

Agenda Item No. 3	Forest Vitality – Primary Issue 3, Intermediate Issue 2 – Federal Forestlands Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee - Final Guidance Document
Date Presented to Board:	January 7, 2009
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SUMMARY

The Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee (FFAC) was created in 2006 to assist the Board of Forestry in completing the Governor’s charge to “create a unified vision of how federal lands should contribute” to sustainability of Oregon’s forests.

The primary product of this project is a “guidance document” that articulates the state’s vision for how federal forestlands should be managed and provides recommendations for policy changes and new State of Oregon initiatives on key issues related to achieving the vision.

The purpose of this agenda item is to submit the final draft guidance document (Attachment 1) to the Board of Forestry for approval and adoption.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In October 2004, the Governor directed the Board to “create a unified vision of how federal lands should contribute” to sustainability, and to “make that vision action-oriented and comprehensive – following through to the last step, including implementation.” For this process the Governor has told the Board to “be bold, be open, and keep your eye on the big picture.”

In 2005, the Oregon Legislature, through Senate Bill 1072, gave the Board additional direction to be involved in federal forest policy, planning, and management. Working more closely on federal forest land management is also consistent with the Board’s strategic plan – the *Forestry Program for Oregon* – which promotes the sustainable management of all of Oregon’s forests.

Based on SB 1072, the Governor’s direction, and the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, Objective 2 of the Board’s Forest Vitality Work Plan established a process for developing Oregon’s vision and guiding principles for federal forestlands.

This issue was discussed in depth by the Board at the April 2006 and July 2006 meetings. The Board directed staff to develop a process including the formation of an advisory committee – made up of a broad-based group of Oregonians – to assist the Board in crafting a “guidance document” that articulates the state’s vision for how federal forestlands should be managed. The FFAC has been formed to assist the Board and will collaborate directly with the Board to finalize

this document. In addition to the Department of Forestry, other state and federal natural resource agencies are providing staff support to the FFAC. Following adoption by the Board, the guidance document will be submitted to the Governor for his review and approval.

The FFAC members were selected primarily from a list of people suggested by members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation. They were chosen to represent different points of view, areas of expertise, and major geographic areas of the state. The members include:

- Steve Hobbs – Oregon Board of Forestry
- Ken Williamson – Environmental Quality Commission
- Dan Edge – Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Steve Grasty – Harney County Judge
- Annabelle Jaramillo – Benton County Commission
- Bill Kluting – Carpenters Industrial Council
- Russ Hoeflich – The Nature Conservancy
- Ralph Bloemers – Crag Law Center
- Wade Mosby – Collins Companies
- Allyn Ford – Roseburg Forest Products
- Tim Vredenburg – Coquille Indian Tribe
- Chuck Graham – Retired Forest Supervisor

The FFAC started meeting in November 2006. In 2007 the FFAC created a vision statement and a set of goals for federal forestlands. The FFAC and Board met jointly in a workshop in June of 2007 and finalized the vision and goals.

The FFAC has held monthly meetings throughout the rest of 2007 and 2008 to discuss the problems (key issues) on federal lands and develop recommendations on actions to address those problems. The FFAC has worked collaboratively, through a neutral facilitator, by seeking scientific and public input to identify the strengths and weaknesses of today's federal forestland management approaches and emerging issues. A list of invited experts speaking at the FFAC meeting can be seen in Attachment 1. An update and progress report on the FFAC's work on identifying the "most pressing" problems was provided to the Board at its March 2008 meeting.

On June 3, 2008 a half-day facilitated workshop was held with both the FFAC and the Board attending. The overall objective of the June 3 workshop was to come to agreement on the problems, strategies to address the problems, and the actions required. An expanded outline of the guidance document, including recommendations, was discussed and agreed to at the workshop. Using the input from the workshop, the FFAC prepared a draft guidance document.

The draft guidance document was sent out for public review and comment in August. The public comments were made available to the FFAC and Board members.

The policy recommendations in the draft guidance document were discussed with the Board at the September 2008 meeting. The Board raised several substantive issues and asked staff to make changes to the guidance document to address those issues.

In October the FFAC discussed the public comments and the issues raised by the Board at the September meeting. The FFAC made additional changes and reached final consensus on the recommendations in the draft guidance document.

Selected comments were presented to the Board at its November 2008 meeting and changes to the draft guidance document to address each Board issue raised at the September meeting were discussed and approved by the Board.

The Board met in John Day on November 21 and discussed the policy recommendations with a panel of stakeholders that have experience working in local collaborative processes.

In December, the draft guidance document was sent to a professional editor. The subsequent editing changes are highlighted in Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION

Department staff recommends the Board approve the editing changes to the report, and adopt the policy recommendations in the final draft guidance document (Attachment 1).

NEXT STEPS

The project process map and milestones are shown below.

2006

- November: Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting

2007

- February: Charter finalized by Advisory Committee; brief report to the Board
- March: Draft vision developed by Advisory Committee
- May: Draft list of key issues created by the Advisory Committee
- June: Board holds workshop with Advisory Committee on vision and selected issues and, if necessary, to address any obstacles to moving forward
- June to December: Exploration of up to 10 key issues in depth, information development and gathering, presentations by technical experts, preparation of draft policy options and recommendations (one meeting, one issue per month)

2008

- January through March (one meeting per month): Continue exploration of key issues
- April: Draft policy recommendations on issues completed
- June: Board workshop on policy recommendations
- July: Advisory Committee revisions to policy recommendations based on Board review
- August: Draft guidance document prepared and sent out for public review and comment

- September: Board reviews draft guidance document and discusses potential changes
- November 7: Board reviews public comments and makes final changes to the guidance document
- November 21: One day field tour in John Day to discuss local issues and the recommendations in the guidance document with participants from the local collaborative process.
- December: Draft guidance document professionally edited

2009

- January: Board reviews final changes, adopts guidance document and sends to Governor for approval

ATTACHMENT

(1) Draft guidance document: Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands