

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

December 2021



As part of the FMP development process, ODF worked with stakeholders and partner agencies to develop draft goals that are designed to provide economic, environmental, and social values from state forests. The agency is currently developing draft strategies to support the draft goals. The draft strategies are intended to provide specific direction for the management of state forests. The strategies are currently in draft form and the agency is seeking input on the strategies internally and with stakeholders and the public.

RESOURCE	GOALS AND STRATEGIES
Forest Resilience	Goal 1: Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians.
	1.1 Actively manage the forest through the application of science-based silviculture within stands and across the landscape to create a variety of forest conditions and promote diverse plant species that are resilient to disturbance events and climate change.
	1.2 Implement silvicultural practices that ensure successful stand initiation and development with a variety of tree species and densities that are appropriate for site conditions and management objectives.
	1.3 Use integrated pest management (IPM) to suppress or prevent “invasive” species damage in cooperation with other agencies and associations. 1.3.a Develop and maintain an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program to address the introduction of new exotic pests. 1.3.b Use aerial and ground surveys to monitor forest health to inform management decisions across the landscape. 1.3.c Maintain spatial data for long-term tracking and integrate forest health information into forest management decisions. 1.3.d Maintain a training and outreach program to field staff that incorporates existing and new disease agents to help with EDRR and IPM implementation.
	1.4 Partner with agency and other regional seed orchards to supply a predictable amount of seed for reforestation activities that are site specific for now and under future climate change scenarios for a variety of tree species.
	1.5 Utilize herbicides to achieve reforestation, young stand management, invasive species control, and other management activities to help establish healthy forests while reducing impacts to other resources.
	1.6 Use an adaptive management approach to monitor, learn from and improve forest management practices across resource goals.

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Climate Change

Goal 2: Lead by example in demonstrating climate smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.

- 2.1 Implement silvicultural pathways and harvest rotations that increase carbon storage in the forest while maintaining wood fiber flow to the forest products industry. Different tree species, forest types, and ecological zones achieve maximum carbon storage rates at different stand ages. These variations will be accounted for when making silvicultural decisions, including, but not limited to, reforestation and young stand management, mature stand density management, age of final harvest, harvest deferral, and retention of green trees.
- 2.2 Identify climate-sensitive habitats, areas of high conservation value, and areas of cultural significance that are susceptible to climate change.
- 2.3 Determine an internal carbon price for the lands and forests that the State Forests Division manages.

Carbon

Goal 3: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products.

- 3.1 Identify areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially those that can provide benefits for species of concern habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians.
- 3.2 Identify and implement carbon storage in harvest operations where applicable. Establish a mechanism to maintain forest carbon on the site when stands are harvested by increasing soil carbon with woody debris, including alternative slash disposal methods.
- 3.3 Develop a carbon portfolio that includes forest carbon and timber that is conducive to a final product mix of long-lived harvested wood products.
- 3.4 Implement alternatives to pile burning where feasible. (Examples include biochar, biomass, and air burners)

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Wildfire **Goal 4: Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities.**

- 4.1 Implement fuels management strategies in the wildland urban interface (WUI) to increase firefighter safety and reduce risks to communities where appropriate.
- 4.2 Implement fuel breaks that leverage natural openings, existing roads, thinned and treated stands, and other landscape features to support aggressive fire suppression efforts.
- 4.3 Implement treatments and practices that mitigate fire risk and improve fire resilience across the landscape.
- 4.4 Partner with fire managers and landowners to maintain a spatial database of fire suppression water sources and to identify priorities for developing new sources and improving existing sources.
- 4.5 Participate in local and statewide fire planning efforts.
- 4.6 Communicate relevant and timely information about wildfire risk on State Forests to the public.
- 4.7 Proactively manage public access and forest operations to minimize the risk of human caused fires.

