

Agenda Item No. 1	Forest Vitality – Issue 3 , Objective 2 – Federal Forestlands Joint Meeting - Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee and Board of Forestry
Date of Presented to Board:	June 3, 2008
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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 purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for the Board and the FFAC to discuss the work of the committee. Coordination between the FFAC and Board is critical to achieving the project’s goals.

The June 3, 2008 meeting will be a half-day facilitated workshop with the FFAC and the Board attending. The overall objective of the June 3 workshop is to come to agreement on the problems, strategies to address the problems, and the actions required.

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 greater 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 with 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

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

The FFAC started meeting in November 2006. In 2007 the FFAC created a vision statement and 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. An update and progress report on the FFAC's work on the "most pressing" problems was provided to the Board at its March 2008 meeting.

The guidance document is intended to be used to articulate Oregon's interests at the national policy level and to guide the state's participation in local processes for planning the future of federal forestlands. It will include a vision for how federal forestlands can better contribute and support Oregonians' economic, social, and environmental values, a set of goals that will support review of federal forestland management related to the state's vision, and recommendations for policy changes and new State initiatives on key issues related to achieving the vision.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Coordination and exchange of views between the FFAC and the Board are critical to the success of this project. The FFAC is working through a consensus-based process. The strongest recommendations in the guidance document will be those that have the full consensus of both FFAC members and the Board.

At the June 3, 2008 workshop, the FFAC and Board will discuss a list of questions prepared by the FFAC (Attachment 1). The questions are intended to illuminate the problems that the FFAC has been discussing and get both groups engaged in conferring about alternative solutions. Discussions of the questions will help strengthen the coordination and understanding of each group.

The FFAC will present and discuss an outline of the draft guidance document with the Board (Attachment 2). The FFAC has identified seven interrelated problems that they feel are reducing the ability of federal forestlands in Oregon to contribute a full range of sustainable forest values. Three of these are Problems of Place. These are the most important and immediate issues to solve on federal lands. The FFAC has also identified four Overarching Problems that are affecting the ability to make decisions, resolve conflicts, and implement projects on the ground to address problems of place. The primary task at the workshop will be to discuss the FFAC's strategy for addressing these problems and reach agreement on the actions that are needed to solve them.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the decisions at this workshop, the FFAC will continue working on the guidance document and present a completed draft to the Board at its September 2008 meeting. The draft will be sent out for public review and comment in August and those comments will be presented

to the Board at its November 2008 meeting. The FFAC will make final changes to the guidance document based on the November discussions, and present a final document to the Board for approval at its January 2009 meeting.

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 State Guidance Document prepared and sent out for public review and comment
- September: Board reviews Draft State Guidance and discusses potential changes
- November: Board reviews public comments and finalizes Guidance Document

2009

- January: Board adopts State Guidance Document and sends to Governor for approval

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Expanded Outline: Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands
- (2) Discussion Questions