

Oregon Board of Forestry – Annual Retreat

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Board of Forestry’s annual retreat will be hybrid for either in-person attendance at ODF headquarters, 2600 State St., Salem, or virtual via livestream on the [ODF’s YouTube channel](#). The focus of the retreat will be facilitating a final discussion about the board and department’s shared strategic plan, the *Vision for Oregon’s Forests and reviewing the latest developments for the State Forests Trust of Oregon*.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 - 9:15 | <p>1. <u>Opening Comments</u>..... Chair Kelly and Board Members
 State Forester Mukumoto and ODF Executive Team Members
 Robin Harkless, Oregon Consensus
 <i>Opening comments from the Board members and department executive leadership.
 Facilitator will frame up the plan for the day.</i></p> |
| 9:15 – 10:30 | <p>2. <u>Vision for Oregon’s Forests</u> Joy Krawczyk, ODF Public Affairs Director
 <i>The board and department will review and discuss key bodies of content that have been added since the last full group meeting: wildfire priority area, mission, forest values and organizational values.</i></p> |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | <p>Break</p> |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | <p>3. <u>Goals, strategy and feedback review</u> Robin Harkless, Facilitator
 Wendy Willis and Sarah Giles, Oregon’s Kitchen Table
 Joy Krawczyk, ODF Public Affairs Director
 <i>The board and department will walk through the goals and strategies currently included in the Vision for Oregon’s Forests, review key themes identified through Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s community engagement and ODF employee feedback collection, and discuss how to address those themes in the strategic plan.</i></p> |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | <p>Lunch break</p> |
| 1:00 - 1:45 | <p>4. <u>Close Out Goals, Strategy and Feedback Review</u></p> |
| 1:45 - 2:00 | <p>Break</p> |
| 2:00 – 2:45 | <p>5. <u>State Forests Trust of Oregon</u> Mike Wilson, State Forests Division Chief
 Laura Fredrickson, State Forests REI Program Manager
 Kelly Lau, Executive Director, State Forests Trust of Oregon
 <i>ODF staff will present a brief overview of the REI strategic plan and State Forests Recreation. STFO will provide an update on their activities and strategic direction to support recreation on State Forests.</i></p> |
| 2:45 - 3:00 | <p>6. <u>Wrap-Up and Closing Comments</u> Chair Kelly and Board Members
 State Forester Mukumoto and ODF Executive Team Members</p> |

The times listed on the agenda are approximate. At the discretion of the chair, the time and order of agenda items—including the addition of breaks—may change to maintain the meeting flow.

GENERAL INFORMATION: For regularly scheduled meetings, the Board's agenda is posted on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov two weeks before the meeting date. During that time, circumstances may dictate a revision to the agenda, either in the sequence of items to be addressed or in the time of day the item is to be presented.

If special materials, services, or assistance is required, such as a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, or large print material, please contact us at least seven working days before the meeting at 503-945-7200 or forestryinformation@odf.oregon.gov.

Use of all tobacco products in state-owned buildings and on adjacent grounds is prohibited.

Opening Comments

*Opening comments from the Board members and department executive leadership.
Facilitator will frame up the plan for the day.*

Vision for Oregon’s Forests

Purpose

Oregon’s forest ecosystems are vulnerable. Forest health overall is in decline. This is due in large part to climate-driven stressors—such as insects, diseases, drought and wildfire—and historic forest management decisions. Our forests don’t stand alone in their vulnerability in the face of mounting and escalating challenges.

Forests are an integral part of the social economic and environmental fabric of our state, and as such, their vulnerability is ours as well. Clean air and water, sustainable forest products, biodiversity, public health and safety, and many more critical benefits Oregonians rely upon require a foundation of resilient forest ecosystems. But there is a lot of work to do to help our forests get there.

Community Engagement Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Put the second paragraph first, as forests are central to Oregonians concept of their state.	
Add “spiritual” and “emotional” to the list of benefits.	

Recognizing the importance and urgency of this work, the Oregon Board of Forestry and Oregon Department of Forestry collaboratively developed this bold, forward looking strategic *Vision for Oregon’s Forests* that will best serve Oregon’s forests and people into the future.

Context and Commitments

The board and department recognize that:

Bold, science-based actions are needed to address the composition and structure of the forests in Oregon.

- Policies will be responsive and adaptable to global and local climate change while mitigating threats to ecosystems, human health and safety, and economies.
- Policies will strive for a reciprocal relationship between forests and human cultures representing multiple identities. There is a responsibility to take care of forests so that forests can take care of us.

- Policies will support development of local and regional economies. Diversification and innovation in all aspects of forest management should promote 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 humans and other species.

- The vision and goals put forth in this document are applicable statewide. The policies to enact these goals will be applied in a place-based manner at the regional and local level.
- Policies will seek to reflect and integrate the needs of all communities and identities including those which have been, and continue to be, marginalized.
- The board and department will provide clear and accurate information about forests in Oregon and accessible opportunities for all Oregonians to provide meaningful input on policies and decisions.