Restoration **Goal 5: Assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors.**

- 5.1 Where feasible, restore Swiss needle cast (SNC) affected stands with tree species that are appropriate for the site now and in future climates.
- 5.2 Work with adjacent landowners to develop and conduct restoration activities across ownership boundaries to maximize effectiveness.
- 5.3 Prioritize restoration in areas with the highest potential to result in recovery, productivity and forest resiliency in alignment with management objectives.
- 5.4 Allow for endemic levels of native insects and disease and when those levels cross management thresholds conduct restoration activities.
- 5.5 Identify restoration potential for site-specific native oaks, chaparral, meadows, and wetlands.

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Wildlife

Goal 6: Maintain, protect, and enhance functional and resilient systems and landscapes that provide the variety and quality of habitat types and features necessary for long-term persistence of native wildlife species.

- 6.1** Manage for diverse habitats across the landscape and over time.
 - 6.1.a** Manage for a diverse array of seral stages.
 - 6.1.b** Protect, maintain, and enhance habitats that account for the range of forest types, topography (slopes, aspects, elevations), and habitat features at the district level.
 - 6.1.c** Identify and protect rare and unique habitats, particularly those that are fragile, sensitive, or potentially vulnerable to climate change.

- 6.2** Manage for complex habitats, of all ages, with the full suite of habitat features within and across watersheds.
 - 6.2.a** Promote structural complexity, compositional diversity, and spatial heterogeneity at stand and landscape scales.
 - 6.2.b** Adapt standards to regional and state-level goals (e.g., habitat enhancement, forest restoration, fuels and fire risk, timber production, harvest age), and over time as stand and landscape conditions change.

- 6.3** Manage for functional landscapes for native wildlife.
 - 6.3.a** Create a variety of patch types, patch sizes, and patch placement over time;
 - 6.3.b** Provide for adequate interior forest habitats; and
 - 6.3.c** Maintain connectivity between habitats, and broad landscape permeability, for diverse wildlife species including species of concern.
 - 6.3.d** Foster and maintain redundancy at various ecological scales (e.g., species, stand types).

- 6.4** Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern (SOC).
 - 6.4.a** Comply with state and federal ESA requirements and adopt management strategies that contribute to the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
 - 6.4.b** Implement the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategy and associated Conservation Actions targeted to benefit the species covered under the Incidental Take Permit.
 - 6.4.c** Conduct Species Assessments during Implementation Plan development and related revisions to determine which species warrant special consideration and whether existing conservation measures are adequate.
 - 6.4.d** Collaborate across ownership boundaries to meet common wildlife conservation goals.

- 6.5** Use active management to meet habitat objectives over time and across the landscape.

- 6.6** Consider regional and landscape context (e.g. ownership patterns, HCP commitments, and occupancy by species of concern) when implementing above strategies.

- 6.7** Implement an Adaptive Management Plan that evaluates implementation, experiments with techniques, and considers best available science (e.g., trials, monitoring).

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Pollinators & Invertebrates

Goal 7: Provide suitable habitats across the landscape that contribute to maintaining or enhancing native, sensitive, and endangered pollinator and other invertebrate populations.

- 7.1 Implement management practices to maintain and promote native plant diversity and pollinator habitat.
- 7.2 Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use.
- 7.3 Include native pollinators in education and interpretation programs to support the agency's pollinator health outreach and education plan.
- 7.4 Pursue opportunities to complement wildlife strategies with habitat enhancements specific to pollinators and other invertebrates.

Plants

Goal 8: Maintain understory vegetation representing a diversity of native vegetation associations and seral stages across the landscape including sensitive and endangered plant populations.

- 8.1 Integrate understory vegetation monitoring into the State Forest Inventory Program.
- 8.2 Associate plant communities to corresponding soil types using a standardized soil survey and programmatically collected soil and vegetation data. Use these associations to predict plant community types on the landscape.
- 8.3 Develop state-and-transition models (STMs) of plant community dynamics in response to disturbance and management actions for each plant community soil association. Use the STM to predict understory vegetation response to proposed management actions to direct understory community along desired successional trajectory.
- 8.4 Develop probability of occurrence maps for sensitive species. Avoid management induced disturbances in areas of high probability of occurrence where possible.
- 8.5 Identify management thresholds for Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) designated noxious weeds, monitor for populations invasiveness, and implement appropriate IPM tactics to reduce populations below impactful densities.

