

Appendix C. Public information and comments

Included below are the public participation plan, the press releases prepared for the development of this AON. A compendium of all the public comments received, through letters or emails, is available from ODF upon request.

Oregon Forest Legacy Program – Assessment of Need: Public Involvement Plan

Everything in the process of developing the Oregon Forest Legacy Assessment of Need will include as much public involvement as possible. Public participation will be sought in both the development of the plan, in review of the draft plan outline, and in the review of the draft plan. The basic process will include:

- 1) Public Notice of the AON process. ORNHP drafts and ODF sends out a press release, announcing that the AON is being developed and asking for interested parties. The press release is widely distributed.
- 2) A subcommittee of interested citizens is established to assist ODF and ORNHP in the development of the AON. This includes everyone who expressed an interest in the program.
 - a. Meetings are held irregularly, but all meetings, minutes, and decisions are developed providing information by email to all interested parties.
 - b. Any key decisions regarding potential legacy areas, criteria for selection of legacy areas or sites, data to be used in the assessment will be sent by email (or regular mail) to all interested parties.
- 3) Meet with the ODF State Stewardship Coordinating Committee, to obtain their approval of the goals, objectives and the methods used to develop the AON.
- 4) Once an initial list of potential legacy areas is developed, local leaders will be notified of the Forest Legacy Program, and visited by staff in person or over the phone to obtain local contacts, and to ascertain potential interest.
- 5) Public meetings, to review the draft AON strategy, including potential Forest Legacy Areas, and criteria to be used in selecting legacy areas, will be located throughout the state. Locations selected at the beginning of the process include:

Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, La Grande, Bend, Klamath Falls and Coos Bay.

Since there are limited threats in the Coos Bay area, and the potential legacy areas along the south coast ranked so low, we may choose to skip Coos Bay. Similarly, Klamath Falls may also be eliminated, or replaced with Tillamook or The Dalles, which remain as potential locations for potential legacy areas. The final list of proposed sites is:

Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, La Grande, Bend, Klamath Falls, and The Dalles.

At the public meetings, use forms developed by North Carolina to obtain input on potential legacy areas, boundaries, goals and objectives, and other important values. If possible, obtain input on objectives used to evaluate legacy areas, potential sites to be selected for enrollment, and to identify local partners.
- 6) Accumulate the comments from the public meetings, and develop a first-draft AON. Distribute the AON to all members of the SSCC, and the Forest Legacy subcommittee for their review.

- 7) Take the draft AON and post it on the Internet as a PDF file, on the ODF and ORNHP web pages, and send out a final news release indicating the availability of the draft AON. Send copies of the AON to all parties not able to access the file over the Internet.
- 8) After the AON is approved by the SSCC, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Regional Office of the US Forest Service, print 500 copies and create a PDF file and a Oregon Forest Legacy Web Page. Include the AON, description of Forest Legacy contacts, as well as necessary forms allowing interested landowners to submit properties to enroll in the program.

NEWS

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 945-7422



News Release 01-39
May 25, 2001

Contacts: Rod Nichols & Wally Rutledge
(503) 945-7425 / (503) 57392

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

To help keep private forestland intact, the Oregon Department of Forestry is working with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public to begin Oregon's participation in the Forest Legacy Program. Funded by the U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Forestry program, Forest Legacy provides federal grants to states to protect private forestland from being converted to non-forest uses (urban, residential or agricultural).

Forest Legacy programs are guided by an individual state plan describing the need for the program, identifying where forests are being converted and explaining how the state proposes to manage the program. These state plans are called an Assessment of Need and are shaped by public involvement.

Over the next few months, the Oregon Department of Forestry will be working with the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and others to determine how the program will work here. The Oregon Natural Heritage Program and the Oregon Department of Forestry will create and distribute a draft Assessment of Need, with public meetings to be held in late July.

Forest Legacy is a completely voluntary program. Funds are available to acquire either interest in land (easements) or the land itself from landowners wanting to participate. In most cases, title to these lands or interests in lands will be vested in the state or local governments.

Forest Legacy requires landowners to prepare a multiple-resource management plan, which may include timber harvest. Protecting private forests from development is a key objective. However, lands included in the program do not have to be managed for timber production, and owners of non-commercial forests are welcome to participate. The idea is to maintain forestlands that provide wildlife habitat, soil and watershed protection, timber products, recreational opportunities and aesthetics.

