

Oregon Department of Forestry
FMP Planning and Decision-making Framework
Overview

October 2007

In March 2007 the Board of Forestry adopted nine performance measures to be used as the mechanism to set policy direction specific to ensuring the achievement of Greatest Permanent Value (OAR 635-035-0020). Currently a two-year review cycle for these performance measures is proposed, intended to facilitate a more “continuous improvement” approach towards State Forests management, and aligned with the adaptive management concept articulated in administrative rule. To ensure the success of State Forests performance measures, the FMP planning and decision-making framework will need to be able to adjust and respond in a timely and thoughtful manner. The Department has submitted this issue into the current Board of Forestry issue scan for incorporation into the updated 2008 State Forests work plan.

This re-examination of the current framework will result in the development of a proposal to bring forward to the Board with the following objectives:

- A framework that allows for an evaluation of the management plans to occur in a timely, transparent, and predictable way, and can make adjustments as needed;
- A framework that clearly defines decision making authorities and levels associated with the review of both performance measure and program information;
- A framework that is legally sound and defensible, and also provides administrative flexibility so that there is a good balance between stability and responsiveness (ex. ORS 527.714); and
- A framework that describes the relationship between the (biennial) BOF performance measure review and the program adaptive management processes.

A functional planning and decision-making framework is essential as the Board begins its two-year review of State Forests performance measures. These biennial reviews will ensure regular touch-points on the measures and associated targets, and on-going opportunities to assess both the achievability of the targets, as well as progress being made. The two-year reviews will also allow the Board to review the status of information developed relative to the management of State forestlands (research, monitoring, and other information gathering activities specific to State Forests or broadly available from the scientific community). The department will be interacting with the Board in the coming months, consistent with direction provided as a result of the issue scan review, to better clarify the timeline and work plan specific to this effort. The department anticipates completing this re-examination effort and bringing forward recommendations to the Board by the fall of 2008.