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Aquatics & Riparian

Goal 9: Protect, restore, and maintain dynamic, resilient, and functioning aquatic habitats, including high water quality and healthy stream flows, that support the life history needs of aquatic and riparian-dependent fish and wildlife species.

- 9.1** Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern (SOC).
 - 9.1.a** Comply with state and federal ESA requirements and adopt management strategies that contribute to the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
 - 9.1.b** Implement the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategies and associated Conservation Actions targeted to benefit the species covered under the Incidental Take Permit.
 - 9.1.c** Conduct Species Assessments during Implementation Plan development and related revisions to determine which species warrant special consideration and whether existing conservation measures are adequate.
 - 9.1.d** Where appropriate for successful habitat management and species' benefit, utilize cross-boundary coordination with neighboring landowners in management practices.

- 9.2** Encourage beaver occupancy of streams and valley bottoms, including dam building and ponding. Identify and minimize barriers to beaver occupancy and incorporate into restoration planning.

- 9.3** Plan for natural disturbances (e.g., landslides) and implement forest management practices that, combined with the disturbance, will create aquatic habitat and protect water quality.

- 9.4** For slopes that could fail due to canopy removal or natural causes, and deliver to aquatic systems, maintain properly functioning landslide processes including sediment routing, large woody debris supply, and nutrient cycling.

- 9.5** Identify, prioritize, and enhance streams and watersheds that will support cold water refuge, complex and off channel habitats, and climate change resiliency for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates.

- 9.6** Prioritize habitat restoration efforts by utilizing watershed assessments, strategic action plans, and other local knowledge.

- 9.7** Develop and foster partnerships with other agencies, tribes, universities, and NGOs to plan, implement, and monitor aquatic habitats over time, and to conduct research that fills gaps in best available science. Report all aquatic and riparian restoration actions to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

- 9.8** Maintain the natural functions and attributes of wetlands over time and ensure that no net loss of wetlands occurs as a result of management activities. Allow for the creation of new wetlands to form over time.
 - 9.8.a** Establish and implement minimum buffer widths, including no harvest and equipment restriction zones, around all wetlands to protect wetland process and function.
 - 9.8.b** Manage for native plant communities and assemblages within wetlands, and in the surrounding buffer.

- 9.9** Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination and reporting.

- 9.10** Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for water quality and habitat protection.

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Drinking Water

Goal 10: Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.

- 10.1** Maintain and protect domestic water sources.
 - 10.1.a** Consult the Water Resources Department database to identify domestic water use permits and registered water use sites within the vicinity of timber sales and forest roads.
 - 10.1.b** Establish no-harvest buffer standards around domestic water sources within harvest units and apply road strategies to protect water quality.

- 10.2** Early in the planning process, identify the unique combination of current characteristics and proposed management scenarios (stand age and size, geology, topography, ecology, land use history, and expected variability in future climate) at the watershed scale to protect drinking water.

- 10.3** Identify priority transportation and infrastructure features (i.e., roads, recreation trails and facilities, skid roads, culverts, etc.) for assessment, upgrades, relocation, and vacating.

- 10.4** Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination and reporting.

- 10.5** Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for Water Quality protection.

- 10.6** Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use:
 - 10.6.a** Evaluate whether pesticide or fertilizer use is needed to achieve objectives on a site-by-site basis.
 - 10.6.b** Use pesticides in a manner such that minimize off-target movement through drift, leaching, volatilization, soil erosion, or other transport mechanisms.
 - 10.6.c** Where operationally effective use mechanical, manual, or “hands-off” approaches to achieve objectives.
 - 10.6.d** Protect native vegetation as means of competitively inhibiting invasive plant species.
 - 10.6.e** Maintain early successional vegetation as a tool to meet soil health, wildlife, aquatic/riparian, and drinking water goals.

