

Agenda Item No:	C
Issue # and Title:	Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan 5, IBI 1
Presentation Title:	Institute for Natural Resources White Papers on Ecosystem Dynamics
Date of Presentation:	July 31, 2009
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## SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board of Forestry with an update on implementation of its Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan and plans for a Board-hosted September 8, 2009 Summit Policy Workshop on this topic.

## CONTEXT

The goal of the Board's Dynamic Forest Ecosystem Work Plan is to promote the science, information acquisition, and analysis systems that are essential for developing sound natural resource policies that sustain and enhance the health of Oregon's forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds within a context of natural disturbance and active management (based on *Forestry Program for Oregon* Strategy F.)

In late 2007, the Department of Forestry entered into an agreement with the Oregon Institute for Natural Resources (INR) to conduct an *Ecosystems Dynamics Policy Study*. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality also assisted in planning this work.

Through the development of a synthesis paper, INR examined experiences with various approaches to integrating ecosystem dynamics science into forest management in order to identify successes, drawbacks, and unintended consequences. Through four public seminars conducted in the winter and spring of 2009, the INR scientists presented research findings relevant to framing forest management policies that embody current understanding of forest ecosystem dynamics.

The following INR Study products are available for Board and public review:

- A research synthesis paper titled, *Nonequilibrium Ecosystem Dynamics: Management Implications for Oregon*. Available on-line at:  
[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE\\_PLANNING/docs/NonequilibriumEcosystemDynamics.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/docs/NonequilibriumEcosystemDynamics.pdf)
- Four separate white papers summarizing the discussion and recommendations from each of four public seminars conducted between February and May 2009.

1. February 17, 2009 on the management of aquatic systems in an ecosystems dynamics framework.
2. March 13, 2009 on the management of fire and fuels in an ecosystems dynamics framework.
3. April 16, 2009 on managing for climate change in an ecosystems dynamics framework.
4. May 21, 2009 on protection strategies in an ecosystems dynamics framework.

## **NEXT STEPS**

On the afternoon of Tuesday, September 8, 2009, the Board of Forestry is asked to host a Summit Policy Workshop in conjunction with its regular September business meeting. The purpose of the workshop will be to consider the collective wisdom that has emerged from the INR synthesis paper, the four seminars, and the subsequent on-line discussions. Participants will also be asked to consider future policy frameworks for addressing the management of dynamic forest landscapes. Specific policy change options for Department of Forestry programs may be presented and discussed. In addition to the Board of Forestry, other state natural resource board and commission members, state and federal natural resource executives, tribal representatives, forest landowner representatives, forestry interest group representatives, and forest scientists will be invited.

Following the Summit Policy Workshop, INR will produce a final report.

Recommended final steps of the Board's Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan are to

- Use the 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon* as the mechanism to incorporate the knowledge gained through the INR project in developing and promoting Board of Forestry objectives in the context of the current understanding of multi-scale forest ecosystem dynamics.
- Based on the adopted 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon*, perform an evaluation of existing forest protection and management frameworks to identify needed modifications in specific policies and programs to be more consistent with current scientific understanding of forest ecosystem dynamics.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Four White Papers drafted by the Institute for Natural Resources containing recommendations from each of the four seminars.**

1. Management of stream systems in an ecosystem dynamics framework. February 17, 2009 seminar.
2. Management of fire and fuels in an ecosystem dynamics framework. March 13, 2009 seminar.
3. Managing for climate change in an ecosystem dynamics framework. April 16, 2009 seminar.
4. Protection strategies in an ecosystem dynamics framework. May 21, 2009 seminar.