

OREGON ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTS DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

Preamble

The issues of forest sustainability affect all Oregonians. Wider professional and public understanding and agreement within the state on the meaning of sustainable forest management will result in:

- The conservation and enhancement of Oregon's forest land base,
- Increased public support for forest protection, investment, and management,
- Promotion of the substantial, multi-faceted benefits of Oregon's forests to its citizens and to the nation, and
- Greater alignment and coordination of government policies affecting forests.

Currently this shared understanding does not exist. There has been a high degree of values-driven enmity, antagonism, and mistrust that has dominated the discussion of forestry issues in recent decades. The public and some natural resource professionals are frustrated, fatigued, and/or disengaged by the decades of ongoing forest policy battles with no narrowing or convergence of goals. We are also challenged to recognize that forests are physical and biological systems that do not recognize political boundaries and that the necessary degree of policy coherence across various levels of governance currently does not exist.

To make a difference in achieving the sustainability of Oregon's forests, the focus must change to promote real collaborative discussions. There must be enhanced dialogue among forest owners and managers, local communities, those who use the forest, leaders in the forest policy sector, and leaders in government. The dialogue around Oregon's forests should be a robust engagement among diverse points of view and experiences for all forests - public and private. The people involved should reflect and honor the diversity of our society and communities. Participants must come together willing to listen and look for mutually beneficial solutions. There is a need to increase our knowledge about the linkages among the environmental, economic, and social aspects of Oregon's public and private forests and to understand how specific "on the ground" approaches affect these three aspects of sustainability.

At the request of the Oregon Board of Forestry, a group of interested individuals and organizations has developed a framework for a public dialogue around sustainable forest management called the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (the Oregon Roundtable).

The purpose of the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests is to engage multiple stakeholders through collaborative efforts to advance understanding, assessment and reporting of forest sustainability, and to encourage forest resource management that integrates environmental, economic, and social considerations.

The Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests will be part of a dynamic social process whereby Oregonians shape an evolving vision of what constitutes sustainable forest management and what it means in Oregon. Ideally, the Oregon Roundtable will produce high quality public dialogue that will result in greater understanding among Oregon individuals, communities, academia, businesses,

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and government about our collective values regarding forests. It can also inform discussions on how forest management and forest policies can be encouraged and implemented to meet the expressed needs of Oregonians.

The Roundtable approach will utilize the *Forestry Program for Oregon* goals and objectives and the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management as a common statewide framework by which to organize topics and discussions, to assess forest conditions, and to evaluate progress. Within this framework, the Roundtable can serve as a semi-independent, open forum that will select and discuss the issues that are of greatest interest or importance to Oregonians. The Oregon Roundtable also can be engaged by governing boards, universities, agencies, communities, interest groups, or others to request that it assist them with public dialogue around sustainable forests issues.

Through this Declaration of Cooperation, the Board of Forestry, partner agencies, and other organizations are expressing their commitments to actively support and participate in the Oregon Roundtable's work, and to provide opportunities for the Roundtable to submit input in their decision-making processes.

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Support and Cooperation Statements for the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

Preface

This Declaration of Cooperation brings together the key partners and stakeholders to create and support an Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests.

While not a binding legal contract, this Declaration of Cooperation is evidence to, and a statement of, the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties. These commitments represent a public statement of intent to participate in Roundtable, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with other Roundtable participants in identifying opportunities and solutions to promote the successful implementation of its charter and work plans.

The undersigned parties agree that, if successful, the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests provides the following important opportunities:

- The Roundtable can provide meaningful input into Oregon forest policymaking.
- The Roundtable can provide an opportunity to bring citizens and organizations together who want to find common ground and environmentally, economically, and socially integrated solutions.
- The Roundtable can generate more robust engagement among diverse points of view and experiences and better reflect and honor the diversity of our society and communities.
- The Roundtable can create a dynamic social process whereby Oregonians shape an evolving, but enduring vision of what constitutes sustainable forest management and greater public support for the substantial benefits of Oregon's forests.
- The Roundtable can promote shared learning about Oregonians' environmental, economic and social values. The potential outcomes of sustainable forest management can then inform subsequent discussions on how forestry can be encouraged and implemented to meet the expressed needs of Oregonians.
- The Roundtable can explore ways to link with and learn from the efforts of local initiatives, other states, countries, and organizations that are actively pursuing sustainability of forests.
- The Roundtable can provide opportunities for pilot projects and case studies associated with forest sustainability.
- The Roundtable can encourage integrated thinking about how forests and people affect each other.