The state has unique and specific [government-to-government relationships](#) with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

- Policies will honor government-to-government relationships with Sovereign Nations and meet obligations to protect tribal cultural resources.
- Policies will encourage collaboration with Tribes by pairing western science with indigenous knowledge.

Workforce supply continues to be a challenge, and there is a reduction in the ability of managed forests to cover associated costs in this dynamic state of climate and social change.

- Policies will recognize the changing educational requirements for a trained and skilled workforce that will support the work needed in Oregon.
- Policies will promote educational and employment opportunities that include communities and identities that have been and continue to be excluded from the profession.

The *Vision for Oregon's Forests* is forward looking and aspirational, which means that not all strategies can be immediately implemented with the authorities and resources currently available to the board and department.

- The board and department will work together to identify opportunities and solutions to challenges.
- There is a shared commitment to working within state government budgeting and policy processes to promote and fulfill the needs to implement this vision.

Our shared vision

Complex and resilient forest ecosystems that endure and adapt.

Our shared mission

To protect and promote resilient forests that benefit all Oregonians.

Our shared values

Forest-centric values

Healthy ecosystems

We value the benefits provided by healthy, functioning ecosystems to people, including timber, food, clean air and water, recreation, habitat, regional biodiversity, carbon storage, and so much more.

Ecosystems support

We value the critical importance of people's actions to support the continued resilience and adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems, including habitat protection, wildfire management, seedling selection, cultural and natural resources stewardship, restoration activities, and water and soil protection.

Climate-smart forestry

We value a holistic approach to addressing the management needs related to climate change that considers adaptation, mitigation and the social dimension of forestry, which includes community and economic aspects.

People-centric values

Relationships

We value strong, respectful relationships.

Workforce

Our workforce is our greatest asset. We provide them with a safe, diverse and inclusive workplace that encourages continuous learning and improvement.

Public service

We are service focused and responsible stewards of the public's trust, confidence and resources.

Sound decision making

We empower our workforce to make decisions closest to the point of action and based on science, best practices and lessons learned.

Accountability

We are transparent about our actions and take ownership of the outcomes. We do what we say we're going to do.

Safety

The safety of our workforce and the public is always a top priority.

Priority: Resilient Forests

Goal

To reduce the vulnerability of Oregon’s forests from a myriad of catastrophic climate driven disturbances, ODF will direct its policy management and educational actions to enable and promote all forestland managers to make intentional decisions that increase adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems.

The Board of Forestry believes that all forest owners and stewards have a social responsibility to improve the resilience and adaptive capacity of their lands. The Department of Forestry has the tools to incentivize and support this work.

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 (individual forest stand-to landscape-level) and temporal scales (stand initiation to old-growth). Beyond the legal requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, and state forest practices act rules, complex, functional forests representing a wide range of seral stages from early successional to old-growth contribute to maintaining populations of native species over space and time in each Oregon forest type. Forest complexity can be enhanced at all stages of stand development using management based on best available science and continuous learning.

Communities in rural, suburban, and urban environments can support forest management if communities can see their values considered and represented in the outcomes of that management, including clean water, clean air, fish, wildlife, aesthetics, timber for jobs and housing, recreation. Complex, functional forest ecosystems in each of Oregon forest types hold the greatest opportunities for providing these values over space and time.

Community Engagement Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Also consider spiritual values.	

Strategies

- Promote 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.
- Engage in the development of safe harbor agreements, habitat conservation plans, and other regulatory compliance mechanisms in collaboration with landowners and state and federal agencies.
- Engage with the Governor’s Office and Legislature on potential incentives to encourage implementation of stewardship agreements on private lands.
- Encourage the development of complex, functional forests that sequester and store carbon.
- Promote the Forest Legacy Program and other efforts to protect private forestlands. and the multitude of public benefits they provide, from fragmentation and conversion.
- Engage with partners on place-based plans that seek to balance ecological, economic and social trade-offs to support the resilience, 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.
- In collaboration with the Governor’s Office and Legislature, establish a clear state policy position on prescribed fire.
- Manage ODF’s state forestlands to produce a blend of social, economic and environmental benefits to Oregonians, and demonstrate leadership in forest management.

Leadership Team Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Add strategy about engagement with tribes on partnerships/co-stewardship/tribal ecological practices and incorporation into ODF management activities.	
Add strategy about federal forestland management. Potential for engagement with federal delegation to increase	

CALLOUT BOX FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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

1. **Provisioning services.** Provisioning services are raw resources provided by forest ecosystems including but not limited to: sustainable and predictable supply of timber and special forest products; food, energy and mineral sources; and clean air and water.
2. **Regulating services.** A regulating service is the benefit provided by a forest ecosystem's impact on natural processes such as carbon storage, water storage and purification, erosion and flood control and decomposition.
3. **Cultural services.** Cultural services are nonmaterial benefits provided by forest ecosystems such as sustenance; spiritual, recreational, aesthetic, and scientific benefits; and values as numerous and diverse as the people and cultures that use them.
4. **Supporting services.** Supporting services are necessary for the maintenance and support of

all other ecosystem services. Forest ecosystems support the *function* of many systems including *nutrient cycling*, soil formation, pollination and seed dispersal, habitat for fish and wildlife and regional *biodiversity*.

Services to ecosystems are the actions taken by humans that support the continued resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems.

1. **Protecting Services.** Wildfire management activities, fish and wildlife habitat protection, integrated pest management, riparian and water protection, soil protection, sustainable harvest.
2. **Enhancing services.** Density management, seedling selection, nutrient cycling.
3. **Restoring services.** Post-wildfire restoration activities, fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement, promoting carbon storage.
4. **Supporting services.** Cultural and natural resources stewardship practices, culturally significant vegetative species strategy, native seed sources, recreation management, educational and interpretive opportunities.

CALLOUT BOX FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Urgent land management challenges like extreme wildfires, severe drought, and invasive species do not recognize property lines. Shared stewardship is a collaborative approach to land management that emphasizes partnerships across state, federal, private, and tribal landownerships. Shared stewardship approaches seek to identify joint priorities, explore opportunities, and develop cross-boundary strategies that make an impact on a landscape scale to create more resilient landscapes over time.

In 2019, Oregon's Governor and state and federal officials signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to document the commitment to work collaboratively to create a shared stewardship approach for implementing land management activities in Oregon. This MOU and the passage of Oregon Senate Bill 762 (2021) led to the development of the 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy.

This strategy—developed in collaboration with public and private sector partners—prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire

risk reduction to direct federal, state, and private investments. More information on the strategy the plan for implementing Shared

Stewardship in Oregon can be found on the [ODF website](#).

DRAFT

Priority: 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 for diverse communities 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.
- Educate and engage communities about Oregon's forests.
- 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.

Leadership Team Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Add environmental justice strategy that includes more than just access to forests.	

Community Engagement Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Incorporate culturally specific and appropriate into strategy about educating and engaging communities.	

CALLOUT BOX FOR PLACE BASED

Oregon is home to diverse and varied landscapes, ecosystems, and peoples. Developing natural resource management strategies that maintain environmental, human, and economic health requires consideration of local differences in both human and natural communities. Taking a place-based approach means finding solutions that are uniquely tailored to the geography and relevant human communities for a given locale, while still meeting broader regional, national, or global needs.

Place refers to both the natural-environmental context (a valley, mountain range, region,

ecosystem, etc.) and the human context (human cultural history, economics, laws, etc.). Place-based strategies include goals and outcomes that reflect a balance of needs between the environmental and human components of a place. Understanding and achieving this balance can be challenging, but the Board and department are committed to open and equitable processes that attempt to bridge this often-challenging divide.

Link analysis of resilience in spatial planning:
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12061-022-09449-z>

Priority: Living with Fire

Goal

Prevent, 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](#):
 - Restore and maintain landscapes.
 - Support fire adapted communities.
 - Respond to fire.
- Advance the implementation of the [20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy](#) and all-lands shared stewardship across Oregon.
- Continuously improve Oregon's complete and coordinated wildfire protection system to meet the needs of the changing operational environment.
- Prioritize and promote fuels management and forest resiliency work where needed to protect human life and infrastructure, especially in the wildland-urban interface.
- Promote fire and smoke-adapted communities in the wildland urban interface and beyond to mitigate the impacts of climate-induced increases in wildfire severity.

- Promote management activities that provide for safe operations before, during and after wildland fire events.

Leadership Team Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Add strategy about prevention.	
Add strategy about fire education, including wildfires, prescribed fire, wildfire science, etc.	
Incorporate encouragement/increase of prescribed fire into current strategy about fire and smoke-adapted communities.	
Add strategy about building public/community acceptance of prescribed fire.	
Add strategy about limiting transfer of risk in suppression decisions.	
Add strategy about wildfire prevention.	
Add strategy about adequate, sustainable funding for wildland fire mitigation, prevention and suppression.	

Community Engagement Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Add strategy or incorporate into existing strategies opportunities for community engagement related to wildfire.	

Priority: Climate Leadership

Goal

The Board and Department will build capacity for climate-smart leadership.

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.

Strategies

- Implement the adopted *Climate Change and Carbon Plan*.
- Lead efforts for 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Increase the extent and resilience of urban and community forests to maximize the climate mitigation and health benefits of urban forest canopy.
- Facilitate the reforestation of areas burned by wildfire and encourage afforestation of low-productivity lands that are understocked or not in forest use.
- Support a strong, but flexible, land use planning system as a cornerstone of maintaining Oregon's forests on private lands.
- Create and 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.

CALLOUT BOX FOR CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY

Climate-smart forestry is a holistic approach for addressing the management needs related to the existential pressures exerted from climate change. Recent impacts go beyond the biotic aspects of the forest and include social dimensions including economics and state financial obligations. Abiotic and biotic forces are driving a divergence of existing ecosystems and the future environment.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Board of Forestry have accepted a definition of climate-smart forestry that includes three legs: adaptation, mitigation, and the social dimension (including communities and economic aspects), and following this will help the board and department align with each other and with the State's federal counterparts which have been directed to center climate-smart agriculture and forestry in their own work and processes. Adaptation policy can help forests adapt towards more resilient landscapes through human intervention. Examples include changing forest structure, management approaches, and incentivizing efforts to incorporate climate change into management

decisions. Adaptation tools can help forest landowners and managers assess their vulnerability to climate change. Mitigation policy and activities contribute to reducing temperatures through the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Natural climate solutions like forests, agricultural lands, and blue carbon offer options to increase this mitigation through biologic sequestration. Policy approaches and levers that can be utilized include incentivizing practices to increase stored carbon in the forests, reducing emissions from forest activities (e.g., limiting slash burning and increasing alternative slash use), among others. Social license considers the impacts of adaptation and mitigation action on people, personal and community health, and community and rural economies. Utilizing climate smart forestry to create healthy, resilient forests that also provide ecosystem and economic benefits can help lift disadvantaged, underserved, natural resource dependent, and those living with intergenerational poverty.

Priority: Organizational Excellence

Goal

Strengthen trust and confidence in ODF's ability to effectively accomplish its mission and provide excellent service to Oregonians.

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. Achieving this requires alignment: internally at all levels; with the direction provided by the Board of Forestry, Executive Branch and Legislature; with our partners; and with the public we serve. Operational excellence requires a well-trained, highly competent and diverse staff of professionals and a culture that values and encourages individual and team learning and continuous improvement.

Leadership Team Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Incorporate funding mechanisms.	
Incorporate governance/best practices.	
Highlight the administrative functions that are responsible for much of the work necessary for success in this priority area.	

Strategies

- Build an agency governance structure that ensures consistent, optimized and efficient implementation of all agency functions.
- Create and maintain strategic and operational plans that support accomplishment of the goals in this document.
- Engage and collaborate regularly with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.
- Collaborate and coordinate with partners to identify and pursue opportunities and leverage efficiencies to accomplish individual and shared goals and objectives.
- Increase transparency into key areas of interest including agency performance, enforcement activities, and financial condition.
- Prioritize initiatives to expand ODF's education, information, outreach and engagement efforts.

- Continue to build a diverse and innovative workforce where employees understand and value their role in the agency’s mission.
- Encourage a culture of learning by providing development opportunities and supporting professional growth.
- Incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into all aspects of ODF’s business and operations.

Leadership Team Recommendation	Board/Executive Team Decision
Incorporate metrics and monitoring into the strategy related to increasing transparency into key areas of interest.	
Add strategy about promoting a more unified agency identity that represents the full scope of ODF’s work and responsibilities.	
Add strategy about regular, robust agency risk assessment and mitigation program.	
Add strategy about adequate funding.	
Add strategy about increasing organizational maturity, with a focus on building repeatable and documented business processes.	
Add strategy about modernization of technology and innovation.	

CALLOUT BOX FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Board of Forestry are committed to a vision for Oregon’s forests that benefits all Oregonians across all identities, backgrounds, and experiences. The board and department are committed to integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion, as defined below, across the agency’s operations and spheres of influence. Collectively, we aspire to create a culture of inclusivity for our employees and the communities we serve.

Definitions extracted from [C](#).

Diversity: Honoring and including people of different backgrounds, identities, and experiences collectively and as individuals. It

emphasizes the need for sharing power and increasing representation of communities that are systemically underrepresented and under-resourced. These differences are strengths that maximize the state’s competitive advantage through innovation, effectiveness, and adaptability.

Equity: Equity acknowledges that not all people, or all communities, are starting from the same place due to historic and current systems of oppression. Equity is the effort to provide different levels of support based on an individual’s or group’s needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Equity actionably empowers communities most impacted by

systemic oppression and requires the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to those communities.

Inclusion: A state of belonging when persons of different backgrounds, experiences, and

identities are valued, integrated, and welcomed equitably as decision-makers, collaborators, and colleagues. Ultimately, inclusion is the environment that organizations create to allow these differences to thrive.

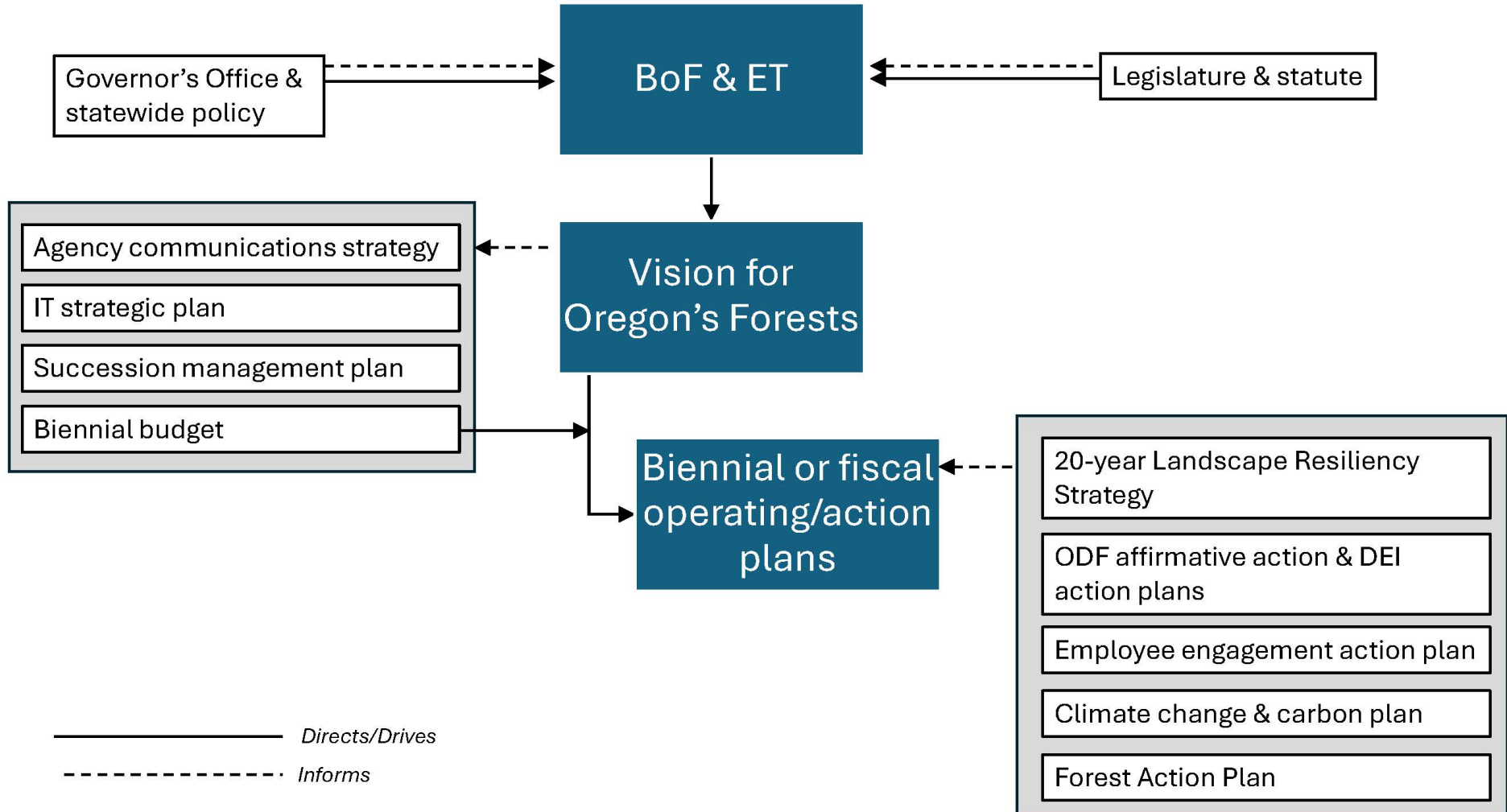
CALLOUT BOX FOR TRIBAL RELATIONS

There are nine federally recognized Indian Tribes in Oregon. These Tribes existed prior to the foundation of the United States of America and retain a unique legal status and provide a historic context to Oregon's natural resources. The board and department are committed to communicating, engaging, and partnering with the Tribes at a government-to-government level. This means acknowledging Tribal governments as sovereign nations that have rights of self-determination. The nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon have lived, worked, and played in Oregon since time immemorial, and partnering in natural resource stewardship is imperative given the challenges we face together, and the millennia of knowledge Tribes bring to ecosystem management in the Pacific Northwest. The [department's intent](#) is to promote and strengthen inter-government relations, resolve potential concerns, and enhance the exchange of information, ideas, and resources for the greater good of all Oregonians.

Appendix A: Monitoring, evaluating & adapting

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Q1		Adopt progress measures	First annual progress report to BoF				Adopt updated plan
				Annual progress report to Board			
	ET quarterly progress check						
Q2	Adopt new plan						
	ET quarterly progress check						
Complete fiscal year action plans & present to Board							
Q3	Begin development of progress measures						
	Begin FY26 action plan development			ET quarterly progress check			
	Implement fiscal year action plans						
Q4	Complete progress measures				Begin BoF & ODF review of plan	Complete plan updates	
	ET quarterly progress check						

Appendix B: Connection to other strategies & plans



Appendix C: Glossary

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.

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.

Appendix D: Reference materials & resources

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:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Documents/2023-2025-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-action-plan.pdf>

ODF's Information Technology Strategic Plan:

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>

Appendix E: Who we are

Oregon Board of Forestry (est. 1907)

For more than a century, the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry have been caring for Oregon's forests. The board was established in 1911, along with the positions of state forester and deputy state forester. Together, they were charged with preventing forest fires and coordinating the response when fires did start. This was the start of Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system that is still a crucial part of our suppression success today.

