

## Purpose of Revision

The draft implementation plans for the Astoria, Forest Grove, and Tillamook districts are undergoing a major revision of the plans approved by the State Forester in March, 2003. The reasons for the revision include:

- Incorporating New Information – Forest inventory (Stand Level Inventory), yield tables, harvest modeling, and watershed analysis.
- Reflecting Changes in Condition – Land exchanges, threatened and endangered species locations.
- Adjusting Forest Land Management Classifications (FLMC) – The FLMC maps are undergoing a “major change” as defined in OAR 629-035-0060 (3).
- Better Achieving the *Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan* goals – Current implementation of the plan has not produced the level of volume promised when it was approved in 2001.

This implementation plan includes a new landscape design that designates 40 percent of the district for the development of Layered and Older Forest Structure (complex structure) over time. This landscape design will provide better economic performance while placing complex structure in areas it is anticipated to provide the greatest benefit to wildlife.

The implementation plan describes the management approaches and activities that the district will pursue in order to carry out the *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan* and the northern spotted owl strategies of the draft *Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)*. In addition, the management activities conducted under this plan will be consistent with the following State Forests Operational Policies and strategies:

- Northern spotted owls;
- Marbled murrelet;
- Swiss Needle Cast Strategic Plan;
- Salmon Anchor Habitat Strategies; and
- Forest Roads Manual.

The specific operations and management activities necessary to carry out this implementation plan will be described in annual plans, beginning with the 2010 Annual Operations Plan.

State Forests use a three tiered approach to planning that include Forest Management Plans (FMP), implementation plans, and annual operations plans. Each level of planning has a specific scope and depth, as described below:

- Forest Management Plans are overarching, long-range plans that provide goals and strategy for managing a forest. FMPs provide the policy framework and guidance for developing district implementation plans and annual operations plans. The *Northwest*

*Oregon State Forest Management Plan* was approved by the Board of Forestry in 2001.

- Implementation plans are developed to implement an FMP on a specific district. The implementation plan describes the current condition of the district and projects a “desired future condition” for the forests in each district that extends several decades into the future. Districts identify the types of management activities (thinning, partial cuts, clearcuts and reforestation), and show how and why they will be used to move basins toward their desired future condition. The current implementation plans were approved by the State Forester in 2003.
- Annual operation plans are based on implementation plans. They 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. Annual operations plans are approved each year by district foresters after a public comment period.