The undersigned parties agree to their stated levels of cooperation, participation, and/or support for the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forest. Unless extended by mutual agreement, this Declaration of Cooperation shall terminate on December 31, 2012.

OREGON ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

Oregon Board of Forestry

The Oregon Board of Forestry's mission is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially integrated and sustainable management of Oregon's public and private forests.

The Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) has defined sustainable forest management as meaning forest resources across the landscape are used, developed, and protected at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current environmental, economic, and social needs, and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs (based on the definition of "sustainability" in ORS 184.421). On a statewide basis, the Board believes sustainable forest management will provide:

- Healthy and diverse forest ecosystems that produce abundant timber and other forest products;
- Habitat to support healthy populations of native plants and animals;
- Productive soil, clean water, clean air, open space, and recreational opportunities; and
- Healthy communities that contribute to a healthy state economy.

To achieve its mission, the Board has established the following strategic policy goals:

Goal A: Promote a sound legal system, effective and adequately funded government, leading-edge research, and sound environmental, economic, and social policies.

Goal B: Ensure that Oregon's forests make a significant contribution towards meeting the nation's wood product needs and provide diverse social and economic outputs and benefits valued by the public in a fair, balanced, efficient, and sustainable manner.

Goal C: Protect, maintain, and enhance the productive capacity of Oregon's forests to improve the economic well-being of Oregon's communities.

Goal D: Protect, maintain, and enhance the physical and biological quality of the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.

Goal E: Contribute to the conservation of diverse native plant and animal populations and their habitats in Oregon's forests.

Goal F: Protect, maintain, and enhance the health and resiliency of Oregon's dynamic forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds.

Goal G: Enhance carbon storage and reduce carbon emissions in Oregon's forests and forest products.

The Board updates its mission statement, vision statement, value statements, and long term goals on an eight-year cycle. The Board updates its strategic objectives on a two-year cycle. Collectively, these products are known as the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* provides a framework for the Board to achieve sustainable forest management. This model can also

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foster greater public understanding, acceptance, and support for a common vision for the future of forestry in Oregon. To successfully implement the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, the Board and the Department of Forestry need to develop and maintain strong cooperative alliances with state, federal, local government, tribal, and private partners. In addition, the sustainability framework used in the *Forestry Program for Oregon* may be exportable to other natural resource sectors.

Sustainable forest management and the seven goals are somewhat abstract and subjective concepts. Consensus on, and ownership of, indicators of sustainable forest management and other supporting statewide forest resource assessment information by policy-makers, stakeholders, and scientists is important. These data are needed to provide a means for measuring progress towards broad policy objectives and to evaluate the potential environmental, economic, and social effects of alternative policies.

The Board has endorsed, and will periodically update, a set of Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management addressing the goals of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. The Board may also endorse desired trend statements or targets for the indicators. The Board will use sustainable forest management indicators, other assessment and accomplishment information, and stakeholder involvement as tools to provide an improvement cycle that allows it to evaluate Oregon forest resource conditions and trends and implementation of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

The Board will support the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests as an open forum for Oregonians to recognize the importance of forests to their environmental, economic, and social well-being. The Board recognizes the need to provide opportunities for Oregonians to participate in public discussions and provide input to decision-making on sustainable forest management. Such discussions will strive to clarify what we know about forest systems, what we value, and how public policy can integrate and balance those values. Through the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests, Oregon has an opportunity to create a long-term evolving dialogue that can lead to a body of literature, policies, improved practice, and citizen engagement that can transform sustainable forest management in the state and perhaps elsewhere.