The Forest Legacy program is small. The President has proposed to the Congress a funding level of \$30 million nationally for the Forest Legacy Program in fiscal year 2002. Currently, 22 states and one territory are enrolled in the Forest Legacy Program, with several more preparing state plans for entry into the program.

To get your name on a mailing list to receive a copy of the draft Assessment of Need and public meeting notices contact Gail Barnhart, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Building 3, Salem, 97310, or call (503) 945-7378. To learn more about Forest Legacy in Oregon contact ODF's Forestry Assistance Director Wally Rutledge at (503) 945-7392 or by e-mail at wrutledge@odf.state.or.us <<mailto:wrutledge@odf.state.or.us>>

To obtain more information on participating in the Assessment of Need development, contact Jimmy Kagan, Director, Oregon Natural Heritage Program 1322 SE Morrison Ave., Portland, OR, 97214, (503) 731-3070 ext. 111 or jimmy.kagan@orst.edu

More information about the Forest Legacy Program can be found on the U.S. Forest Service web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/flp.htm>.

NEWS

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2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2001
01-60

Arlene Whalen/Gail Barnhart/Major Media

503-945-7427/503-945-7378

Note: State Map available upon request
503-945-7421

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY SEEKS PUBLIC'S HELP IN KEEPING PRIVATE FORESTLANDS INTACT

Oregonians are invited to attend any one of a number of public regional meetings being held across the state this month to provide feedback and input to Oregon's participation in the Forest Legacy Program. Funded by the U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Forestry program, the Forest Legacy Program provides states with federal grants to protect private forestland from being converted to non-forest uses (urban, residential or agricultural).

Development of the nation's forested areas poses an increasing threat to maintaining the integrity of our country's valuable forestlands. The Oregon Department of Forestry is working with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public to begin Oregon's participation in the Forest Legacy Program and help keep private forestlands intact.

The program is completely voluntary. The Forest Legacy Program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forestlands. Funds are available to acquire either interest in land (conservation easements), or the land itself from landowners wanting to participate.

These conservation easements are legally binding agreements that transfer property rights from one party to another without removing the property from private ownership. Conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values such as wildlife habitat, water quality, soil, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities.

Forest Legacy programs are guided by individual state plans describing the need for the program, identifying where forests are being converted and explaining how the state proposes to manage the program. Each state plan is called an "Assessment of Need," and is shaped by public involvement. Lands included in the program do not have to be managed for timber production, and owners of non-commercial forests are welcome to participate.

ODF officials have discussed the loss of forestland in western Oregon in meetings with the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, the U.S. Forest Service, and others, and have identified sixteen geographic areas constituting environmentally important forestlands that may be in need of protection from conversion and encroachment. A map of these areas is available.

Upcoming dates and locations for Oregon’s “Forest Legacy” public meetings are as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Portland	Monday August 13 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Benson Hotel 309 SW Broadway Windsor Room – 2 nd Floor Portland	503-228-2000
Salem	Monday August 13 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry PCR 2600 State Street, Salem	503-945-7378
Eugene	Tuesday August 14 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry East Lane District 3150 Main Street Springfield	541-726-3588
Corvallis	Tuesday August 14 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry West Oregon District 24533 Alsea Highway Philomath	541-929-3266
Roseburg	Wednesday Aug. 15 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry Southern Oregon Area Office 1758 Airport Road Roseburg	541-440-3412
Medford	Wednesday Aug. 15 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry Southwest Oregon District 5286 Table Rock Road Central Point	541-664-3328
Klamath Falls	Thursday August 16 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry Klamath / Lake District 3200 Delapp Road Klamath Falls	541-883-5681

Bend	Thursday August 16 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Red Lion Inn – North 1415 NE 3 rd Avenue Bend	541-382-7011
La Grande	Tuesday August 21 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District 611 20 th Street La Grande	541-963-3168
The Dalles	Wednesday Aug. 22 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Columbia Gorge Discovery Center Wasco County Historical Museum 5000 Discovery Drive The Dalles	541-296-8600

To learn more about Forest Legacy in Oregon contact ODF's Forestry Assistance Director Wally Rutledge at (503) 945-7392 or by e-mail at wrutledge@odf.state.or.us <<mailto:wrutledge@odf.state.or.us>>

For more information about the Forest Legacy Program, visit the U.S. Forest Service web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/flp.htm>.

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2001

Arlene Whalen/Gail Barnhart

503-945-7427/503-945-7378

Note: State Map available on ODF web site

SECOND NOTICE: PUBLIC NEEDED TO HELP IDENTIFY PRIVATE FORESTLANDS THREATENED BY CONVERSION

Oregon invites public participation in identifying geographic areas that could be eligible for federal grant dollars through the Forest Legacy Program to protect important private forestland from conversion. A public meeting is scheduled in Portland on Monday, August 13, at the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway, Windsor Room, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to provide information about the program, answer questions and record public comment on priorities and the selection of Forest Legacy Areas.

Those who live in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and Yamhill counties, which are areas that have been identified as having potential Forest Legacy Areas, are encouraged to attend—particularly those who reside in and near the Gresham, Milwaukie, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin, Lake Oswego, Oregon City, Gladstone, West Linn, Wilsonville, Forest Grove and Newburg communities.

The Forest Legacy Program, which is a completely voluntary program funded by the U.S. Forest Service, helps eligible states protect privately owned forestlands from conversion to urban, residential or agricultural non-forest use. The federal funds are used to acquire conservation easements or to purchase land from landowners wishing to participate in the program. The program provides private landowners a means to conserve the special environmental, economic and social values of their land for future generations.

The Legacy program is based exclusively on the “willing seller – willing buyer” concept and does not involve eminent domain taking or condemnation of property. Through the use of conservation easements, owners maintain property rights and usually continue to live on and work or manage the property. The easements are legally binding agreements that transfer property rights from one party to another without removing the property from private ownership.

“The Forest Legacy Program can help define how we can avoid implementing further environmental regulation and offer incentives to achieve the common objectives of all Oregonians,” said Jim Kagan, Director of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. “The trend has been for state and local governments to take action through planning and tax policy incentives. Private land trusts are also helping to purchase and protect such

forestland, but they, alone, can't conserve all that are environmentally important. The Forest Legacy Program can help us accomplish even more.”

While 22 states have already completed their *Assessment of Need*, which describes how the program will work, Oregon is the only state to hold public meetings before legacy areas were selected, according to Kagan. Legacy areas are the places in which landowners are eligible to participate in the program. The meetings have been scheduled in several communities throughout the state: Portland, Salem, Eugene, Philomath, Roseburg, Central Point, Klamath Falls, Bend, LaGrande and The Dalles. The Oregon Natural Heritage Program is working in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry and other government agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as the Trust for Public Lands and the Nature Conservancy, to guide the state's plan describing the need for the program, identifying where forests are being converted and explaining how the state proposes to manage the program.

Several tools have been used to narrow down the list of potential legacy areas in Oregon to 17 areas that meet the program's minimum criteria for eligibility. These resources include, but are not limited to, land-use studies, census maps projecting population change, studies that summarize existing and predicted forest loss, as well as studies identifying a loss of habitat for sensitive endangered species. The public will be invited to comment on legacy areas that have been identified through careful screening.

The Forest Legacy Program was created by Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill. Its purpose is to help landowners, state and local governments and private land trusts identify and protect important forestlands that are threatened by present and future conversion to non-forest uses.

Public comment regarding the selection of Forest Legacy Areas in Oregon will be accepted through August 27, 2001, and may be directed to Jim Kagan, Director of the Oregon National Heritage Program at (503) 731-3070, ext. 111, or by e-mail at jimmy.kagan@orst.edu. He may also be contacted for more information about the Forest Legacy Program.

Wally Rutledge, Oregon Department of Forestry, may also be contacted for further information about the program at (503) 945-7392 or by e-mail at wrutledge@odf.state.or.us. Additional information is also available on the U.S. Forest Service web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/flp.htm> or the Oregon Department of Forestry web site at www.odf.state.or.us. A draft of the *Assessment of Need* can be found in PDF format on the ODF web site.

Accommodations for people with disabilities, and special materials, services or assistance can be arranged by calling the ODF Public Affairs Office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, 503-945-7424, text telephone (TTY) 1-800-467-4490 (outside Salem), 945-7213 (in Salem).