

Oregon Board of Forestry
Vision for Oregon's Forests Topic Agenda
October 19, 2023
Medford, OR

Purpose: *Today's discussion of the Vision for Oregon's Forests is intended to bring the full Board and ODF Executive Team together for a discussion of the comprehensive draft containing Introduction, BOF/ODF Joint Mission, Goals & Strategies; and Additional Resources*

8:30 a.m. Opening Comments and Debrief Community Event - Jim Kelly, Cal Mukumoto, others

8:45 a.m. Vision for Oregon's Forests Comprehensive Review

Subcommittee introduce a section, Robin and Ryan Gordon facilitate feedback/dialogue

- Introduction - Ben Deumling?
 - Question about clarifying the 'reciprocal relationship' item
- Resilient Forests - tbd
 - Questions about how we are defining 'management' - active management,
 - Questions about prescribed fire strategies
 - Questions about post-disturbance strategies
- Resilient Communities- Brenda McComb?
 - Questions about post-disturbance strategies
- Wildfire Response- Dave Larsen?
 - Acknowledgment of narrow scope - and importance - of this goal.
 - Questions about what aspects of 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan go here
 - Questions about what aspects of national cohesive strategy go here
- Climate Leadership - Mike Wilson?
- Organizational Excellence - Joy

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Vision Discussion and Next Steps

Gauge alignment and any tasks to complete the sections above. Discuss 2024 activities to finalize and implement the Vision

Determine Board and ET alignment on the Vision to inform next steps.

12:30 p.m. Conclude/ Break for Lunch

v10-2-2023

A Vision For Oregon's Forests



Oregon Board of Forestry

and

Oregon Department of Forestry

Strategic Planning Document

2024

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Introduction

Social and ecological systems are in a time of transition and rapid change. Recognizing this, the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry established a **Vision for Oregon's Forests** that responds to the call for a bold, forward-looking policy approach that will best serve forests and people in Oregon into the future.

Context and Commitments

The Board and Department recognize that:

Climate impacts are felt in every corner of the state and in dynamic and unpredictable ways. In today's evolving climate environment our forests represent both a significant asset and ongoing threat to infrastructure, human health and safety, and the greater economy.

- Policies will be responsive and adaptable to global and local climate change, mitigating threats to human health and safety; and economies.
- Policies will strive for a reciprocal relationship between human cultures and forests as ecological systems. *Needs to be reframed to be clearer in intent.*
- Policies will support economic development, diversification and innovation in the forest sector that promotes the adaptive capacity of forests.

Oregon's rural, urban and suburban populations have varying social perceptions and expectations about forests and how forests should be managed to benefit human populations and safeguard natural resources.

- Policies will be based on a comprehensive, all-lands approach, that will reflect the unique landscape and forestland ownership of Oregon, and will honor the complexity of relationships Oregonians have with Oregon's forests.

- Policies will be based on the best available information, and be applicable in a place-based manner to meet local, regional and statewide expectations of Oregonians.

The State has a unique and specific government-to-government relationship with 9 federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Pages/tribalrelations.aspx>

- Policies will honor government-to-government relationships with Sovereign Nations; and meet obligations to protect tribal cultural resources.

Social expectations are shifting with calls for more inclusive, accountable decision making and recognition of inequities in our systems.

- Policies will seek to reflect and integrate the needs of all communities including those which have been historically marginalized.

Workforce supply and demand are changing, labor costs continue to increase, and there is growing uncertainty about the ability of managed forests to cover associated costs in this dynamic state of climate and social change.

- Policies will recognize the changing needs for a trained and skilled workforce that will support the work needed in Oregon forests.

About the Board of Forestry (est. 1907): *The Mission of the Board and Department is to guide management of Oregon forests and fire to benefit all Oregonians.*

ADD a LINK

About the Department of Forestry (est. 1911): *The Purpose of the Department is to engage communities, staff and resources to sustain and adapt forests and landscapes for social, economic and ecological benefits.*

ADD A LINK

Glossary of Terms:

(Placeholder): Forest management: Intentional use of the suite of tools available to impact the state or condition of the forests. This can range from no-intervention to intensive intervention. (Question- further definition needed for the range of management applications?)

Climate-smart forestry: A holistic approach for addressing the management needs related to the existential pressures exerted from climate change

Complete and coordinated response system: Oregon's cross-boundary wildfire preparedness and response system which includes the coordinated efforts of federal, state, tribal and private partners.

Forest ecosystem services: The benefits provided by healthy, functioning ecosystems to humans; these services are categorized into the following four groups (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005).

Place-based: General planning approach which emphasizes the characteristics and meaning of places as a fundamental starting point for planning and development. "Solutions that are uniquely tailored to a geography and the relevant communities or people for a given locale."

Silviculture: The growing and cultivation of trees.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): The geographic area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels. A transition zone between wildlands and human communities.

Wildfire: Unwanted or unattended human or natural caused ignition of forestland vegetation that requires an immediate strategic or tactical suppression response to protect life, forest resources, and property. ***Different from 'fire' or 'good fire'.***
May need to revisit.

GOALS and STRATEGIES

Resilient Forests

Goal: Policy and management decisions enable forest stands and landscapes to persist over space and time.

Context: Changes related to climate, social values and economics are resulting in changes to ecosystem functions and ecosystem services provided to our society. Society recognizes the importance of reciprocal relationships between humans and forests; relationships in which humans support forests so that forests can support humans and other species.

The range of components that describe forest complexity, structure and function in each ecoregion in Oregon will be defined at multiple spatial scales (stand- to landscape-level) and temporal scales (stand initiation to old-growth). Beyond the legal requirement of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, and state forest practices act rules, complex and functional forests representing a wide range of seral stages from complex early successional to old-growth contribute to maintaining populations of native species over space and time in each Oregon Forest Type. Active management over the complete lifecycle continuum utilizing science, continuous learning and stand conditions enhance complexity.

Communities in rural, suburban, and urban environments can support active forest management if each individual in those communities can see their values represented in the outcomes of that management. A wide range of values include clean water, clean air, fish, wildlife, aesthetics, and timber for

jobs and housing, recreation, and others. Complex, actively managed and functional forest ecosystems in each of Oregon forest types hold the greatest opportunities for providing these values over space and time.

STRATEGIES

- Promote Stewardship Agreements
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/shared-stewardship-mou-agreement.pdf>
that include ecological forestry principles that further forest complexity components, including diversity of regenerated woody and nonwoody species, a wide range of stand densities, extended rotations and increased retention of large legacy structures (live green trees, snags, and downed wood) during harvest activities.
- Support development of Safe Harbor Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans in collaboration with landowners and the federal government.
- Support additional incentives including statutory changes that allow tax incentives for private landowners who implement Stewardship Agreements that make meaningful contributions towards forest complexity goals.
- Support exploring carbon markets that allow the development of complex functional forests to develop that also sequester and store carbon.
- Support Forest Legacy efforts to retain and manage forests for diverse goals, including forest complexity.
- Support **management** to reach **desired** outcomes and landscape objectives. **Apply appropriate application of a range of tools based on place-based need.**
- Support management of forests where needed to protect human life and infrastructure, especially in the WUI.
- **Engage with partners on place-based plans that seek to balance ecological, economic and social trade-offs to support the recovery and regeneration of diverse forests in the aftermath of severe disturbance events.**
- Adopt new, and revise existing, Oregon Administrative Rules pertaining to harvest and reforestation to incentivize retention and development of forest complexity components.
- **Develop a strategy related to prescribed fire.**

Resilient Communities

Goal: Policy and management decisions foster healthy relationships between humans and forests, so that forests support resilient human communities through social, economic, and ecological change.

Context: Forests have both direct and indirect effects on quality of life, economic opportunities for communities, and ecological conditions in rural, suburban, and urban areas across the state. Resilience varies regionally and between communities of place and culture. Forests provide a range of benefits to Oregonians and contribute to community resilience. Place-based and scientifically informed management approaches support forests to contribute a full range of benefits to enhance community resilience by meeting their needs.

STRATEGIES:

- Promote access to healthy forests for recreation, culture, education, and appreciation, in ways that are welcoming and inclusive for a wide range of needs that are important to Oregonians. Ensure access that respects cultural resource protections, private ownership and natural resources.
- Promote forest and forestry related educational programs, technologies, pilot projects, forest management jobs, infrastructure and other tools to invest in the sustained economic viability and vitality of communities.
- Ensure management of forests contributes to clean water and air for all Oregonians.
- Educate and engage communities on forest issues
- Employ shared stewardship to support collaborative management across ownerships, promoting diverse strategies that maintain environmental and economic values.
- Take a place-based approach to supporting resilient communities that recognizes unique characteristics of that place.
- ***Engage with communities on place based plans to support community recovery from severe disturbance events.***

Wildfire Response

Goal: Suppress, manage, and mitigate wildfire to protect communities, allow natural ecosystem processes, and promote the adaptive capacity of Oregon's forests.

Context:

Wildfire has been a force that has helped shape Oregon's forests for millennia. Both natural and human induced fire, **the use of prescribed fire**, and the suppression of fire, have played important roles in creating the forests we have today. Across Oregon, fire in forests has always existed in a variety of regimes, from frequent, low intensity fire to stand-replacing events, and mixed severity fires that present a spectrum of disturbance patterns. This plan seeks a balanced approach that recognizes the role of fire suppression in providing protection to life and property, the role of active management to mitigate hazards and control forest fuels, and the role for natural fire to occur where appropriate **for ecological function**. Place-based solutions based on robust assessments of current conditions and desired outcomes will be essential to promoting forests that are resilient and can provide abundant benefits to Oregonians.

STRATEGIES

- Align with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/natl-cohesive-wildland-fire-mgmt-strategy-addendum-update-2023.pdf>
 - Restore and maintain landscapes
 - Support fire adapted communities; and
 - Respond to fire
- Advance the implementation of the 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/olrs-progress-report.pdf> and all-lands shared stewardship across Oregon.
- Maintain a high quality complete and coordinated wildfire preparedness and response system.

Climate Leadership

Goal: The Board and Department will be leaders in promoting climate-smart forest policies and actions.

Context: The Board adopted its Climate Change and Carbon Plan in November 2023, which centered climate-smart forest management to guide activities contributing to adaptation and mitigation, as well as social dimensions of the effects of climate change. Climate-smart forestry is a holistic approach for addressing the management needs related to the existential pressures exerted from climate change.

Link to CCCP: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/odf-climate-change-and-carbon-plan-draft.pdf>

STRATEGIES:

- **Silviculture:** Establish a just and equitable transition to climate-informed silviculture and climate-smart forestry that optimizes climate mitigation and adaptation, while maintaining a sustainable flow of wood products to ensure long-term resource benefits and viability of the forest products industry and flow of long-lived forest products.
- **Fire:** Modernize Oregon's complete and coordinated wildfire protection system to respond to the increased severity of wildfire. Promote fire and smoke-adapted communities in the wildland urban interface and beyond, to mitigate the impacts of climate-induced increases in wildfire severity.
- **State forests management:** Lead by example and demonstrate climate-smart forest management on State Forests to achieve adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.
- **Restoration:** Accelerate the pace, scale, and quality of climate appropriate forest restoration to increase the resilience to increased wildfire, drought, and biotic disturbance severity and incidence. Support implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response.
- **Urban forests:** Increase the extent and resilience of urban and community forests to maximize the climate mitigation and health benefits of urban forest canopy.
- **Post-fire:** Facilitate and encourage the reforestation of areas burned by wildfire and afforestation of low-productivity lands that are understocked or not in forest use.
- **Conservation:** Support a strong, but flexible, Land Use Planning System as a cornerstone of maintaining Oregon's forests on private lands.

- Research and monitoring: Maintain a research and monitoring program to track the status and trends of ecological, economic, and social indicators and the effects of climate change and to track progress related to this plan.

Organizational Excellence

Context: Oregon state agencies have an obligation to the Oregonians they serve to continually improve business processes to promote organizational efficiency and effectiveness in their delivery of services. This includes being transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible. In order to achieve this, ODF's operations must be integrated and aligned through shared common policies, goals and objectives that support direction provided by the Board, Executive Branch and Legislature. Engaging with partners, urban and rural communities, local governments and Sovereign Nations is essential. Operational excellence requires a well-trained, highly competent and diverse staff of professionals.

STRATEGIES

- Create and maintain strategic and operational plans that support accomplishment of FPFO goals.
- Collaboratively develop strategic and operational plans.
- Work with other state and federal agencies to leverage efficiencies and opportunities to accomplish individual and shared goals and objectives.
- Increase transparency into agency operations and performance through clear, accurate and easily accessible reporting.
- Continue to build a strong and diverse agency workforce.
- Establish and maintain visible regulatory programs with consistent enforcement of laws and rules.

Additional Resources

Context/Further Information

LINKS will be provided

Climate-Smart forestry

v10-2-2023

National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Tribal relations

Place Based implementation

Ecosystem services

(PLACEHOLDER) MANAGEMENT- describe the range of fully passive to fully intensive management tools.)

Reference Materials:

National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy:

<https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/natl-cohesive-wildland-fire-mgmt-strategy-addendum-update-2023.pdf>

Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment: <https://pnw-quantitative-wildfire-risk-assessment-osugisci.hub.arcgis.com/>

Oregon Forest Action Plan: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/aboutodf/OregonActionPlan.pdf>

ODF Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-25: **hyperlink coming**

ODF/Tribal Relations: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Pages/tribalrelations.aspx>

Shared Stewardship MOU: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/shared-stewardship-mou-agreement.pdf>

2021-2023 Landscape Resiliency Program Report:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/documents/2023-odf-sb762-landscape-resiliency-program-report.pdf>

Peer reviewed: Climate-Smart Forestry: Promise and risks for forests,society, and climate.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000212>

