year) in favor of higher returns on investment.</p> <p>Holding stands to longer rotations would increase the volume produced by Oregon's forestland, decrease the investment in silvicultural practices (planting, site prep, herbicide applications etc), and provide a wide range of benefits that mature forests provide (volume, recreational, fish and wildlife habitat, other). Forest practices regulations are suggested as a way to require long (and more productive) rotations, freeing company managers of that decision.</p> <p>This topic best fits with ecosystem services as part of the discussion of how to achieve these services from private forestlands. The other interest groups that submitted topics saw incentives as ways to increase these ecosystem services, this submission suggests further regulation. This idea could be added to the Forest Vitality or the Forest Regulation workplan with the ecosystem services discussion.</p>		



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Forest practices

1c New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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17	Multiple Issues	Ed Livingston
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Staff Comment This submission includes a number of topics

1. Indicator species science/ landowner financial impact: Assume this involves threatened and endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. New revisions to the Stewardship Agreement statute will authorize the Department to enter into Safe Harbor and Candidate Conservation Agreements for selected species with the USFWS. Landowners voluntarily choosing to manage consistent with these agreements will be protected from financial impacts by being allowed to harvest, even if the protected species occupies their stands. Recommend this opportunity be fully explored before, or in conjunction with any consideration for increasing regulatory requirements. This work is ongoing and will be included in future special resource site discussions.

Initial rules implementing the Stewardship Agreement Program were included under the Forest Vitality Work Plan. Recommend considering this as a new and independent issue in that plan or include this in the forest regulation workplan in the special resource site discussion.

2. Incentives vs. Regulation: Incentives and regulations are currently captured in the Forest Vitality and Forest Regulation Workplans. Carbon sequestration is Objective 5 of the vitality workplan. Incentives could also be considered and added to Objective 3 about keeping working forests working. The vitality workplan currently outlines outright purchase of working forests or conservation easements as tools to maintain working forests, however incentives could be incorporated here.

Alternatively, some of these concepts could be included in the Forest Regulation Workplan. The workplan could be renamed "Maintaining Public Benefits from private lands" or other apt name. Incentives could be added to this renamed workplan.

Revisions to the Forest Resource Trust Program and the Stewardship Agreement Program by the recently concluded legislative session are intended to revitalize both programs and make them more versatile and attractive as mechanisms for providing incentives, however funding and existing regulatory processes and systems provide significant barriers to providing meaningful incentives.

3. Enhance Service Forestry: The Department has always approached its regulatory responsibilities with an emphasis on education and assistance. The combination of the traditional Forest Practices Program and Forest Assistance Program reinforces the focus on providing assistance first and relying on enforcement authority only when voluntary efforts fail to achieve compliance with requirements. Creating viable Stewardship Agreement and Forest Resource Trust Programs are efforts to enhance service forestry independent of federal programs and funding.

4. Is there a potential seedling (nursery) problem?: The Department is currently conducting a careful review of seedling demand and availability across the state. Preliminary indications appear to show adequate sources and supplies for most of the state, with some concern for minor species, and a few locales. There are indications that private nurseries are already responding to the demand for major species in locations previously served primarily by the state forest tree nursery. The conclusion of this review is expected in fall 2007, and may contain specific recommendations for Department or Board action.

23	High Risk Landslide Areas	Tom Steinberg
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Staff Comment ORS 527.670(8) and (9) and OAR 629-674-0100 outline the process by which private parties can receive notifications for operations. 527.700 and OAR 672-0300 outline processes for stay of operations. Their concern is in relation to landslides and public safety. This issue scan submission as a result of the AGENDA ITEM 7 inadequate for today's homeowners.

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Forest practices

1c New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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Although staff are working on the landslide and public safety rules related to intermediate risk, this work is not expected to address the concerns of this submission. The concerns expressed here are not on any current workplan. There are no known changes in science or policy that would necessitate revisiting these statutes and rules at this time.

101	Private Forests Program Funding	Gary Groth
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Staff Comment This is a key component of Strategy A in the FPFO although it does not express itself fully in the workplans. Workload and new rule implementation has been the subject of Board deliberation over the last year. This remains an important topic. It could be included in the forest regulation workplan or remain outside the workplan process.

It also will figure in development of the 2009-11 budget request, which will come to the Board for approval.

108	Private Forest Program Mandates Unfunded	Rex Storm
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Staff Comment This is a key component of Strategy A in the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO), although it does not express itself fully in the workplans. Workload and new rule implementation has been the subject of Board deliberation over the last year. This remains an important topic. It could be included in the forest regulation workplan or remain outside the workplan process.

It also will figure in development of the 2009-11 budget request, which will come to the Board for approval.

118	develop incentives in Forest Regulation work plan	Jake Gibbs
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Staff Comment The Forest Regulation Workplan has relevance to this submission. Objective 1 focuses on ballot measure 37 issues and defining expectations of public benefits from private lands. Objective 3 encourages voluntary methods and incentive programs, and work has been accomplished to improve stewardship plans and to update Oregon Plan voluntary measures. The other objectives address minimizing costs from regulatory programs. This workplan still recognizes forest regulation as a cornerstone in providing the outputs and benefits from forests.

The Forest Vitality Workplan addresses carbon markets, which can be considered an incentive to keep working forests working; however this is not the key issue in this submission. Neither are objective 3, to keep working forests working through easements or purchase, or 4, market based solutions for insect and disease outbreaks.

Collectively, these workplans do not address the fundamental cultural framework of regulation vs. markets and incentives.

Forest certification and ecosystem services markets are two areas most often discussed around incentive programs; however these have not been comprehensively addressed in board work plans. They could be added to either the forest regulation workplan or the forest vitality workplan.