- 10.7** Collaborate with the Protection Division to protect water quality when fire suppression activities occur:
 - 10.7.a** Keep fire chemicals out of waters of the state, especially drinking water sources, whenever possible.
 - 10.7.b** Preferentially select fire chemicals that are non-toxic to aquatic life and human health and readily break down in the environment.
 - 10.7.c** Minimize use of phosphorus-based retardants near waterbodies, especially those with recurring harmful algal blooms or risks of Harmful Algal Blooms.

- 10.8** Maintain and restore headwaters processes that collectively trap and store sediments and organic matter.
 - 10.8.a** Large wood retention and recruitment through leave trees within stands and selective slope buffering strategies to create steps and slow flows.
 - 10.8.b** Leave slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations unless wildfire or silvicultural concerns exist.

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Air Quality	Goal 11: Maintain and protect healthy air quality standards.
	11.1 Comply with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (OAR 629-048-0001 through 629-048-0500) and Visibility Protection Plan (OAR 340-200-0040, Section 5.2).
	11.2 Use Best Burn Practices (OAR 629-048-210) to minimize the likelihood that emissions will adversely affect air quality.
	11.3 Use prescribed burning (OAR 629-048-0200) to the extent necessary to meet management objectives.
	11.4 Use alternatives to reduce the volume of prescribed burning where feasible.
	11.5 Plan burns to avoid smoke entering Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas described and listed in OAR 629-048-0140.
Soil	Goal 12: Maintain natural soil processes, protect soils from damage and increase soil carbon.
	12.1 Support and foster healthy and productive soils by leaving slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations.
	12.2 Implement site preparation techniques for tree planting that maintain organic materials in soils.
	12.3 Conduct forest operations and projects using methods and types of equipment adapted to local conditions to protect soil.
Revenue	Goal 13: Generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities.
	13.1 Design timber sales considering timber markets to maximize net revenue and volume.
	13.2 Seek out and incorporate new revenue streams and market opportunities that maximize net revenue in alignment with greatest permanent value.
Timber Production	Goal 14: Provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provides for economic opportunity, jobs, and availability of forest products.
	14.1 Actively manage lands utilizing a suite of silviculture prescriptions, while integrating protections for resources and other forest uses.
	14.2 Utilize a mix of contracting services and timber sale project work to meet forest management goals while supporting the local economy.
	14.3 Develop operations plans for timely response to landscape level disturbances (fires, windstorms, ice storms) to realize revenue from previous investments and maintain forest health.
	14.4 Align reforestation and young stand management to maintain healthy, diverse, and productive stands for timber production across the landscape.

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Transportation System **Goal 15: Manage the transportation system to facilitate the anticipated activities in a manner which provides for resource protection, transportation efficiency, safety, and sound fiscal management.**

- 15.1** Ensure the transportation network is aligned to support the planned forest management activities and anticipated public use.
- 15.2** Consider available quantity and cost of aggregate resources to provide a balance for seasonal continuity of operations and resource protection.
- 15.3** Construct, design, improve, and maintain roads to applicable to provide for safety and efficiency for the anticipated forest management and public use.
- 15.4** Manage road access to protect resources, ensure safety and support management objectives through signage, gates, short and longer term closures.
- 15.5** Manage road infrastructure to reduce costs, wildfire risk, allow for public access, and improve forest health and fish and wildlife habitat.
- 15.6** Construct, improve, and maintain roads using best management practices to minimize erosion potential and meet or exceed applicable water quality standards.
- 15.7** Design, construct, and maintain new roads and improve existing roads to hydrologically disconnect and mitigate to meet water quality standards.
- 15.8** Evaluate and hydrologically disconnected and mitigated all planned commercial haul routes controlled by the Oregon Department of Forestry to meet water quality standards prior to hauling in the wet season.
- 15.9** Design stream crossings for passage of aquatic organisms on new roads and when replacing or upgrading existing stream crossings.
- 15.10** Design, construct, and maintain new roads and monitor and mitigate existing roads using best management practices to minimize potential for road-initiated landslides.
- 15.11** Waste disposal areas will be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize potential for landslide initiation.

