

Agenda Item No:	5
Title and # of Issue:	Forest Vitality – Issue 3 Objective 2 – Federal Forestlands
Date of Presented to Board:	March 7, 2007
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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.

Staff will provide background information from survey research on what Oregonians’ value from their forests, and information on the current conditions and trends of forest resources that provide those values. The Board will have an opportunity to discuss the current work of the FFAC on developing the Oregon vision.

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 sustainable policy development for all of Oregon’s forests. Based on SB 1072 and the Governor’s direction, 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 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 forest lands. 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 on key issues related to achieving the vision.

BACKGROUND

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 the FFAC members and the Board. Discussions at the March 7, 2007 Board meeting will help strengthen the coordination and understanding of each group.

The subcommittee has been trying to include the following concepts in a short concise vision statement:

- heritage and honoring the past
- stewardship and responsibility
- active management
- managing for sustainability
- scientific understanding and credibility
- connection of people with the land
- material and spiritual well-being
- healthy fish and wildlife
- healthy communities
- future generations

The following draft vision was the result of the subcommittee's work:

Oregon's forests are a legacy, a resource and a refuge, loved and celebrated by our citizens, inhabited and nourished by thriving fish and wildlife, and managed with humility, wisdom and resourcefulness to sustain the health and well-being of present and future generations.

While the full committee felt there was value and promise in the above vision statement, they also expressed a desire for having more specific recognition of some of the concepts articulated in the vision. An FFAC subcommittee was charged to revise the draft vision based on discussions at the February 5, 2007 meeting.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

At the March 7, 2007 Board meeting, staff will provide a summary of key background information already provided to the FFAC on survey research about public values on forestland and the current situation of forest resources within the context of those values.

Members of the FFAC will also discuss their current work on developing the vision statement with the Board members. At the February 5, 2007 FFAC meeting, a subcommittee presented a draft vision statement for consideration and discussion by the full committee.

The March 7 meeting will provide the Board with an opportunity to discuss their values with some of the FFAC members and provide input that can be taken back to the full committee.

NEXT STEPS

The Board and FFAC will hold a joint workshop on June 5, 2007 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to discuss the vision for federal forestlands in Oregon and the list of issues that need to be addressed to achieve that vision. The FFAC will continue to meet monthly to achieve the milestones set out in Attachment 1.

GUIDE TO ATTACHED DOCUMENT

- 1) The Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee (FFAC) Project Process Milestones