The Board will request the assistance of the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests on discrete projects such as use of the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. The Oregon Roundtable could serve to fill the need for a "sounding board" for the indicators work. It would be an opportunity to develop a broader understanding of the impacts of our actions on the indicators and ultimately how to manage toward a desired blend of environmental, economic, and social targets. If this effort is successful it may lead to Roundtable participation in other Board work, such as future updates of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.



John Blackwell, Chair

4/22/10

Date

OREGON ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTS DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

Oregon Department of Forestry

The mission of the Oregon Department of Forestry is to serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.

The core business functions of the Department of Forestry are to:

- Minimize loss of forest resources and values by protection from damaging agents including fire, insects, diseases, and damaging forest activities.
- Manage state-owned forest resources consistent with statutory, Board of Forestry, and State Land Board direction.
- Facilitate forest stewardship on private lands through education, assistance and regulation, with a focus on meeting landowner objectives and preventing potential adverse resource impacts.

These core business functions are based on an ongoing assessment of Oregon's forests and the analysis, development and/or influence of forest policy at the state, regional, and national level.


The Department of Forestry's strategic planning and program administration are directly linked to the Oregon Board of Forestry's mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives articulated in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. Department of Forestry staff assists the Board to implement its strategic planning processes and its other Work Plans. In this context, the Department collects and reports data and supporting information for the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.

Every five years, beginning in 2010, the Department of Forestry is responsible for leading Oregonians in development of a statewide assessment of forest resources that:

- Analyzes forest conditions, trends, threats and opportunities for all Oregon forestlands – federal, tribal, state, private industrial, family and local government lands; and
- Identifies priority forest landscape areas that address national, regional and state forest management priorities.

Based on the Statewide Assessment, the Department is also responsible for leading development of a State Resource Strategy that updates program strategies for administration of federal State and Private Forestry Program initiatives in Oregon. The Department also works to promote federal forest management in the state that is consistent with Board of Forestry policies.

The Oregon Department of Forestry will actively participate in the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests and, within resource constraints, provide policy, technical, logistical, and facilitation support.



Marvin Brown, State Forester

4/22/10

Date



College of Forestry ~ Office of the Dean
Oregon State University, 150 Peavy Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5704
Phone 541-737-1585 | Fax 541-737-2906 | <http://forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

June 23, 2010

David Morman, Director
Forest Resources Planning Program
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

RE: Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests Declaration of Cooperation

The mission of the College of Forestry, as part of Oregon's Land, Sea, Sun and Space Grant University, is to educate and engage the next generation of scholars, practitioners, and users of the world's forest resources, to conduct distinctive problem-solving and fundamental research on the nature and use of forests and related resources, and to share our discoveries and knowledge with others. We aspire to be the world's premier forest resources education, research, and service institution.

Core values are essential and enduring tenets held by the faculty, staff, students, and administrators of the College of Forestry. These values express our aspirations and our fundamental reason for being:

- We value forests -- We commit to sustaining forests and the functions, products, and values they provide for current and future generations.
- We value people -- We recognize strength in diverse faculty, staff, students, and ideas. We nurture the College community through communication and mutual respect.
- We value learning -- We share a passion for learning through teaching, research, experience, and extended education.
- We value service -- We serve the people of Oregon, the nation, and the world.
- We value collaboration -- We address complex forest resource challenges through collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and perspectives.
- We value excellence -- We aspire to excellence, innovation and relevance in all that we do.

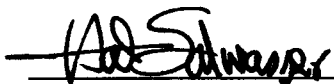
Oregon State University's College of Forestry has been educating professionals for over a century. We've earned a reputation as a world-class center of teaching and learning about forests and related resources. We offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in three departments, Forest Engineering, Resources & Management, Forest Ecosystems & Society, and Wood Science and Engineering. We also jointly offer several interdisciplinary programs. We operate about 14,000 acres of College Forests, most of it within minutes of campus. The College participates in a University online graduate certification degree program in Sustainable Natural Resources designed to enhance

leadership skills and scientific expertise to meet the global demand for effective sustainable natural resource management.

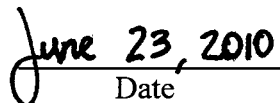
The College is also an active partner with the Oregon Institute for Natural Resources, which is a cooperative enterprise that acts as a catalyst by bringing together decision makers and researchers and developing partnerships with state, federal, tribal and local decision makers and the talented faculty of Oregon's higher education institutions.

The College of Forestry will continue to support and promote sustainable forests at local, state, regional, national, and international scales through education, research, and technology transfer.

The College will support the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests and encourage active participation by its executives, faculty, researchers, and students. Upon request, and subject to the availability of College resources, it will support the scientific and technical development, implementation, evaluation, and integration of the Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management. Where possible, the College will strive to produce new scientific information that supplements the indicators and that informs resulting policy discussions based on indicator data.



Dr. Hal Salwasser, Dean



Date

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the Department of the Interior, to manage BLM-administered lands and resources in a manner that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield while taking into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources.

The BLM manages 3.2 million acres of forests and woodlands in the state of Oregon. These lands contain a diversity of plant and animal species, recreation areas, mining claims, grazing lands, forestlands, cultural and historical resources, scenic areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness. The BLM manages its forested landscapes to support sustainable rural communities and provide for healthy forests and watersheds.

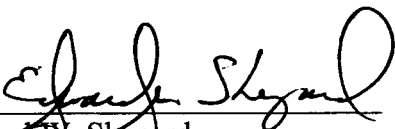
The BLM manages forests under a number of different laws and initiatives, including the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the O&C Lands Act of 1937, the Healthy Forests Initiative, and many others. The BLM also complies with all other applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The BLM currently manages its forestlands in western Oregon through Resource Management Plans prepared under the umbrella of the Northwest Forest Plan and the O&C Act. The O&C Act provides for permanent forest production in conformity with the principles of sustained yield for the purpose of protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities. The BLM manages its forests and woodlands in eastern Oregon in conformity with the principles of sustained yield, offering an environmentally responsible level of forest product sales and accomplishing forest and woodland health restoration treatments.

The BLM is committed to employing several key tactics in managing its forest landscapes.

- Where forest health is an issue, use ecological health information to identify priority landscapes and to support land use planning and decision-making.
- Design treatments to minimize impacts to sensitive species and/or support Threatened and Endangered species recovery.
- Supply forest products to help sustain local communities.
- Improve public collaboration and information sharing through use of new technologies, stakeholder meetings, and forest education workshops.

The BLM will participate actively in the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests and, within resource constraints, provide biological, geographical, and technical information to support development, examination, measurement, and discussion of forest sustainability indicators and management practices.


Edward W. Shepard,
State Director, Oregon/Washington

8/9/10
Date

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Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

The mission of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land, and water. Oregon DEQ is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes, and for enforcing Oregon's environmental laws. The agency's key values are:

- environmental results
- public service
- partnerships
- excellence and integrity
- teamwork
- employee growth
- diversity
- health, safety and wellness
- economic growth through quality environment

All these key values are served by healthy forests that are sustainably managed. Healthy forests are of great importance to Oregon's environment, and sustainable management of those forests is necessary to meet DEQ's water and air quality goals. Forests clean and oxygenate the air, regulate and filter precipitation, and provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. The high quality water that forests can produce is necessary for downstream ecosystems and the humans that depend on them. Mismanagement or conversion of forests to other land uses can reduce or destroy the environmental benefits that they provide and pollute the water, soil, and air. Sustainable management of forests protects and enhances environmental quality, provides for human needs, and contributes in a long-term manner to Oregon's economy. As global and regional climate changes occur, it is especially important to true sustainability that forests are managed in ways that increase ecological and economic resiliency.

The Department of Forestry has an ongoing relationship with DEQ as the two agencies are charged with cooperating to ensure that forest practices on state and private lands meet both water and air quality standards. Cooperation is especially important for the implementation of the Nonpoint Source Control and Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads, Drinking Water Protection priorities, and Smoke Management plans. The Roundtable presents a forum and opportunity to continue and build upon our relationship and better enable both agencies to meet their missions in a cooperative way. Cooperation is especially necessary to meet water quality objectives and to protect forests and the ecosystem services they provide from development or conversion to other land uses. It is DEQ's intention to participate in the Roundtable to facilitate this necessary cooperation.