Peer reviewed: Meta-Overview and Bibliometric Analysis of Resilience in Spatial Planning – the Relevance of Place-Based Approaches. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12061-022-09449-z>

2024 Finalize Vision/Action Planning and Implementation

(Winter/Spring)

Community Engagement / Public Review

Connecting the Plan with Staff and Action Planning to align with 2024 Vision
Update Indicators and Key Performance Measures to reflect 2024 Vision

(Spring)

Department Action Planning

(Summer/Fall)

Progress Tracking

(Fall)

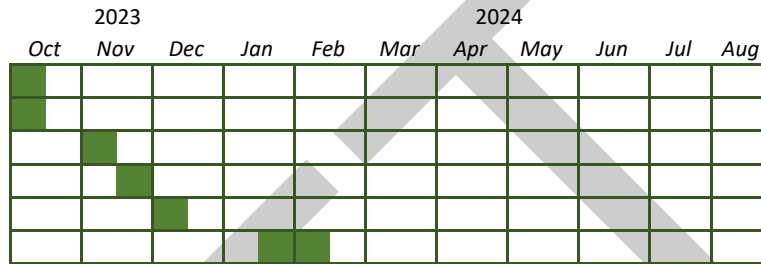
Board Annual Progress Update

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Draft Strategic Plan Feedback & Rollout Schedule

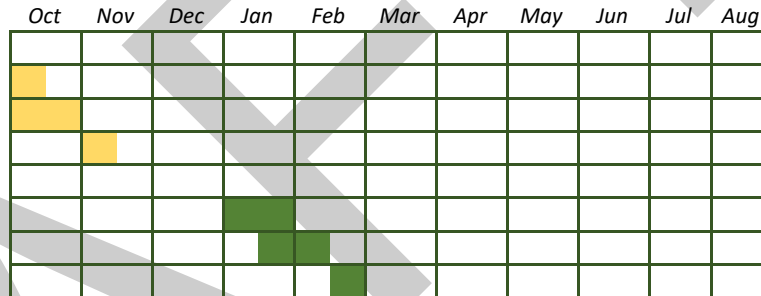
Internal feedback

Exec. Team review: Mission, vision, principles
Exec. Team finalize: Goal 4 & strategies
Leadership Team review: All goals & strategies
Initial ODF staff input: Mission, vision, principles
ODF internal feedback report complete
Focus groups: Connecting the plan with staff



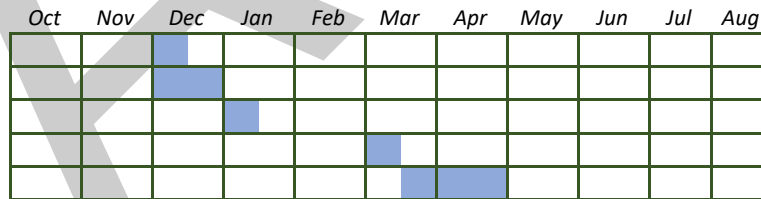
External feedback

OKT-led
OKT public survey
OKT small groups
OKT public feedback report complete
ODF-led
Written public comment period
Focus groups: Stakeholders & partners
ODF external feedback report complete



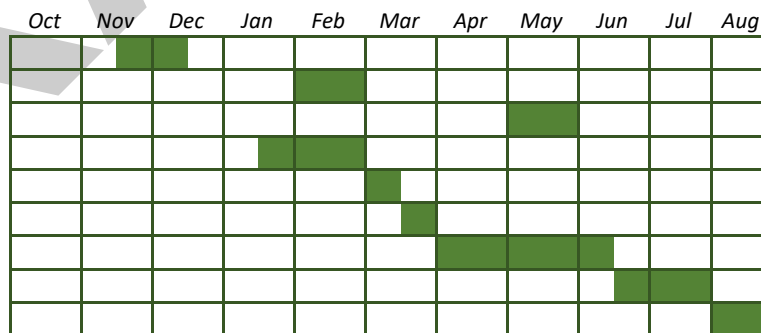
Subcommittee work

Review internal and OKT public feedback reports
Incorporate input into final draft for BoF
Final draft of strategic plan ready for BoF, public
Discuss ODF external feedback report
Incorporate input into final strategic plan content



ODF staff work

Analyze & prepare report on internal feedback
Analyze & prepare report on external feedback
Finalize strategic plan for BoF approval
Develop internal & external rollout plans
Draft rollout plan ready for BoF review & input
Incorporate BoF input into final rollout plan
Develop rollout materials
Internal rollout of strategic plan
External rollout of strategic plan



Board items

October retreat: Strategic plan discussion
January: Receive and discuss final draft
March: In-person comment, review feedback & draft rollout plan
June: Vote on adoption of strategic plan

