

Work Plan: **State Forests**

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## **BACKGROUND**

The proposed work plan items are an evolution of important policy work that was initiated in previous years. The three proposed Board Work Plan topics are the highest priority policy level work for State Forests for 2014.

In addition, State Forests is committed to making progress on other important operational and implementation tasks and projects, such as achieving our annual objectives at the field level, implementation of High Value Conservation areas as part of our District annual operations plans, the Tillamook Forest Center exhibit refresh project, continuing our partnership with OPRD and others on the Salmonberry Rails and Trails project and continuing to invest in a few high priority research and monitoring projects like the Trask Watershed Study and a Systematic Evidence Review (SER) for marbled murrelets. The Division will plan on updating the Board on these topics throughout the year.

### **State Forests Board Work Plan Topics**

- 1) Develop an Alternative Forest Management Plan for NW State Forests
- 2) Improve State Forests Business Model and Business Practices
- 3) Complete the land acquisition for the Gilchrist State Forest

### **Goals, Public Processes, and Board Deliverables**

#### **#1: Forest Management Plan Alternatives for NW State Forests**

##### **GOALS:**

- a) Explore and develop options for management approaches that will achieve financial viability and improve conservation outcomes for State Forests in NW Oregon.
- b) Use a collaborative and transparent process with sound scientific basis to develop and analyze alternatives.

##### **PUBLIC PROCESSES:**

- a) Facilitated Stakeholder Group to identify several potential management approaches.
- b) The Department will solicit input and share status with the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC), State Forest Advisory Committee (SFAC), and through a broad public processes.

- c) Board, Subcommittee, Stakeholder Group, and standing committees all hold public meetings.
- d) Science Review completed by contractor and results are shared with the Board of Forestry or Subcommittee in public meetings.

***BOARD DELIVERABLES:***

- a) Synthesis of public processes
- b) Science review of potential management options establishes form basis of GPV findings.
- c) Board decision-Fall 2014 on desired approach for NW Forests that is financially viable, improves conservation and achieves the “greatest permanent value”.
- d) Fall 2014 begin administrative rule process for a new Forest Management Plan.
- e) Final approval of a new Forest Management Plan for NW State Forests follows the administrative rule public process.

**#2: Business Model and Business Practice Improvement**

***GOALS:***

- a) Improve the long-term financial viability of the Department’s state forest management program.
- b) Establish an appropriate balance of revenue sources and program expenditures that minimizes the fluctuation in the staffing and project expenditures required to maintain an effective program.
- c) Achieve long-term financial solvency, while increasing investments to more appropriate levels, meeting cost to revenue targets on Common School Land, and achieving Board of Forestry performance targets and revenue expectations.

***PUBLIC PROCESS:***

- a) Board of Forestry meetings and Subcommittee meetings.

***BOARD DELIVERABLES:***

- a) Quantification of opportunities for non-timber alternative revenue sources.
- b) Recommendations from Stakeholder Group regarding business model/funding changes.
- c) Budget Policy Option Package: Alternative funding sources targeted at key elements of State Forest Program.
- d) Legislative Concept(s): Clarify that the agency can sell timber in log form (log sorts) within the same statutory framework as selling timber via timber sales. Other potential legislative concepts that flow from work by the Board sub committee on Alternative Management Plans for NW Oregon.

### **#3 Complete the land acquisition for the Gilchrist State Forest**

#### **GOALS:**

- a) Conserve working forests by acquiring about 28,800 additional acres to complete the Gilchrist State Forest
- b) Generate revenue for Klamath County
- c) Provide for other social and environmental values through integrated management of these lands

#### **PUBLIC PROCESSES:**

- a) Public Hearing- held December 5, 2013 in Klamath Falls
- b) Review and approval by Klamath County- planned for January, 2014
- c) Board of Forestry meeting to consider final approval- March, 2014

#### **BOARD DELIVERABLES:**

- a) Final Approval of Gilchrist Purchase by the Board of Forestry

#### **Board Updates**

Staff will keep the Board of Forestry updated on several other key topics:

- a) *Tillamook Forest Center Refresh (TFC)*: Review and update exhibits and media at 10-yr intervals: first update will be in 2016; Ensure TFC exhibits remain accurate and relevant; Step 1: analysis of messages, audience, activities, attractions, and facilities; Step 2: prioritize recommendations for improvements; Step 3: seek funding for and implement all or portions of the “refresh”.
- b) *Salmonberry Rails and Trails*: partner with other organizations to plan for and implement portions of the trail from Banks to Tillamook.
- c) *Implementation of the High Value Conservation Area rule revision*. More clearly organize and display how portions of State Forest land are managed to emphasize conservation. Accomplish these designations through the District Annual Operations Plans.
- d) *Research and Monitoring*: New information is shared with the Board.

**Oregon Board of Forestry Work Plans  
2014 Matrix  
State Forests**

State Forests Work Plan - 2014	Board of Forestry Agenda						
	Jan	Mar	Apr	June	July	Sept	Nov
<b>Evaluating Alternative Management Plans for NW State Forests</b>							
<i>Milestones</i>							
❖ Subcommittee report to full board	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
❖ Findings from Stakeholder Group				X			
❖ Approve set of Alternatives for Science Review				X			
❖ Findings from Science Team						X	
❖ Board Decision on Desired Approach for NW Forest Management						X	
❖ Begin FMP Rule Amendment Process						X	X
<b>Explore and Refine State Forests Business Model and Business Practices</b>							
<i>Milestones</i>							
❖ Quantify Alternative Revenue Opportunities-	X						
❖ Recommendations from Stakeholder Group – Business Model				X		X	
❖ Policy Option Packages (POPs) example- funding for recreation via General Fund			X				
❖ Legislative Concepts (LCs) example- Log Sort sales	X						
<b>Complete Gilchrist Acquisition</b>							
❖ Approve Final Purchase		X					
<b>Key Issues- Board Updates</b>							
<i>Milestones</i>							
❖ Tillamook Forest Center Exhibit Refresh					X		
❖ Salmonberry Rails and Trails Project					X		
❖ High Value Conservation Areas- Implementation			X		X		
❖ Research, monitoring, and Performance Measures reports						X	
❖ Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan?					X?		
• Scoping effort with federal agencies							
• Decision on possible HCP (SLB and BOF)							
❖ Explore ESA Compliance Options, NW State Forests						X	X