Less than a decade after being founded, the Board of Forestry adopted a forest policy for the state that identified the need for increased forest protection, a forest nursery, insect control, and formation of state forests. This policy was the starting point for the broad portfolio of work the board and department are responsible for today.

The Oregon Board of Forestry is a seven-member citizen board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. The board's primary responsibilities are to:

- Supervise all matters of forest policy within Oregon.
- Appoint the State Forester, who also serves as the director of ODF.
- Adopt rules regulating forest practices.
- Provide general supervision of the State Forester's duties in managing ODF.

The board is charged with representing the public interest. No more than three members may receive any significant portion of their income from the forest products industry. At least one member must reside in each of the state's three major forest regions: northern, southern, and eastern. The term of office is four years, and no member may serve more than two consecutive full terms. The State Forester serves as secretary to the board.

Oregon Department of Forestry (est. 1911)

The Department of Forestry's work is truly a team effort. The policy and direction established at the headquarters level guides the work happening in the field statewide. The department's headquarters are in Salem, but much of the on-the-ground work is done by the leadership and staff of ODF's 12 districts with 24 units from Astoria to Wallowa and all the way down to Lakeview and Medford. The dedicated public servants in these offices are the people responsible for fighting fires, assisting landowners and managing our state forestlands every day for their fellow Oregonians. ODF also partners with three forest protective associations as part of the fire protection program.

ODF's Fire Protection Division is the state's largest fire department and protects 16 million acres of private, state, and some federal lands. ODF has been protecting Oregon's forests for 110 years. The department emphasizes preventing human-caused fires, reducing wildfire risks through improved forest health and resiliency, and keeping those fires that do start as small as possible. This approach minimizes resource loss, fire danger and smoke impact to communities, and suppression costs. ODF leads Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system. This system relies on partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal government; the structural fire service; landowners; forest operators; contractors and more.

ODF's Forest Resources Division is responsible for several key areas of operation that contribute to sustainable, healthy forests. The most prominent work they do involves the administration of the Forest Practices Act, which is a cornerstone of natural resource protection in Oregon that encourages sound management of forestlands.

Division staff also:

- Monitor and help preserve forest health across the state,
- Provide technical assistance to landowners, and
- Support local urban and community forestry efforts.

The division also houses the Federal Forest Restoration Program that, along with the Good Neighbor Authority, enables ODF to assist its federal partners in forest restoration and resiliency work on federally managed forestlands. Since the federal government is responsible for so much of Oregon's forests, the condition of these lands has a dramatic effect on the health of the state's total forestland.

ODF's State Forests Division manages more than 760,000 acres of working forests—also known as Board of Forestry lands—to provide social, economic and environmental benefits for Oregonians, which is not an easy task. The way the division's work is funded adds to the complexity. State forestland management is funded by a portion of the revenues received from timber sales on these lands. The majority of the revenue goes to the counties in which the timber sales are located and helps fund essential local services. ODF retains 36.25% of the revenues, which has to support all aspects of state forestland management. Essentially, all recreation and environmental work on state forestlands is paid for by timber sales. The ability to build trails, maintain campgrounds, and improve wildlife habitats are all dependent upon timber being harvested off those same lands.

Our shared mission

To protect and promote resilient forests that benefit all Oregonians.

Internal survey results:

- 67.6% agree or strongly agree that they can see how their work connects to accomplishing the mission.
- 59.8% agree or strongly agree that the mission statement accurately describes why ODF exists.
- Themes from open-ended responses:
 - Recognition of the challenge of capturing the complexity of what we do while also being clear and concise about our mission.
 - Remove “resilient” because we’re involved with all forests, not just the resilient ones.
 - Disagree with either “protect” or “promote,” or feel there needs to be something that addresses the work on state forestlands.
 - Feel it’s not just Oregonians who benefit from our work, it’s everyone.

Decision points	Board/Executive Team Decision
Shared Board of Forestry and ODF mission or just ODF’s mission?	
Replace “ resilient ” Replace “ benefit all Oregonians ” Replace “ promote ” with “ foster ” Recommendation: <i>“To protect and foster healthy, productive forests that provide for current and future generations.”</i>	

Organizational (people-centric) values

People-centric values

Relationships

We value strong, respectful relationships.

Workforce

Our workforce is our greatest asset. We provide them with a safe, diverse and inclusive workplace that encourages continuous learning and improvement.

Public service

We are service focused and responsible stewards of the public’s trust, confidence and resources.

Sound decision making

We empower our workforce to make decisions closest to the point of action and based on science, best practices and lessons learned.

Accountability

We are transparent about our actions and take ownership of the outcomes. We do what we say we’re going to do.

Safety

The safety of our workforce and the public is always a top priority.

