

Agenda Item No.: 4
Work Plan Title & #: Forest Vitality – Issue 3 and Forest Regulation – Issue 6
Presentation Title: Committee for Family Forestlands – Update
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Contact Information: Dr. Craig Shinn, Chair, Committee for Family Forestlands
503-725-8220 shinnc@pdx.edu
Gary Springer, Vice-Chair, Committee for Family Forestlands
541-929-2477 springer@starkerforests.com
Peter Daugherty, Deputy Chief, Private Forests Division
503-945-7482 pdaugherty@odf.state.or.us

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on activities of the Committee for Family Forestlands, discuss progress on key issues, and make recommendations on direction of the Private Forests program.

CONTEXT

The *Forestry Program for Oregon* highlights the importance of Oregon's diverse forest ownerships and their varied management objectives to help ensure that the environmental, economic, and social values Oregonians want from our public and private forests are sustainable. The Board's vision in the *Forestry Program for Oregon* is to "encourage public and private landowners to continue to willingly make investments to create economically and environmentally healthy forests (based on Board of Forestry Vision Statement #2.). The *Forestry Program for Oregon* also recognizes in Action B.4 that "The Board will continue to assess the unique challenges and opportunities facing family forest landowners and promote policies that encourage continued retention of, and investment in, family-owned forestlands." The Forest Vitality Work Plan is directed at ensuring the continued vitality of Oregon forests and forest landowners and includes specific objectives related to family forestlands. The Forest Regulation work plan includes Objective 3: "Develop and encourage the use of voluntary methods, such as landowner incentives, to achieve public policy goals on private forestlands..."

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At its September 2007 meeting, the Board directed the Department to include the issues and actions recommended by the Family Forestlands Symposium report into the annual issues scan process and to continue to work with the Committee for Family Forestlands to communicate progress on these efforts to family forestland owners.

The Symposium Report articulates a desire on the part of family forest landowners to sustain their management through capturing additional value for the benefits they provide the public. The 2007 Legislative Session created or improved frameworks for supporting this desire, including changes to Stewardship Agreements, Forest Resource Trust, and Forest Legacy. Work on ecosystem service markets and conservation easements are underway and offer some hope to create additional value for family forests.

The Symposium Report also expresses family forestland owner needs regarding state inheritance tax reforms, land-use planning revisions and the improvement of relations with neighboring federal forestlands. Improving timber outputs from federal lands has also become a critical need to maintain milling infrastructure in some regions of the state and was expressed at the symposium.

The roles of the Committee for Family Forestlands and the Department will vary depending on the Symposium Reports recommendations. In most instances, those roles will entail working in partnership with other entities such as the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Ecotrust, the Big Look Committee and the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee.

The Board's work plans do not fully encompass the scope of current activities, the full context of the recommendations and findings of the Symposium, or the various roles of the Department and Committee for Family Forestlands.

The Committee for Family Forestlands will present its update on activity and specific recommendations at the Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee for Family Forestlands recommends the Board direct the Department to address family forestland issues raised by the symposium, issue scan, and Committee for Family Forestlands report in the revision of the Private Forests work plan.