

Agenda Item No:	5
Work Plan Title:	Strategic Planning / Work Plan Management
Presentation Title:	Final 2015-17 Board Work Plans
Date of Presentation:	April 27, 2016
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### SUMMARY

Final work plans for the 2015-17 biennium are attached for Board approval. The work plans are intended to direct the department's work and focus our efforts on addressing the most pressing issues. Staff discussed proposed work plan items for 2015-17 with the Board at the January meeting. At the March meeting, Board members raised questions about the Private Forests work plan and asked for additional information. The work plans include specific deliverables, processes, and time lines for major issues that will be brought before the Board for decision making during this biennium.

### BACKGROUND

The work plan process is designed to create a systematic way for the Board to identify issues and set priorities that lead to specific decisions and products. The process is also designed to link with the biennial budget cycle where resources are identified for, and allocated to, department programs. The process of developing work plans provides a number of advantages including:

- Allowing staff to more efficiently allocate time among multiple demands,
- Providing the public with a better idea about when to provide input, and
- Organizing the Board's work so that it leads to specific decisions.

The steps of the work plan development process include:

**September** – Staff presents information to help the Board take stock of the current situation surrounding forest issues.

**October** – Planning Retreat – discuss work plan priorities and potential changes

**November** – Update Board's set of priority issues

**January** – Staff recommendations for changes to work plans

**March** – Board approves work plan revisions

At their March 2016 meeting, a Board member pulled the 2015-17 Board Work Plans topic from the consent agenda to discuss priorities in the Private Forests Work Plan (see Attachment 3 for the complete draft work plan). Specifically, the Board member was concerned about any plans for further inquiry or action on addressing possible riparian protection needs in the Siskiyou geographic region, since the Board excluded the region from the November 2015 riparian prescription package, and the Eastern Oregon Riparian Policy, which is on hold. Another Board member suggested that the department could begin a literature review. The Board Chair asked

the department to develop a timeline for the Eastern Oregon / Siskiyou riparian policy topic with trade-offs for other Board work and bring back to the Board in April. The following paragraph and bullets document the Board's priority set of issues for Private Forests for 2016-2017 (excerpted from Attachment 3, page 8).

Based on major issues from the 2014 Private Forests work plan, the 2015 Board retreat, and from 2015 legislative direction, the Board has indicated three main issues to focus on in 2016-17, with specific topics under each issue:

- Water Quality Topics
  - Riparian Rule Analysis on Small and Medium Fish Streams (in progress).
  - RipStream Analysis and Results (Downstream, Large wood, Riparian condition).
  - Relationship between BOF and EQC – potential joint BOF-EQC meeting on Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP).
  - *TMDL Process Review, Update of DEQ-ODF MOU (on Hold).*
  - *Eastern Oregon Riparian Policy / Non-fish Stream Riparian Policy (on Hold).*
- Forest Practices Act (FPA) Rule Policy Review
  - Specified Resource Sites Rule Making for Bald Eagles – In progress 2015-16.
  - Approach for Strategic Monitoring Update – on track for 2016.
  - *Landslides and Public Safety Rule Making Process (on Hold).*
  - *Specified Resource Sites Policy Review (on Hold).*
- Implement Legislative Direction
  - HB 3013 – Wildlife Food Plots.
  - HB 3549 – Pesticides by Aircraft Requirements.
  - HB 2984 – Urban Lumber.

## **ANALYSIS**

In order to provide effective adaptive management information to the Board for its consideration, the department needs clear direction on the specific monitoring question and the type and level of detail (monitoring or research evidence) desired to inform Board action. The Board has not yet undertaken this level of focus on this topic.

In the process of its recent western Oregon riparian rule review, the Board approved a systematic review of literature that contained primary measurements of stream temperature, riparian shade, or a proxy of the latter. Studies needed to be on streams no larger than medium streams in mountainous terrain with harvest within five years of data collection, have clearly defined and quantified prescription for riparian management, and have control sites. The search for relevant studies in the systematic review, completed in January 2013, found no relevant studies in the Siskiyou region.

With the Board's November decision not to extend the riparian rule results to the Siskiyou region, the department does not have temperature monitoring evidence related to forest practices in that region.

The department utilizes a strategic approach to monitoring to ensure efficient use of limited resources. Under Board direction, the department is updating its forest practices monitoring strategy (see Board Agenda Item 7) by developing a list of prioritized questions. We plan to present the draft strategy to the Board for review in September 2016. The monitoring strategy provides a structure for Board consideration of new monitoring topics. When considering a new topic, the Board could ask the following questions:

- 1) Does the new monitoring/science topic need to be acted upon immediately?
  - a. If yes, consider the new/proposed topic in light of other items in the Private Forests work plan (add on, delay or delete existing items).
- 2) If no, is the monitoring / science topic in the monitoring strategy?
  - a. If yes, review and update existing priorities if desired.
  - b. If no, add on and consider the need to review/update existing priorities.

The draft monitoring strategy includes unaddressed monitoring questions that relate to Eastern Oregon / Siskiyou riparian policy topic and that are supported by the report of the 2003 Eastside Riparian Functions Advisory Committee (ERFAC), including:

- What fraction of riparian areas in forest operation areas are currently on track to meet FPA riparian "desired future condition" targets?
- Are riparian buffer requirements preventing or minimizing stream sedimentation and/or meeting water quality standards and TMDL load allocations in Type F streams?
- What are the implementation rates and effectiveness (maintaining stream temperature, hydrologic, sediment, and wood routing regimes) of limited RMAs on small Type N streams?
- Are forest practice rules effectively protecting headwater (small Type N) streams such that local and downstream beneficial uses are protected?

#### Alternatives for Consideration

*Alternative 1 the Oregon / Siskiyou riparian policy topic needs to be acted upon immediately.* If the Board decides immediate action is needed, the Board could Direct the department to suspend work on one or more of the current Board topics, e.g., the ongoing RipStream Analysis and Results (Downstream, Large wood, Riparian condition) or Approach for Strategic Monitoring Update. The department would summarize existing, readily available information to assist the Board in defining / refining the monitoring question. The analysis would also discuss approaches for addressing the questions and type of monitoring or research evidence that would result from approaches. This analysis could be brought to the Board in November 2016.

*Alternative 2 the Oregon / Siskiyou riparian policy topic does not need immediate action and the planned higher priority monitoring work would proceed.* The Board decides the topic does not need immediate action, but wants to ensure the topic receives appropriate priority. The Board would use the September 2016 review of the updated monitoring strategy to set priorities for monitoring projects. This process would allow the Board to identify the highest priority questions in the context of all unaddressed monitoring topics, with stakeholder input on priorities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The department recommends that the Board select Alternative 2 and approve the Private Forests Work Plan as submitted.

The department recommends that the Board approve the remaining attached work plans.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Mid-course corrections will be made to the work plans at the October 2016 planning retreat.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2015-17 Oregon Board of Forestry Work Plan Items
2. Protection from Fire Work Plan
3. Private Forests Work Plan
4. State Forests Work Plan
5. Emerging and Overarching Issues Work Plan
6. Administrative Work Plan