Internal survey results:

- 64% feel the value statements represent ODF well or very well.
- Strongest agreement with value statements related to relationships, public service and safety.
- Themes from open-ended responses:
 - Additional work needed on “public service” value statement.
 - “Resources” natural, government or both?
 - Type of service we’re focused on?
 - Seems to be missing mention of the “best interest of Oregonians”

Decision points	Board/Executive Team Decision
Shared Board of Forestry and ODF people-centric values, or shared forest-centric values and the people-centric values are just for ODF?	
Clarify the type of resources we’re responsible stewards of	
Specify the how we provide services—ex: efficient & effective	
Incorporate language about serving in the best interests of Oregonians	



Community Engagement A Vision for Oregon Forests

**Oregon's Kitchen Table
April 2024**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2022, the Board of Forestry (the Board) along with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) launched an effort to develop a new strategic plan. A subcommittee of the Board focused on developing the strategic plan recognized the need to hear from Oregonians on what they value and envision for Oregon forests. ODF partnered with Oregon Kitchen Table (OKT) to hear from people throughout Oregon about what they want to see in the new strategic plan. Over 4,000 people from every county in Oregon participated in the different forms of engagement activities. People participated in nine languages.

This Executive Summary provides an overview of the engagement process as well as high level findings. The attached report contains eight sections in addition to this Executive Summary:

- A description of the project’s outreach and engagement activities;
- General observations from across the entire community engagement process;
- How people are connected to and hope to be connected to Oregon forests;
- Concerns, experiences, and perspectives people have related to Oregon forests;
- How people are thinking about extreme events and Oregon forests;
- Recommendations about future engagement efforts;
- A brief conclusion; and
- Appendices, including annotated survey results, OKT’s Kitchen Table Conversation Guide, and slides used at Community Conversations

ABOUT OREGON’S KITCHEN TABLE

Oregon’s Kitchen Table has two primary goals: 1) To provide all Oregonians an opportunity to participate in the decisions that affect them, with a particular focus on those community members who have been left out of or faced barriers to participating in traditional decision-making processes; and 2) To expand the range of voices that public decision-makers hear from and to provide a more complete picture of community values, needs, and desires.

OKT was the creation of the Hatfield School of Government, Kitchen Table Democracy, and a group of non-partisan, non-profit community organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians share their ideas, opinions, beliefs, and resources in improving Oregon and its communities. OKT offers engagement both online and in-person engagement opportunities and promotes in-depth community engagement with the trade-offs and challenges decision-makers confront in governing our state.

Using culturally specific and targeted outreach, as well as community partnerships, we work with organizers, translators, and interpreters to assure that materials and online and in-person engagement activities are available for all Oregonians. We honor and value the wide range of values, ideas, and lived experiences that community members share with us and with public decision-makers.

The National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) and NPCC’s Oregon’s Kitchen Table are housed within the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this Oregon’s Kitchen Table project was twofold: 1. to hear from people throughout Oregon about what connects them to Oregon forests and what matters most to them for ODF and the Board to consider in updating their strategic plan; and 2. to hear from Oregonians who have not been part of state-level discussions on forests in the past. In order to meet these goals and reach those various communities, we created a number of ways for residents of Oregon to provide input in multiple languages over several months starting in June 2023 and concluding in February 2024.

We worked with community organizers and partners to support community members in giving input through paper surveys, online surveys, in community

discussions, and through different standing events and festivals, the majority of which were culturally specific. We also offered an online survey in nine languages: Arabic, Chinese, Chuukese, English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. OKT also offered a Kitchen Table Conversation Guide for any community group wishing to hold its own conversation.

ODF, OKT, and multiple partners conducted outreach, primarily through online channels such as social media, emails, and group messaging platforms. Community organizers also connected with people through phone calls, text messages, and in-person outreach. Flyers were also distributed to a variety of community-based organizations and at several ODF regional offices.

The results of this engagement provide a sense of the values and beliefs held by those who participated at this particular time.

FINDINGS

The following commonly held perspectives emerged across various community conversations, interviews, and responses to survey questions:

- Nearly everyone wants to ensure future generations of Oregonians will continue to feel connected to forests. What those connections look like differ, often based on people's own experiences and types of connections to forests. Many people expressed an interest in playing some role in promoting increased understanding about Oregon forests, conversation or protection activities, and supporting people to develop positive and welcoming interactions with and in forests.
- Many people do take others' experiences, values, and priorities into account when thinking about Oregon forests and want to see a balance of uses taken into consideration.
- There is a strong desire for infrastructure in and approaches to Oregon forests that promote belonging, person-to-person contact, and are accessible to people who speak a variety of languages.

