

Agenda Item No:	1
Title of Issue:	State Forests Management – Issue 2 Objective #1 – Adapting the Forest Management Plans, Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests Strategies for the Achievement of the Performance Measures
Date of Presentation:	November 6, 2008
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to explain the results of the efforts to develop strategies for the achievement of the Board of Forestry Performance Measures on the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests. This agenda item will provide the Board the opportunity to direct the Department to:

- Implement strategies to meet the targets or a revised set of targets.
- If necessary, initiate a FMP amendment process consistent with administrative procedures for rule change.
- Implement a conceptual plan of action for continuous improvement (Elements include: revising the Board and Department Work Plans to focus on key questions and initiatives, PM improvements, acquisition of data and/or improved analytical tools, and process improvements.)

The reports associated with this agenda item include a description of the models used and their assumptions (Attachment 4), model results and assessment of meeting performance measure targets (Attachment 5), assessment of model runs on native fish and wildlife (Attachment 6), and individual district model results (Attachment 7). Work continues on this project and more information, including a recommendation and continuous improvement plan will be provided prior to the November 6, 2008 Board meeting (Attachment 8).

CONTEXT

At its June 2004 meeting, the Board adopted a 'continuous improvement' approach for State Forests. This approach consists of a process of ongoing review rather than at least every 10 years as identified in the Forest Management Plan (FMP). A platform for this ongoing review is a set of Performance Measures (PMs) that better clarify the Board's expectation for achieving Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) as defined in ORS 530 and OAR 629.

At the March 2007 meeting, the Board adopted nine PMs that will provide periodic information on the outcomes resulting from State Forest management. When the PMs were adopted, it was understood and anticipated that further improvements would be made to the PMs over time as new or improved information became available. The Department provided the Board with the first report on the PMs at the June 2007 meeting. Subsequent PM Reports are scheduled to occur on a biennial basis beginning in November 2008.

During the November 2007 meeting, the Board discussed PM targets specific to the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests. Staff analysis of a range of potential forest management outputs in revenue and structure provided the basis for the Board discussion around quantitative targets for revenue and structure. The ranges presented were a result of previous model runs from the *Harvest & Habitat Model Project Final Report 2006* and subsequent model runs requested by the Board. The Board adopted quantitative targets for PM 3 – Financial Contributions to Government Services, and PM 6 – Wildlife Habitat, and set qualitative targets for six other PMs. The Board then directed the Department to develop a management approach and strategies for these two forests that would achieve the PM targets. The Board adopted a quantitative target for PM 5 – Forest Road Risk and Fish Habitat at its January 2008 meeting.

ANALYSIS

The current FMP as implemented on the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests does not achieve all the PM targets established by the Board in November 2007. The Department has developed and analyzed alternative approaches and associated strategies that strive to achieve all nine of the PMs in the context of GPV.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Harvest & Habitat Model (H&H) developed by Dr. John Sessions, Professor of Forest Engineering at Oregon State University was used as one of the primary tools to conduct this analysis. This model allows exploration of options for specified forest stand structures (habitat) and optimal timber harvest outputs.

At the November 6 Board meeting staff will present to the Board the following: a report on the process used to conduct the analysis; discussion of input received from public, stakeholders, or workgroups, including how the input was addressed; and the findings and conclusions from the analysis.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

To date, two scenarios for the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests have been modeled. The first scenario makes use of the strategies contained in the *Northwest Oregon State FMP* coupled with the existing landscape designs for developing complex forest structures from the approved district Implementation Plans (IP). This represents a "base case" scenario, which is a possible outcome of continued implementation of the existing FMP. This base case assumes that Federal Endangered Species Act compliance is achieved through application of State Forests' take-avoidance policies, not the draft habitat conservation plan.

The second scenario models different feasible outcomes that could result from striving to meet the PM targets at the individual district level. This alternative includes the Astoria District, which manages the Clatsop State Forests, and the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts which manage the Tillamook State Forest. These results are presented as aggregated to the planning region (north coast) by summing the outcomes for each individual district.

¹ In practice, the draft HCP strategies have been implemented on the ground in addition to take avoidance measures, as our "species of concern strategy". The modeled "base case" does not include the draft HCP strategies or substitute, and in this respect, differs from our current management approach.

Together these two scenarios can be compared and contrasted while considering future management options. Two additional scenarios to meet the performance measure targets using different landscape design scales may be completed prior to the November Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

A Department set of options and recommendation(s), for the Board to consider in making improvements to the *Northwest Oregon State FMP*, will be developed by the Department and distributed prior to the November 6, 2008 Board meeting. The recommendation will include a plan of action for advancing the goal of continuous improvement and answering questions that are important to successful management to achieve GPV.

NEXT STEPS

January 2009: The Board will review a draft 2009 work plan for State Forests Management. The draft plan will include objectives to address PM improvements, Forest Management Plan improvements, adaptive management (key questions that need to be addressed through research and monitoring), process improvements, and land transactions.

March 2009: The Board may approve the updated State Forests work plan and the Board will receive a report from the Department on actions or plans that have resulted from the direction provided at the November 2008 Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1-3) Refer to Agenda Item 1, Performance Measure Staff Report and attachments
- (4) Model and Data Descriptions and Assumptions
- (5) Model Results and Assessment of Meeting Performance Measure Targets
- (6) Assessment of Model Runs on Native Fish and Wildlife
- (7) Individual District Model Results
- (8) Department recommendation and continuous improvement plan
(To be distributed prior to November 6, 2008 meeting)

