

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	4
Title of Issue:	State Forests Management Work Plan 2, IBI 0
Presentation Title	<u>Draft Work Plan Review</u>
Date of Presentation:	March 4, 2009
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SUMMARY

This agenda item provides a draft of the State Forests Work Plan. The draft contains a summary of current issues and a recommended approach for moving forward Board clarification and prioritization of State Forest policies that improve forest management through an adaptive management approach (Attachment 1). The Department recommends Board approval of this work plan, contingent upon any amendments requested as a result of Board discussion.

CONTEXT

At the November 2008 Board meeting, the Board directed the Department to develop a draft 2009 work plan. Board guidance included: 1) Incorporate Board direction related to the ongoing work on Adapting Forest Management Plans through the development and application of State Forest Performance Measures and 2) Incorporate the continuous improvement concepts presented by the Department. Since that meeting the Department has developed a draft work plan that includes these items and evolves other incomplete 2008 issues. The Board work plan has also been restructured and reformatted to incorporate the feedback from the Board's subcommittee work that reviewed work plans.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Strategy E.4 of *Forestry Program for Oregon* identifies Board policy on state forests as, "The board will support continued active management of Oregon's state forests through the use of structure-based management combined with ongoing science-based implementation monitoring and evaluation." This is reflected in the draft 2009 *State Forest Work Plan* "primary issue." In the work plan primary issue, science-based implementation monitoring and evaluation is replaced with the overarching concept of adaptive management. The focus is taken off of "structure-based management" because the Board has explored alternatives to structure based management and Board of Forestry lands are managed under four approved management plans.

The primary issue of this work plan is the following:

How will the Board use an adaptive management approach to inform current State Forests Division policy decisions at the statutory, administrative rule, and *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategic plan level?

The intermediate board issues included in this work plan represents policy-level matters that will inform management improvements. This work plan update incorporates the following new or revised “Intermediate Board Issues” relative to State Forests’ management:

- Improve the Board’s Performance Measures for the State Forests Division.
- Improve the Northwest Oregon Forest Management Plan to achieve desired outcomes.
- Consider and approve the Elliott State Forest’s revised Management Plan and Federal Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Reaffirm the Board’s vision for recreation on its forestlands.
- Assess the review framework (adaptive management) for State Forests.
- Review and/or approve Land Acquisition and Exchange Plans or Proposals.
- Evaluate opportunities for improving economic performance on Board of Forestry forestlands.

Each “Intermediate Board Issue” will require Board action or decision, based on tasks carried out principally at the staff level (details spelled out in the “Research and Information Needed” section of the work plan). The anticipated outcomes are expressed in the “Board Products” section of each “intermediate board issue.”

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends Board approval of the work plan, contingent upon incorporation of amendments requested as a result of Board discussion at the March meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will amend the work plan consistent with Board direction obtained at this meeting, and implement the work plan consistent with activities described in the *Timeframe and Milestones* sections. Attachment 2, a matrix that outlines the timeframes associated with the draft plan, will also be updated accordingly.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Draft Board of Forestry Work Plan – Issue #2: State Forests
- (2) Draft Work Plan Matrix identifying “Intermediate Board Issues”
- (3) Document describing “possible improvements” to Board performance measures for State Forests related to Intermediate Board Issue #5