Mining, Ag, Admin Sites & Grazing **Goal 16: Permit mining, agricultural use, administrative sites and grazing when resource use is compatible with other forest resource goals.**

- 16.1** Mining will be considered (in coordination with the Division of State Lands) on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law.
- 16.2** Agricultural use, communications sites, public water facilities, energy generation sites, grazing, other leases, and forest management administrative sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law.

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Special Forest Products **Goal 17: Provide opportunities for the public to sustainably harvest a wide array of special forest products for recreational, personal, and commercial use (including but not limited to firewood, salal, moss, mushrooms, etc.).**

- 17.1** Maintain knowledge of general locations where special forest products are likely to be found on a district basis.
- 17.2** Maintain documentation and policies to guide personal and commercial special forest product opportunities in a sustainable manner on State Forests.
- 17.3** Manage special forest products in a manner that reduces conflict with other forest uses and resource goals.

Recreation, Education & Interpretation **Goal 18: Provide forest recreation, interpretation, and education opportunities to create meaningful and enjoyable experiences which foster appreciation and understanding of forests and contribute to community health, forest stewardship, and economic wellbeing.**

- 18.1** Develop a Recreation, Education, and Interpretation strategic management plan to guide recreation planning, policy, and program management and development.
- 18.2** Conduct research and monitoring to understand visitor demographics, use, and experience to guide Recreation, Education, and Interpretation planning and management.
- 18.3** Develop and implement a State Forests Interpretive Master Plan.
 - 18.3.a** Provide a diversity of interpretation and education program types to allow for a range of content, to increase inclusivity, and to expand program participation and reach.
- 18.4** Develop and implement a State Forests Recreation Management Plan to inform future management, maintenance, and development of trail and recreation facility infrastructure.
- 18.5** Update interpretation and education (IE) opportunities to incorporate the Forest Management Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest management activities, and management messages to increase public awareness of ODF's role in the natural resource management spectrum.
- 18.6** Enhance community engagement to foster partnership development investment, and ownership, stewardship, and capacity to advance recreation, interpretation, and education goals.

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Recreation, Education & Interpretation

Goal 19: Manage Recreation, Education, and Interpretation infrastructure and recreational use in an environmentally sustainable manner that seeks to minimize adverse impacts to natural resources and forest ecosystems.

- 19.1** Review periodically recreation facilities and identify site design modifications and enhancements to minimize impacts on aquatic and wildlife resources from infrastructure and public use.
- 19.2** Develop guidelines, standards, and best management practices for design, construction, and maintenance of recreation facilities and trails.
- 19.3** Develop and implement operational standards that intentionally integrate recreation management activities with timber harvest, road development and management, and reforestation activities to enhance recreation opportunities and to minimize impacts to trail and facility infrastructure, the surrounding forest setting, and visitor experience.

Scenic

Goal 20: Manage forests in ways that value scenery and a range of forested settings

- 20.1** Identify and classify areas, including recreation trails and facilities, for level of visual sensitivity, taking into consideration the surrounding viewshed.
- 20.2** Collaborate with the Oregon Department of Transportation to ensure public safety requirements are met in visually sensitive corridors, including scenic byway corridors.
- 20.3** Collaborate with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to ensure management activities within Designated Scenic Waterways are consistent with the applicable requirements established in OAR 736-040.

Cultural

Goal 21: Establish strong relationships and mutual trust with communities of place and communities of interest to protect and preserve aspects of their culture and heritage that are tied to Oregon State Forests.

- 21.1** Engage communities that have historical ties to State Forests lands to ensure that historic properties and artifacts are taken into consideration in planning management activities.
- 21.2** Engage communities that have cultural practices tied to State Forest lands to ensure that those practices are taken into consideration in planning management activities.

Cultural

Cultural Goals related to Federally Recognized Tribes are under development through the Government to Government process.