

Board of Forestry Agenda Item 3: Invasive Species Work Plan September 3, 2008

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- 1) April 2008: Board of Forestry approved Work Plan for Issue #8 Invasive Species
 - a) **Objective 1: Review strategies and actions of BOF, others (Attachments 1 and 2)**
 - b) Objective 2: Review BOF-related statutes, rules, and voluntary measures
 - c) Objective 3: Review and approve strategic plan for invasive species management in Oregon's forests.
- 2) Update
 - a) ODF is writing a letter supporting The Nature Conservancy's efforts to encourage the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to complete rulemaking on importation of live plant materials that may host dangerous pests.
 - b) Comments from the Southern and Northwest Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee June 2008 meetings are summarized on page 2 of this sheet.
 - c) July 22, 2008 Oregon Invasive Species Summit
 - i) Government leader information and brainstorm session
 - ii) Result: Improvements needed in statewide coordination, funding, overall policy, public awareness, and research and monitoring.
 - iii) OISC working with Governor's office to frame next steps
 - d) Oregon Board of Agriculture declaration supports the Oregon Invasive Species Council and programs protecting agriculture from invasive species.
 - e) Update to Attachment 1: Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council include invasive species management measures.
- 3) Board of Forestry Decision Point for Objective 1 (Option 2 is revised from what was in the Agenda Item 8 staff report for July 24, 2008).
 - a) Option 1: Determine current FPFO direction is satisfactory. Direct staff to begin work on Objective 2. A revised timeline would be needed.
 - b) Option 2: Move the review of the Board's invasive species policy in the FPFO to the upcoming development of the 2011 FPFO. Conduct the review of statutes and actions after the 2011 FPFO is complete. The department would continue current activities based on Strategy F and Action F.3.

Summary of Comments from Southern and Northwest Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committees

(From meetings held June 25, 2008 and June 27, 2008, respectively)

As of the date of this writing, neither of the committees has provided unified committee recommendations. Therefore, the following is a summary of individual comments from members of the committee and attending members of the public.

- Focus on invasive species spread vectors. Logging equipment may be one vector for invasive plants, and equipment cleaning might help, but there are many other vectors to consider, including ornamental plantings.
- Control programs must be multiple-agency and multiple-landowner, since the invading species do not respect ownership boundaries. Also, cooperative projects might help convince some landowners that herbicides are acceptable weed control tools when used properly.
- ODOT and county rights of way are vectors for invasive plants. Better control is needed.
- Feral swine are causing problems in southern Oregon. They are scary.
- Seed used for soil stabilization on road cutbanks, etc. comes from the valley, bringing the valley weeds into the forest.
- Associated Oregon Loggers and Plum Creek Timber Company have jointly developed and distributed a brochure intended to help operators avoid spreading invasive shrubs.
- What ODF does should not be regulatory, but should help landowners. Current notification, written plan, and water protection rules for herbicide use when controlling noxious weeds on forestland can be a disincentive for landowners.
[Note: ODF plans to consider this issue within the context of existing rule; ODF will bring the discussion to the Board if Board policy decisions are needed.]
- Provide information on current regulations and allowances for alternate practices, etc. when controlling invasive plants.
- ODF should support voluntary measures and let others know what forest landowners are doing. The program could be similar to what is being done for the Oregon Plan forestry measures, including a guide to potential voluntary measures.
- All control tools, including herbicides, are needed. Do not further restrict available tools.
- Realize that there have been some successes.
- Planning processes may be needed, but focus also on what can be done now. One example would be controlling invasive plants in gravel stockpiles to avoid spread of the plants and seeds with the rock.
- Provide weed identification materials to landowners.