

Comment Period on Annual Plans for State Forests Runs Feb. 15 to March 31

A public comment period on Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) annual operations plans for state-managed forestlands begins Feb. 15.

Written comments on the 2006–07 plans – which identify and describe specific projects relative to the economic, environmental, and social aspects of managing state lands such as timber sales, road maintenance, stream enhancement and trail building – will be accepted until 5 p.m. March 31.

After public comments have been considered and any changes made, district foresters will approve the annual operations plans for their districts. The annual operations plans under review are for the period from July 2006 through June 2007.

The 2006–07 timber harvest levels for Tillamook and Clatsop state forests are projected to total 173 million board feet (mmbf), near the middle of the range identified in the existing forests' 10-year harvesting plans.

Additional timber sales will be available in the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests in the 2006–07 fiscal year should State Forester Marvin Brown increase volume beyond the 173 mmbf level.

By law, the state forester sets actual harvest levels to reflect the broader goals for state forest management established by the Board of Forestry. This spring, the board is expected to use the recently completed Harvest and Habitat Model Project, which estimates harvests under various management scenarios, and other information to decide whether to change current direction.

The harvest levels proposed in the 2006-07 plans were derived from the portion of the model's results that assumed continuation of existing direction.

The Tillamook and Clatsop state forests comprise 500,000 acres of the total 780,000 acres of state forest land. Total harvest volume for all nine districts is projected to be 237 mmbf. A board foot is a unit of wood that measures a foot square and an inch thick. There are about 13,000 board feet of framing lumber in an average house.

Annual operations plans will be available Feb. 15 at each district office, area ODF offices (Northwest Oregon Area, 801 Gales Creek Road, Forest Grove; Southern Oregon Area, 1758 NE Airport Road, Roseburg; Eastern Oregon Area, 3501 E. 3rd St., Prineville) and Salem headquarters.

The annual operations plans will be posted Feb. 15 on the ODF Web site http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/2007_AOP.shtml

All state forestlands are actively managed as working forests under management plans adopted by the Board of Forestry to provide economic, environmental and social benefits to Oregonians. Most of the revenue from timber sales is distributed to county governments and local taxing districts, and to the Common School Fund to benefit schools throughout the state.

The objectives in district annual operations plans are based on the goals and strategies found in the long-range forest management plans.

The *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan* provides guidance for the 616,000 acres in the following districts: Astoria (Clatsop State Forest), Tillamook (western two-thirds of the Tillamook State Forest), Forest Grove (eastern one-third of the Tillamook), Cascade (Santiam State Forest), West Oregon (scattered tracts in Benton, Polk and Lincoln counties), and Western Lane (scattered tracts in Lane County).

The *Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan* covers 18,000 acres of blocked and scattered lands in Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Jackson counties.

Forest management plans may be requested from district offices or from the ODF headquarters in Salem. The contact person in Salem is planning specialist Roger Welty, who may be contacted by phone (503-945-7258) or e-mail rwelty@odf.state.or.us.

Each district covered by the *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan* and *Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan* has a 10-year implementation plan that describes how the management activities will achieve the goals of the forest management plans. The implementation plans are posted on the ODF web site http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/planning.shtml

Under the *Elliott State Forest Management Plan*, the Coos District manages the 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas counties. The Klamath-Lake District uses the *Eastern Region Long-range Forest Management Plan* to manage 34,000 acres in Klamath County, including the 20,000-acre Sun Pass State Forest.

The public involvement process provides an opportunity for ODF districts to share their annual plans with the public. It also is a time for the public to ask questions and offer comments on the planned activities on state forestlands.

When reviewing and commenting on an annual operations plan, it may be helpful to use the less-technical summary document as a starting point. If questions arise, refer to the more detail-oriented pre-operations reports. Written comments providing the most useful suggestions should focus on one or more of the following:

- Enhancing the consistency of an annual plan with the forest management plan and (for districts covered by NW and SW plans) the district implementation plan.
- Improving the clarity of an annual plan.

- Providing new information that will affect an annual plan (such as location of a domestic water source or a cultural resource site).
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of an annual plan or planned operation.

Comments and questions may be sent to ODF district offices or the Salem headquarters. They also may be e-mailed to Salem (specific district should be identified) to rwelty@odf.state.us. Addresses and fax numbers follow:

State Forests Program, Oregon Department of Forestry, Attn: Roger Welty, 2600 State St., Salem, OR 97310. Fax: 503-945-7376.

Astoria District (Clatsop State Forest), 92219 Hwy 202, Astoria, OR 97103. Fax: 503-325-2756.

North Cascade District (Santiam State Forest), 22965 North Fork Road SE, Lyons, OR 97358. Fax: 503-859-2158.

Forest Grove District (eastern one-third Tillamook State Forest), 801 Gales Creek Road, Forest Grove, OR 97116. Fax: 503-357-4548.

Tillamook District (western two-thirds Tillamook State Forest), 5005 East 3rd St., Tillamook, OR 97141. Fax: 503-842-3143.

West Oregon District (scattered parcels), 24533 Alsea Hwy, Philomath, OR 97370. Fax: 541-929-5549.

Western Lane District (scattered parcels), PO Box 157 (87950 Territorial Road), Veneta, OR 97487. Fax: 541-935-0731.

Southwest Oregon District (blocked and scattered parcels), 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97526. Fax: 541-474-3158.

Coos District (Elliott State Forest), 63612 Fifth Road, Coos Bay, OR 97420. Fax: 541-269-2027.

Klamath-Lake District (Sun Pass State Forest), 3200 DeLap Road, Klamath Falls, OR 97601. Fax: 541-883-5555.