



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office

2600 State Street

Salem, OR 97310-1336

503-945-7200

Fax 503-945-7212

<http://www.odf.state.or.us>



To: Mike Bordelon, State Forests Division Chief

From: Doug Decker, State Forester 

Date: December 12, 2011

Subject: Approval of Coos District Implementation Plan

Context

As you know there has been significant interest from the public, stakeholders and the State Land Board in this 10-year Implementation Plan (IP) as evidenced by attendance at public meetings and public comment on the draft Implementation Plan. The ODF Staff Analysis and Response to Public Comments may be found at:

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE FORESTS/District Implementation Plans.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/District_Implementation_Plans.shtml)

The Board of Forestry continues work on various policy elements of state forest management and will continue to work with the State Land Board and Department of State Lands staff while making state forest management policy adjustments and continuous improvement of our resource management strategies.

In addition to this work, we must follow through on our commitment to develop and implement a monitoring and adaptive management plan, and ensure that sufficient resources and capacity are provided for effective implementation.

Plan approval

Given the above context, I approve the Coos District Implementation Plan, effective January 1, 2012, that will achieve a sustainable harvest level by implementing the following strategies of sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management as defined in the Elliott Forest Management Plan (FMP), which was approved by the State Land Board in October 2011 and by the Oregon Board of Forestry in November 2011:

- Actively manage for a diversity of stand structures. The FMP identifies three structure types with expected ranges over time: 10-20 percent early structure; 30-60 percent intermediate structure; and 30-50 percent advanced structure.
- Manage conservation areas to protect special resources and avoid take of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species,
- Actively manage to provide key legacy structural components,



- Actively manage for a diverse and healthy ecosystem applying the principles of integrated pest management, and
- Apply management standards for aquatic and riparian management areas.

Approved Plan Consistent with Policy

Pursuant to OAR 629-035-0030 and 0105, the Coos District 2011 Implementation Plan is aligned and consistent with the State Land Board and Board of Forestry approved 2011 Elliott Forest Management Plan. The IP also represents significant contributions towards meeting the mandate to provide income for the Common School Fund and is aligned with State Forests Division policy.

The revised FMP and the IP are the results of an extensive 10-year public process that recognizes the need for adaptive approaches to management in which the outcomes of management actions are measured and compared to stated objectives. Changes in management activities or goals will be made when new information becomes available that will improve results. This approach requires a commitment to long-term information gathering and the incorporation of that information into the decision-making process. In this context, it is a high priority for the Division and the Department to be responsive to the State Land Board and Board of Forestry caveats expressed during FMP approval, specifically:

1. Provide an annual report on the plan's management strategies and related science.
2. Implement the 10-year Research and Monitoring Plan and consider new science and monitoring in a spirit of adaptive management..
3. Continue the exploration of the relationship of the management plan to carbon sequestration and developing carbon markets.
4. Consider the option of pursuing a habitat conservation plan in the future.