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| Agenda Item No.:      | B   |
| Work Plan Title & #:  | State Forest Management – Issue 2   |
| Objective # & Title:  | Objective 1 – Adapting the FMP  |
| Presentation Title:   | Program Response to Recreation Assessment   |
| Date of Presentation: | June 4, 2008  |
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## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board with a status report on the feedback received from external stakeholders from a review of the draft action plan. The draft action plan was developed by the agency to respond to the findings in the Second Party Assessment of recreation management on state forests in northwest Oregon prepared by David Reed and Associates in 2007.

## **CONTEXT**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Party Assessment report prepared by David Reed and Associates was completed and delivered to the Department in May 2007. This assessment and the program's follow-up work contribute to ongoing adaptive management efforts related to implementation of the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan.

The Board adopted performance measures and targets for the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests in November 2007. Performance measure #7 related to recreation, referred to the results of 2<sup>nd</sup> Party Recreation Program Assessment Follow-Up Project as part of the information that would help inform the Board as they consider improvements to the performance measures.

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

In the fall 2007, a Project Team comprised of field level recreation managers and Program staff was created to review the findings and conclusions in the report, and prepare an action plan for addressing key issues. At the Board's March 2008 meeting, staff reported on our plan to review a draft of this action plan with key external stakeholders.

Following the March Board meeting, the review draft of the action plan was shared with the State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) at their March meeting, and feedback was received from SFAC at their April 4 meeting. The review draft was also distributed to the recreation user advisory committees for the Clatsop, Santiam and Tillamook State Forests, and made available to other interested parties through the agency web site.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the comments on the draft action plan received from external stakeholders as of the first of May. Still pending is a follow-up meeting with the Tillamook Recreation Advisory Committee on May 15 and the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee meeting on June 26. The Department is also including information on the draft action plan in the summer edition of the *Forests for Oregon* publication, which may result in additional interest and comments from public stakeholders.

Feedback from the SFAC at their April meeting was largely very supportive of the action plan as developed to date, and validated the key categories and focal areas as capturing and responding to the findings in the original assessment. The need for updating strategic direction for the overall program, updating recreation management plans, and implementing more consistent standards and processes in administration of the program were all important issue for SFAC members.

The Project Team assigned to develop the action plan will be completing its work in the coming month. The Program is in the process of evaluating the priorities for action item implementation in light of current revenue projections and fiscal year budget limitations for 2009. It is still our hope that we can begin implementing the first three steps of the strategic visioning process recommended in the original assessment report, and described in the action plan, to provide information for the Board's performance measure review in the fall of 2008. Briefly, these three steps include: (1) Developing the context for a strategic direction discussion; (2) developing agreement on core recreation management values for state forest management; and, (3) developing a strategic vision and direction for recreation management.

The Program also intends to move forward with action items in the plan that can be accomplished through agency work groups utilizing existing staff. This will include several of the forest-level planning efforts identified, the completion of standards manuals for infrastructure development and maintenance, a number of action items related to workforce management issues, and several key action items in the business management area. Taken together, these action items will go a long way toward addressing key inconsistencies and inefficiencies identified in the assessment.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Board will receive updates on this work within the context of the State Forests Performance Measure Report in November 2008.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) Summary of External Stakeholder Feedback on the Draft Action Plan for Addressing Findings and Recommendations in the Recreation Management Assessment (David Reed and Associates Report, May 2007)