

Section VII

Implementation

This section describes who is responsible for implementing the plan, and how implementation will be carried out.

Responsibilities

The Klamath-Lake District Forester has the overall responsibility for implementing the Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan. Implementation of the plan consists of the four primary responsibilities listed below.

- Implement the management strategies listed in Section V, “Management Strategies.”
- Monitor those activities as described in Section VIII, “Monitoring and Adaptive Management.”
- Conduct periodic reviews of plan implementation as described in Section VIII, “Monitoring, Research, and Adaptive Management.” Determine when changes are needed.
- Amend the plan as needed.

Plan Scope

For the Eastern Region State Forests, this Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan supersedes the Timber Resource Inventory, Analysis, and Plan for the Eastern Oregon Area State Forests (Oregon Department of Forestry, 1978).

Plan Duration and Amendments

Duration

This plan will be in effect until it is replaced by a new plan. It is intended that this plan be flexible enough to endure significant changes in legal requirements and knowledge base. It is expected that this plan will be used for 10 to 15 years.

In order for the plan to remain useful for more than a very short time, there must be a mechanism for identifying when changes in management strategy are needed and a process for making those changes. Monitoring will help identify when changes are needed in management strategy. An amendment process will be used to make the changes.

Amendments

Minor changes (amendments) to management strategies may be made at the discretion of the Klamath-Lake District Forester in consultation with the Salem staff. DSL will also be consulted when these changes affect Common School Forest Lands. Changes are minor when they do not significantly decrease revenues, increase management costs, or decrease the likelihood of achieving the management goals.

Major changes to management strategies must be approved by the State Forester for Board of Forestry land and by the State Land Board for Common School Forest Land. For major changes to the management strategies, the Klamath-Lake District Forester will prepare an amendment request package containing documentation on the proposed change, the need for action, and an analysis of the economic and environmental effects of the proposed change. The proposed change will be routed to the Area Director for review and approval. If approved, the Area Director will route the request to the Planning Coordinator for review and comment. The Planning Coordinator will coordinate the remainder of the review and approval process, obtain input from DSL, and ensure that all necessary approvals are received.

Implementation Levels

Many of the management strategies require investments of capital. Some examples of these strategies are: reforestation, stand improvements (precommercial thinning, pruning), habitat enhancement activities, and monitoring activities.

Since the State Lands program is financially self-supporting (no General Fund dollars), the degree to which these strategies are implemented will vary with the amount of funding available. Funding will depend on revenue from resource development activities such as timber sales; special forest product sales; and gas, oil, and mineral leases. The amount of funding available, therefore, will depend on current resource prices and the amount of resource development allowed under the selected set of management strategies.

Priorities for investment are generally as follows:

1. Legally required activities.
2. Activities with high economic return.
3. Activities with lower, but still acceptable, economic return.
4. Activities with little or no economic return that the state carries out as a good steward of the land.

This plan makes no attempt to categorize activities by priority. It is our belief that the categorical rankings will change from time to time as legal requirements change and resource prices fluctuate. Activities will be prioritized in the biennial and fiscal year budgeting processes initiated at the district level, and will be reviewed by the State Land Board, the Board of Forestry, and the Legislature as part of the approval process for the Department of Forestry's biennial budget.

Implementation through Other Plans

Implementation of the Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan will involve other levels of planning that are more specific than the forest management plan. Other planning levels include annual operations plans for timber sales and other silvicultural operations, biennial budgets, and fiscal year budgets. These more detailed levels of planning are described in Section I, under the heading “Forest Management Planning for State Forests.” Monitoring, research, and adaptive management will also be valuable tools in implementation of the plan. These tools are discussed in Section VIII.