

Agenda Item No.:	K
Work Plan Title & #:	State Forests Management – Issue 2
Objective # & Title	Objective 4 –Land Acquisitions, Exchanges, and Decertifications
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2009
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**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board the opportunity to review the North Cascade District Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan, prior to its approval by the State Forester. This Board level review is required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR).

**CONTEXT**

At the March 2007 Board meeting, staff updated the Board on future steps to be taken by the State Forests Division concerning land acquisitions and exchanges. Staff discussed that in the short term, the Board would be presented, likely through consent agendas, with updated district long-range acquisition and exchange plans. After Board review, the State Forester is expected to approve the plan.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

As required in OAR 629-033-0015, each district is to prepare a long-range acquisition and exchange plan which outlines the key parcels proposed for exchange or acquisition within that district. The plan is to describe how it aligns with ORS 530.010 and 530.040, and approved forest management plans, and furthers the objectives of achieving greatest permanent value as defined in OAR 629-035-0020. The OAR also requires that the plans be reviewed by the Board prior to approval by the State Forester.

The North Cascade District plan aligns with the above-described statutes and rules by identifying parcels for acquisition or exchange that would result in a consolidated, more efficiently managed land base. Exchanging isolated parcels of land would improve recreational opportunities for the public, reduce surveying workloads, minimize operational conflicts, create more natural and environmental operational boundaries, eliminate unnecessary roads, and provide other benefits that improve the efficiency of land management.

The North Cascade District Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan (Attachment 1) has been reviewed by program staff as well as Department of State Lands (DSL) staff. Since the plan includes Common School Forest Land parcels, DSL staff reviewed the plan to ensure alignment with DSL's approved *Asset Management Plan 2006-2016*.

The Department also has responsibility under the Common School Forest Land Management Agreement with DSL to plan and carry out a land acquisition, disposal and exchange program in accordance with the Asset Management Plan or the Land Board's policies. This plan reflects the input and revisions received from the DSL.

The purpose of the plan is to provide an overall strategy for conducting land acquisitions and exchanges which would improve the management effectiveness for the Department and adjacent landowners. Individual acquisition and exchange proposals shall involve a detailed analysis of the benefits that would be achieved as well as the necessary assessments to determine whether the acquisition or exchange would further the objectives of achieving greatest permanent value. As acquisition and exchange proposals are developed, Board review and approval of the proposals will be obtained in accordance with policy and procedures. These proposals will be presented to the Board in context with district acquisition and exchange plans.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board review the North Cascade District Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan prior to its approval by the State Forester.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The North Cascade District will proceed with priority land transactions, such as exchanges where willing partners are ready. As specific proposals are pursued, the Department will present, when needed, approval in concept documents to the Board for approval to proceed. At that time, the Department will present the proposal to the Board in context with the district long-range acquisition and exchange plan.

As other district acquisition and exchange plans are updated, they will be presented to the Board for review.

### **ATTACHMENT**

- (1) North Cascade District Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan