MEETING SUMMARY

Jim Geiger and Alan McGuire-Dale of the USDA Forest Service gave an overview of the purpose and need for this work and how programs like Forest Legacy will interface. Jim Cathcart presented the work plan (a/k/a Project Charter) for the project and reviewed the methodology for determining how to weight various resource layers for the purpose of identifying spatially priority landscape areas for implementing federal State and Private Forestry Programs. Where possible, the approach will be to tie the weights to specific issues to be addressed by the assessment.

Committee Comment: When asked what is at stake (if Oregon does not complete its assessment), Jim Paul replied about $4 million in State and Private Forestry funds flowing to the Private Forests and Protection from Fire Programs and an additional $20 million in stimulus money that comes to us through the same authorities (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act). Another comment stressed the importance of leveraging existing assessments and strategies that have been developed for Oregon (e.g., Oregon Conservation Strategy) so as not be starting from scratch and the importance to engage the right mix of state and federal natural resource agencies in developing the assessment.

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David Morman led the Committee through a discussion of initial priority issues organized by National Themes (Conserve Working Forests, Protect Forests from Harm, Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests and by Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) Goals (that align with the Montreal Process criteria for sustainable forest management (Diverse Social and Economic Benefits, Productive Capacity of Forestlands, Soil and Water Quality, Forest Ecosystem Health, Native Plant and Animal Conservation, and Carbon. The questions arose out of a year-long dialog with the Interagency Mapping and Assessment Project (IMAP) User Group.

Committee Comment: Organizing the goals by national theme did not make sense since every goal relates to each of the three themes if you give it some thought. Three issues seem to be missing: forest management economics (especially, the profitability of forestry), air quality and Biomass Energy. There was an inconsistency in the questions - lots of detail in some areas, scant in others. Jim Paul (Oregon Department of Forestry) suggested it might be better to think about questions that: 1) Provide base information that is not subject to much change over time, 2) Investigate trends in conditions - that is questions about things that are subject to change over time, and 3) Investigate policy preferences - where the questions intent (and therefore its answer) could change based on the perspective on the person doing the asking.

Action: Develop a crosswalk that not only links the Forestry Program for Oregon to the 3 overriding themes, but the sub-themes for each of the 3, as characterized in the national guidance for statewide assessments - as a means to capture the complexity
that goals likely relate to more than one theme. Update the Priority Issues handout per
the comments of the Committee.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 21st, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oregon Department of
Forestry Headquarters, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310. Operations Building
(Bldg D) - Santiam Room.