

# Foreword

This plan represents an important step in the evolution of Oregon’s state forest planning process. To date, the Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan provides the most comprehensive analysis undertaken on this land base. It thoroughly examines all the resources, from timber to recreation, from fish and wildlife to social and economic resources.

This multi-resource approach toward planning has been adopted for all state lands long-range planning by the Oregon Department of Forestry. It builds on the high quality planning and analysis work we have always done as an agency. And it is accomplished within the legal and policy framework set out by the Oregon Constitution, Oregon Revised Statutes, Board of Forestry and State Land Board.

Like the recent planning efforts on other state forest lands, this plan adds four new concepts:

- Manage land on a larger geographic scale.
- Manage land over a longer time frame.
- Clearly define resource management goals.
- Monitor our actions closely, to assess progress.

We believe these four basic concepts are the heart of what has been popularly called “ecosystem management.”

Uneven-aged management of Eastern Region state forest land has become the cornerstone of our overall management approach. An important aspect of this approach is the use of selective harvesting, which is used to maintain or improve uneven-aged stand structure. This has become the preferred silvicultural method in most areas of Eastern Region state forest lands, and we believe that this approach fits in well with ecosystem management concepts.

While recently the spotlight has been on the poor forest health of large areas in eastern Oregon, Eastern Oregon Region state forest land is in relatively good health. Some insect and disease problems do occur though, and are usually related to overstocking and imbalances in species composition. Our approach toward forest health is based upon the belief that certain silvicultural treatments can achieve a diverse, productive, resilient, and sustainable forest ecosystem.

The Klamath-Lake District’s uneven-aged management and forest health strategy on these lands is truly unique and a model for similar land bases.

One of the plan's goals is to increase the efficiency and economic feasibility of intensive forest management. In keeping with this goal, this long-range plan addresses management and consolidation of isolated state forest land parcels throughout eastern Oregon.

We must also recognize that it is not possible to predict with complete precision the outcome of management decisions within a given ecosystem. Proper use of adaptive management, and altering actions over the long-term based on valid research and information, will help limit risk. An active monitoring and research program is the key to successfully implementing the forest management plan.

Another fundamental concept about ecosystem management, and a concept you will see in this forest management plan, is that human beings and their activities are an integral part of natural ecosystems. Ecosystem management must consider the full range of human needs.

Underlying all of our actions is the knowledge that healthy ecosystems are essential to the health and sustainability of human societies and the overall quality of life. All human activities, as well as decisions not to act, must maintain or enhance long-term ecosystem health.

We have a responsibility as natural resource managers to use the best information we have on the table today to make sound resource policy decisions that are in the public interest; that is, policies and strategies that are socially acceptable, ecologically sustainable, and commercially viable. We hope you will agree that this Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan meets these criteria.

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