

Agenda Item No. 2	Forest Vitality – Issue 3, Objective 2 – Federal Forestlands Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee Draft Guidance Document
Date Presented to Board:	September 3, 2008
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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 primary product of this project will be a “guidance document” that articulates the state’s vision for how federal forestlands should be managed and provides recommendations for policy changes and new State of Oregon initiatives on key issues related to achieving the vision.

The purpose of this agenda item is to present a draft guidance document to the Board of Forestry and to identify and discuss any substantive changes that the Board needs to make to support the policy recommendations in the draft document (Attachment 1).

**BACKGROUND AND 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 additional 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 the sustainable management of all of Oregon’s forests.

Based on SB 1072, the Governor’s direction, and the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, 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 by 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 finalize this document. In addition to the Department of Forestry, other state and federal natural resource agencies are providing staff support to the FFAC. Following adoption by the Board, the guidance document will be submitted to the Governor for his review and approval.

The FFAC members were selected primarily from a list of people suggested by members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation. They were chosen to represent different points of view, areas of expertise, and major geographic areas of the state. The members include:

- Steve Hobbs – Oregon Board of Forestry
- Ken Williamson – Environmental Quality Commission
- Dan Edge – Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Steve Grasty – Harney County Judge
- Annabelle Jaramillo – Benton County Commission
- Bill Kluting – Carpenters Industrial Council
- Russ Hoeflich – The Nature Conservancy
- Ralph Bloemers – Crag Law Center
- Wade Mosby – Collins Companies
- Allyn Ford – Roseburg Forest Products
- Tim Vredenburg – Coquille Indian Tribe
- Chuck Graham – Retired Forest Supervisor

The FFAC started meeting in November 2006. In 2007 the FFAC created a vision statement and a set of goals for federal forestlands. The FFAC and Board met jointly in a workshop in June of 2007 and finalized the vision and goals.

The FFAC has held monthly meetings throughout the rest of 2007 and 2008 to discuss the problems (key issues) on federal lands and develop recommendations on actions to address those problems. The FFAC has worked collaboratively, through a neutral facilitator, by seeking scientific and public input to identify the strengths and weaknesses of today’s federal forestland management approaches and emerging issues. A list of invited experts speaking at the FFAC meeting can be seen in Attachment 2. An update and progress report on the FFAC’s work on identifying the “most pressing” problems was provided to the Board at its March 2008 meeting.

On June 3, 2008 a half-day facilitated workshop was held with both the FFAC and the Board attending. The overall objective of the June 3 workshop was to come to agreement on the problems, strategies to address the problems, and the actions required. An expanded outline of the guidance document, including recommendations, was discussed and agreed to at the workshop. Using the input from the workshop, the FFAC has prepared a draft guidance document for consideration by the Board.

The guidance document will 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

forestlands. It includes 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 and new State initiatives on key issues related to achieving the vision.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

While the FFAC has been empowered by the Board to hold hearings, take testimony, and draft recommendations for the Board to consider, ultimately, the guidance document is the Board's product and the recommendations must be supported by the Board. However, the FFAC members are a group of high level opinion leaders that can help to influence the acceptance of the recommendations among a broad range of stakeholders. The FFAC can also play an important role in implementing the recommendations. Therefore, the strongest recommendations in the guidance document will be those that have the consensus and support of both the FFAC members and the Board.

The Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee and Department staff recommends the Board approve the policy recommendations in the draft guidance document (Attachment 1) or provide specific direction on changes needed in the document to gain the Board's approval.

Staff will:

1. Discuss each of the policy recommendations in the draft guidance document with the Board,
2. Identify any substantive issues and changes desired by the Board to reach consensus with the FFAC on the recommendations, and
3. Based on Board direction, develop an explanation for any changes to the Advisory Committee's recommendations (to be provided back to the FFAC).

In this context, consensus does not necessarily mean unanimous agreement among all the Board and FFAC members. Some members may strongly endorse a particular recommendation or solution while others may accept it as a workable agreement and be willing to "live with it." This situation may still constitute consensus. Each FFAC and Board member may participate in the consensus without embracing every element of the agreement with the same fervor as other parties, or necessarily having each of his or her interests satisfied to the fullest extent.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The draft guidance document will be sent out for public review and comment in August and those comments will be presented to the Board at its November 7, 2008 meeting. The FFAC will make final changes to the guidance document based on the September and November Board discussions, and present a final document to the Board for approval at its January 7, 2009 meeting.

**The project process map and milestones are shown below.**

2006

- November: Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting

2007

- February: Charter finalized by Advisory Committee; brief report to the Board
- March: Draft vision developed by Advisory Committee
- May: Draft list of key issues created by the Advisory Committee
- June: Board holds workshop with Advisory Committee on vision and selected issues and, if necessary, to address any obstacles to moving forward
- June to December: Exploration of up to 10 key issues in depth, information development and gathering, presentations by technical experts, preparation of draft policy options and recommendations (one meeting, one issue per month)

2008

- January through March (one meeting per month): Continue exploration of key issues
- April: Draft policy recommendations on issues completed
- June: Board workshop on policy recommendations
- July: Advisory Committee revisions to policy recommendations based on Board review
- August: Draft guidance document prepared and sent out for public review and comment
- September: Board reviews draft guidance document and discusses potential changes
- November: Board reviews public comments and finalizes guidance document

2009

- January: Board adopts guidance document and sends to Governor for approval

**ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) Draft guidance document: Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands
- (2) FFAC Meeting Schedule and Speakers