

Private Forests Work Plan Outline

BACKGROUND

- Include discrete, well-defined tasks/products to be completed over a 12 to 18-month timeframe.
- Clearly connect work plan objectives to the
- Explore the diversification of ‘tools’ for preserving working forests (four-part *Forestry Program for Oregon*. framework) for meeting expectations of public benefits from private lands
 - Effective and efficient implementation of the Forest Practices Act
 - Emphasis on voluntary approaches and market-based incentives
- Apply dynamic forest ecosystem concepts
- ‘Keeping forestlands in forestland’ also addressed in the Forest Vitality work plan
- Come to closure on any outstanding issues and/or Board products from the previous “forest regulation” work plan.

GOAL

- The *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon* sets forth the Board of Forestry's current strategic vision for Oregon's forests. This vision is based on three principles:
 1. Widely recognized international criteria and indicators serve as a useful framework for discovering, discussing, and assessing the sustainability of Oregon's forests.
 2. Sustainability requires maintaining a diversity of forestland ownerships and management objectives across the landscape and through time.
 3. Cooperative, non-regulatory methods are strongly preferred in achieving public benefits on private lands.
- The *Forestry Program for Oregon* has seven key strategies (provide the framework for establishing actions and for designing and implementing agency programs: *Forestry Program for Oregon* mission, vision, values, and strategies viewed together describe the future the Board is striving to achieve.
- *Forestry Program for Oregon* actions form a pathway for achieving the Board's desired future: work both within and outside state government to implement these actions to make this desired future a reality.
- Private Forests Work Plan goal: to make progress on specific *Forestry Program for Oregon* actions relevant to private forests in Oregon, where there are current opportunities to do so given the range of current issues that exist.
- The current issues included in this work plan are organized under specific objectives that identify the *Forestry Program for Oregon* action(s) to be addressed
- Work plan issues originate from:
 1. Work still to be completed under the previous “Forest Regulation” work plan;
 2. New issues identified in the Department’s 2007 Issue Scan; or
 3. Unforeseen issues that have arisen since the 2007 Issues Scan.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: The Board will continue to assess the unique challenges and opportunities facing family forest landowners and promote policies that encourage continued retention of, and investment in, family-owned forestlands. (*Forestry Program for Oregon* key action B.4)

Current Issues:

- Family Forestland Symposium review, and Committee for Family Forestlands recommendations (of July 2008)

Objective 2: The Board will promote retention and improvement of the forestland base and long-term forest investments by landowners through Oregon's land-use and tax programs, regulations, *forest products market development, and appropriate incentives; and encourage the use of nonregulatory methods, such as landowner incentives, to achieve public-policy goals. (Forestry Program for Oregon actions C.1 and A.7—emphasis added)*

Current Issues:

- Ecosystem Services: Private Forests program is currently working on a diverse range of efforts that fit directly or indirectly under the broad umbrella of ecosystem services. Current work includes but is not limited to Stewardship Agreements, conservation easements, carbon modeling and market development, special resource sites, and forest certification. This work is being driven in-part by various *Forestry Program for Oregon* actions and current Board of Forestry work plan objectives. The Board could benefit from a review of the following:
 1. Current status of related state, national, and international initiatives.
 2. Current Department efforts related to this issue.
 3. Current related *Forestry Program for Oregon* direction, and a determination on whether or not an update to that direction is needed. This could occur in the context of preliminary work towards development of the 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Objective 3: The Board will continue to support an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act and a strong but flexible Land Use Planning Program as the cornerstones of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon; and support and contribute to continuing statewide efforts under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to protect and enhance Oregon's native fish populations and water quality, while sustaining a healthy economy. (*Forestry Program for Oregon* key actions A.1 and D.1)

Current Issues:

- Closure on outstanding FPAC recommendations: Rule Concepts 8 and 12¹:
 - Rule Concept 8—At the June 2007 Board meeting staff provided an update on the exploration of the High Aquatic Potential concept for possible application

¹ Regardless of how the Board comes to closure on these two rule concepts specifically, the broader topic of Water Protection Rule effectiveness will continue to be evaluated by the Department in the future, consistent with OAR 629-635-0110.

- techniques. Additional work was needed, with the expectation that an updated draft concept would eventually be presented to the Board for consideration.
- Rule Concept 12—At the April 2004 Board meeting staff recommended accepting draft rule language and a determination that ORS 527.714 findings and would need to be made. The recommendation was deferred and the Board directed the Department, through the Forest Regulation Work Plan, to come back to this concept after working through Rule Concept 8.
 - Finalize Board endorsement of voluntary measures for FPAC concepts recommended for voluntary implementation.
 - **Special Resource Sites—Anticipated Bald Eagle delisting:** Special Resource Sites include threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species, sensitive bird nesting, roosting and watering sites, biological sites, and significant wetlands. The Forest Practices Act currently requires the Board to collect and analyze the best available information and establish inventories of sites needing protection, determine whether forest practices conflict with such resource sites, consider the consequences of conflicting uses, and determine appropriate levels of protection. With the delisting of the Bald eagle that is likely to occur in the foreseeable future, the Board may want to consider amending special resources sites rules for this species.
 - **Pesticides:** The Department’s 2007 Issue Scan Workgroup listed pesticides as one of seven “standout issues”, though it was given a ranking of medium to low importance. Initial discussions of a third-party literature review of pesticide impacts have occurred, in conjunction with the Department’s ongoing participation in broader, interagency discussions on pesticide use statewide as requested by the Governor’s Office. If resources are made available, a third-party Systematic Evidence Review could be conducted, and be part of the work done in response to Governor Kulongoski’s direction for interagency collaboration on addressing public concerns on this issue.
 - **Landslides and Public Safety rules:** Rule revisions underway, anticipated completion date of January 2009...
 - **Hybrid Poplars:** Statutory authority granted to waive rules, 2007 session...

The following will be articulated for each of the objectives listed above:

Board Products:

Research and Information Gathering

Stakeholder/Public Involvement

Timeframe with Milestones (using the “Steps in Consensus” structure):

- Preparation Phase
- Education and Information
- Understanding and Criteria
- Options Development
- Evaluations of Options
- Integrated Agreements (Decision)

Resources Required