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The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will participate in the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests, contribute policy, technical, and scientific support to the extent that resources allow, and utilize the insights of the Roundtable to the maximum extent possible in decision making processes.



Dick Pedersen, Director

8-27-2010

Date

OREGON ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

USDA Forest Service

The work of the Oregon Roundtable supports the vision of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack for the Forest Service. He has described the many challenges America faces in forest conservation and management: climate change, globalization, the threat of development to forests, society's need for both the products and the services forests provide, and the potential conflict between use and protection. To address these challenges, the Secretary envisioned an "all-lands approach" reaching beyond public lands to operate at a landscape scale.

Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell has encouraged the Forest Service to respond with Landscape Scale Conservation strategies which take a comprehensive approach to land management that frames problems and solutions at the level of watersheds, eco-regions, or broad geographic areas. Such large areas often encompass multiple ownerships and jurisdictions. A landscape Conservation Strategy might therefore include federal and state land management agencies as well as private landowners. Goals and actions are coordinated among stakeholders who share decisions, risks, and resources. Rather than addressing individual issues through a piecemeal approach on a fragmented landscape, problems are viewed comprehensively from a broader perspective and addressed at the most appropriate and effective scale.

We know we cannot and should not do our work alone; we value partnerships, collaboration, and working across all lands in all ways. We also recognize the importance of supporting each other.

The work we do makes valuable contributions to the communities of the Pacific Northwest. We know that certain goals will require greater energy and attention to ensure success. Listed below are our emphasis areas for 2010 and are an expression of how we will contribute to the Department and Agency priorities and our contribution to helping our partners meet their goals. Our emphasis areas are a commitment to each other and the public we serve. They are a bridge from our current innovative work and creative partnerships to a more contemporary suite of actions. They reflect a changing landscape--political, environmental, social—and recalibrate actions needed to be responsive and effective. They are areas where we have an opportunity to work with partners.

The Pacific Northwest Region's 2010 emphasis areas are:

1. Valuing place - Organize Regional actions to value the connection of people to the beauty and benefits of National Forest places as much as we value individual resources and services.
2. Improved working environment for employees - Determine what we can do to be a place where people are excited and energized to come to work.
3. Finish what we started: ARRA implementation - Fulfill all of our ARRA obligations.
4. Engaging Youth and Communities - Find more ways to connect youth to their National Forests through education, employment and enjoyment.

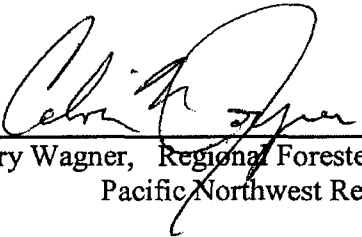
SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

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5. Landscape Conservation in a Changing Climate –

- Develop a Regional Landscape Conservation Strategy that is responsive to the challenges of climate change and provides a framework for the development of conservation action plans for priority landscapes.
- Develop meaningful ways to focus on the role of National Forests in providing water and water-related ecosystem services.
- Work with partners to facilitate and implement an integrated approach to landscape restoration across all lands, using the full suite of our authorities

The USDA Forest Service looks forward to active participation in the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests to accomplish a better understanding of sustainable forests in Oregon and accomplishing our mission to improve the health and use of the Nation's forests. We will support and use the Oregon Roundtable to provide meaningful input into Oregon forest policymaking from an "All lands" approach.



Mary Wagner, Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region

9/23/10

Date

SEPTEMBER 22, 2010



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific Northwest
Research Station

P.O. Box 3890
Portland, OR 97208-3890
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File Code: 4000

Date: September 29, 2010

John Blackwell
Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

The mission of the Pacific Northwest Research Station is to generate and communicate scientific knowledge that helps people understand and make informed choices about people, natural resources, and the environment.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station redeems this responsibility by increasing the availability and utility of science information and products, engaging in strategic partnerships to more effectively accomplish mutual objectives, and developing and conducting high-quality research that is responsive to current and future resource priorities and that supports the Forest Service in achieving its mission.