See issues 170, 128.

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Forest practices

1c New Topic: Staff Work-Board Action

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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173	Oregon Conservation Strategy	Bruce Campbell
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Staff
Comment

The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) is a broad strategy for the state of Oregon which establishes the basis for a common understanding of the challenges facing Oregon's fish and wildlife and provides a shared set of priorities for addressing the state's conservation needs for fish and wildlife. In this sense, the OCS fills a similar role for fish and wildlife as the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) does for Oregon's forests.

The OCS is a good companion document to the FPFO. The FPFO, under Strategy E, Action E1 describes the need for a "comprehensive, science-based, coarse-scale statewide assessment that evaluates the characteristics, conditions, and trends of native vascular plant and animal populations and habitats." It is possible that the OCS may partially or fully meet the needs of the assessment described in Action E1. More thought and discussion is needed to determine if the OCS will meet ODF's needs. The OCS also fits well with the FPFO in that it is not a regulatory document, but instead seeks to guide and promote voluntary conservation actions. This fits well with FPFO Strategy E, Action E3, which states "The board will promote a variety of non-regulatory tools, such as landowner recognition, incentives, easements, exchanges, and technical assistance to help implement the state native plant and animal habitat conservation policy".

As ORTWS mentions, ODF staff are already collaborating with ODFW and some efforts are being made to incorporate the OCS into ODF planning and policy, as appropriate. Raising awareness of the OCS throughout all levels of the agency would be beneficial, and could be accomplished through recognition by the Board of the OCS, and its complementary function with the FPFO. Perhaps the BOF could invite ODFW to give a presentation to the Board on the Strategy and invite ODFW to recommend ways that the BOF can assist in implementation of this strategy.

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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7	Buffers on Small Streams	Bhagwati Poddar
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Staff
Comment

Water protection rules, including rules for non-fishbearing streams, are on the Board's Forest Regulation workplan as Objective 2. The department has been working on revised water protection rules and voluntary recommendations for the Board of Forestry to consider and adopt. These proposed changes are based on recommendations from the Forest Practices Advisory Committee, Eastside Riparian Functions Advisory Committee, the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, and the Water Quality Sufficiency Analysis.

Considerable research and monitoring resources are also allocated towards small streams. The department is conducting the the riparian function and stream temperature project (RIPSTREAM) and has recently received funding from the legislature for an eastside monitoring project. Outside the department, other studies such as the Hinkle Creek Watershed are expanding the science in this area.

18	high landslide hazard areas	Nancy Nichols
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Staff
Comment

One of the issues in this submission is on a current workplan, others are not.

In November of 2006, the Board directed the Department to work with appropriate partners to review these landslide rules, specifically OAR 629-623-0500 & 550. This is on the workplan of a geotechnical specialist, and is under development.

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Forest practices

2 Addressed In Current Work Plan

Issue No.	Topic	Submitter
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ORS 527.670(8) and (9) and OAR 629-674-0100 outline the process by which private parties can receive notifications for operations. 527.700 and OAR 672-0300 outline processes for stay of operations. Their concern is in relation to landslides and public safety. This issue scan submission asserts that these are inadequate for today's homeowners.

This is not on any current workplan. There are no known changes in science or policy that would necessitate revisiting these statutes and rules at this time.

Department staff continue to work with counties and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to find ways to implement shared responsibility to prevent further development in locations subject to shallow rapidly moving landslides.

24	biodiversity on private lands	Lona Pierce
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Staff Comment Regarding leave tree and snag retention: ODF is aware of this issue and has begun to address it through a recent monitoring project. The monitoring project primarily evaluated rates of compliance with the Forest Practices Act leave tree and downed log retention rules (OAR 527-676). In summary, the monitoring project found that compliance rates were high. Only one of the 37 units evaluated did not have enough leave trees and downed logs to meet the requirements of OAR 527-676.

The types and characteristics of leave trees and downed logs retained were evaluated on a subset of eight of the study sites. This portion of the study did point to a potential issue with regard to few snags being retained in clearcut harvests. The report for this monitoring project is currently being completed and follow-up monitoring projects are being considered.

Ms. Pierce also indicates in her letter that there may be an issue with long-term retention of leave trees on private lands. This topic is identified as a future topic to be addressed in the report for the monitoring project described above.

We are not aware of any specific work being conducted by ODF regarding impact of vegetation control on plant diversity. However, the issue of plant diversity is addressed in the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) under Strategy E. The FPFO recognizes the importance and role of maintaining diverse native plant communities in Oregon's forests. However, the FPFO also indicates that different landowners have different roles with regards to maintaining plant diversity. On private lands, forests are managed to meet the management objectives of the private landowners, which in many cases means that the emphasis is on timber production. The Forest Practices Act provides for protection of specific areas on private lands where plant communities may be especially diverse (e.g., within riparian management areas along streams, lakes and estuaries and within significant wetlands and bogs).

26	landslide risk	Nancy Nichols
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Staff Comment Duplicate submission to IssueID 18.

88	cultivated vs. forested wetlands	Tally Patton
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Staff Comment The differentiation of cultivated wetlands is a recognized issue. This unique situation exists in the basalt formations of Klamath Lake district with unconnected wetlands that accumulate snow melt in the spring and meet wetland criteria but are used as pasture or hay ground for much of the year. Current requirements call for leaving a forested buffer around these areas which are predominantly agricultural fields. Similar conditions occur along coastal streams and rivers where associated wetlands are being grazed and farmed, but retain the qualities of moisture soils and vegetation meeting the criteria of protected wetlands.