The strategic research priorities of the PNW Station are:

Climate change resilience

- Assess and predict the effect of climate change on water resources and salmon; develop measures and tools to mitigate the effect of climate change on water resources and native fish.
- Develop climate change adaptation strategies for forested landscapes in the Pacific Northwest for land managers to reduce impacts of changing climate on key ecosystem functions and services.
- Assess social and economic impacts of climate change in the Pacific Northwest.
- Develop models and tools to better manage and mitigate carbon.

Community sustainability

- Assess social and economic status and trends of communities in the Pacific Northwest.
- Provide information and methods to understand and predict land use change and effects.
- Provide information and tools to contribute to rural economic sustainability.
- Provide information and tools for green community development.



- Provide information and tools to evaluate and develop bio-energy alternatives (forest genetics, silviculture strategies, production standards, policy evaluation, and economic feasibility assessments).

Watershed health and sustainability

- Provide information and methods to establish and maintain desired watershed conditions in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington.
- Assess and predict the effect of climate change on water resources.
- Develop and deliver science-based aquatic-riparian conservation strategies for land managers in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington.

Landscape assessment, modeling, and management

- Provide landscape assessment techniques and tools.
- Provide multiple threat risk assessment to landscapes.
- Provide post-fire landscape restoration strategies.
- Provide knowledge and tools to reduce risk to priority landscape ecosystem services.

Fire management

- Develop a fire danger model and decision-support system for regional and national application in planning landscape-scale fuels reduction programs.
- Synthesize knowledge on relationships among bark beetle outbreaks, wildfire, and wildfire risk in the Interior West.
- Develop dry-forest fuels reduction strategies for the interior Pacific Northwest that integrate fire management with ecological objective, including the conservation of species.
- Develop and deliver management strategies to restore ecosystem resiliency to landscapes after fire.
- Provide strategies to fire and community planners to implement practices to reduce risk to communities.

Delivering science and technology

- Develop enhanced Web and social media capability.
- Assist practitioners in selecting the most appropriate science.
- Conduct a 3-year pilot to explore the use of techniques in extension and adult education to disseminate research findings on fire and fuels management.
- Establish regional demonstration projects of landscape-scale analytical tools and protocols.

- Create awareness and understanding within the general public of existing climate change science and its implication for forest management.

In his vision for the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack described the many challenges America faces in forest conservation and management: climate change, globalization, the threat of development to forests, society's need for both the products and the services forests provide, and the potential conflict between use and protection. To address these challenges, the Secretary envisioned an "all-lands" approach that reaches beyond public lands to operate at a landscape scale.

Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell has encouraged the Forest Service to respond with Landscape Scale Conservation plans, which take a comprehensive approach to land management that frames problems and solutions at the level of watersheds, eco-regions, or broad geographic areas. Such large areas often encompass multiple ownerships and jurisdictions. A landscape management plan might therefore include federal and state land management agencies as well as private landowners. Rather than addressing individual issues through a piecemeal approach on a fragmented landscape, problems are viewed comprehensively from a broader perspective and addressed at the most appropriate and effective scale.

The purpose of the Oregon Roundtable is to engage multiple stakeholders through collaborative efforts to advance understanding, assessment and reporting of forest sustainability indicators, and to encourage forest resource management that integrates economic, environmental, and social considerations. This is an opportunity to increase our collective knowledge about the linkages among the environmental, economic, and social aspects of Oregon's public and private forests and to understand how specific "on the ground" approaches affect forest sustainability.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station supports the establishment of the Oregon Roundtable. We look forward to active participation in using this forum to accomplish a better understanding of sustainable forests in Oregon and accomplishing our mission to develop and deliver

Sincerely,

/s/ Cynthia D. West (for)
BOV B. EAV
Station Director

cc: pdl pnw smt
Becky Gravenmier