- There is a strong desire to ensure that all people—particularly people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and female-identifying people—experience a sense of safety, welcoming, and belonging in Oregon forests.
- There are significant concerns about wildfire, including everything from how prepared people feel when wildfires occur to how Oregon ought to be managing forests to address wildfires to what individuals as well as communities and the state could be doing in both the short and long term.
- Many people expressed concern about the health of Oregon forests; however, what it takes to support “healthy forests” and even what “healthy forests” means differs for people.
- Many people held the viewpoint that others do not understand or hold misconceptions about what is factually accurate or proven regarding forestry “science.” At the same time, there is broad agreement that there needs to be more education available to Oregonians about forests, from how to conduct oneself in forests to information about forest ecosystems to increased understanding of different experiences, perspectives, and impacts that forests have on Oregonians and communities.

There were also some areas that people disagreed about or articulated conflicting viewpoints:

- There is conflict over access and decision making related to Oregon forests, particularly based on who owns forestland.
- People have differing perspectives about who belongs in forests or what activities ought to be permitted in forests.
- People also disagree about who has the most accurate understanding about how to manage forests. This tends to be dependent on where someone or groups of people are based, with some people prioritizing the perspectives, knowledge, and ideas of people who live most closely to Oregon forests.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

In addition to providing ODF and the Board with information about people’s values and beliefs around Oregon forests for their new strategic plan, this engagement

process also provided some insight into how ODF and the Board might continue to engage people around implementing the strategic plan and other future decisions. The responses from this effort also provide ODF and the Board with particular areas to more deeply explore with community members. In addition, the input from participants raise some ideas about *how* ODF and the Board might engage people, including centering person-to-person interactions and conducting focused engagement more locally – or place-based – on particular types of decisions and implementation. People are eager to continue to be in direct conversation with decision- makers about Oregon forests.

SECTION 1: PROJECT GOALS AND DESIGN

BACKGROUND

In November 2022, the Board of Forestry (the Board) along with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) launched an effort to develop a new strategic plan. A subcommittee of the Board focused on developing the strategic plan recognized the need to hear from Oregonians on what they value and envision for Oregon forests. ODF partnered with Oregon Kitchen Table (OKT) to conduct community engagement, with a particular focus on community members who are traditionally left out of policy decision-making spaces and processes.

OKT launched community engagement activities in June 2023 and completed the majority of activities in mid-October 2023. In January 2024, OKT provided ODF and the Board with an initial report of the high-level themes and perspectives we heard during this time period. In February 2024, OKT hosted four community conversations with the Board and ODF to share the initial results and discuss what - given the results - people would want ODF and the Board to consider as they make decisions in the future.

The following report draws upon the input that Oregonians gave at this moment in time through several different ways, including interviews, different types of community conversations, and online and paper surveys.

ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The purpose of Oregon’s Kitchen Table project was twofold: 1. To hear from people throughout Oregon about what connects them to Oregon forests and what matters most to them for ODF and the Board to consider in updating their strategic plan; and 2. To hear from Oregonians who have not been part of state-level discussions on forests in the past. To meet these goals and reach those various communities, we created several ways for residents of Oregon to provide input in multiple languages over several months, beginning in June 2023 and concluding in October 2023.

DESIGN AND OUTREACH

In order to reach people throughout Oregon, Oregon’s Kitchen Table and ODF developed a multi-faceted set of engagement activities. We worked with community organizers and partners to support community members in giving input through interviews, paper surveys, online surveys, in community discussions, and through several community events and festivals, the majority of which were culturally specific. We also offered an online survey in nine languages: Arabic, Chinese, Chuukese, English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. OKT also offered a Kitchen Table Conversation Guide (*Appendix B. Kitchen Table Conversation Guide*) for community groups to use in holding their own conversations.

ODF, OKT, and multiple partners conducted outreach, primarily through online channels such as social media, emails, and group messaging platforms. Community organizers also connected with people through phone calls, text messages, and in-person outreach. ODF also distributed flyers and postcards through a variety of their offices in the state.

Because people’s access to and knowledge of Oregon forests differs greatly depending on a number of factors, including geography, culture, and history, among others, we wanted to ask people to consider a wide variety of perspectives. We worked with a number of individuals from different parts of the state and with a range of experiences related to Oregon forests to share stories about their connections to forests, as well as what they value about Oregon forests and what they hope for their future.

These stories were provided as audio files on the OKT website in 9 languages, with a smaller selection embedded in the online OKT survey.

The four community conversations in February 2024 were designed as opportunities to jointly consider what the input might mean for decisions about Oregon forests. One of the conversations was held via Zoom in English with Spanish interpretation to provide an opportunity for people from different regions to talk together. The other three community conversations were held in the general area of different regional ODF districts: Cornelius (Northwest District), Grants Pass (Southwest District), and Madras (Central Oregon District).

These community conversations provided an opportunity for ODF staff and Board of Forestry members to meet with and engage in conversations with community members. Participants also had the chance to ask each other questions and to build off of one another's ideas. The design for the conversations is attached as *Appendix C. February 2024 Community Conversations*.

CONTENT FOR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Because this engagement was intended for the general public, it assumes that respondents bring different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding Oregon forests as well as the Oregon Department of Forestry and Board of Forestry. It was our goal to ensure that those who are just learning about how forests in Oregon are cared for and managed can still respond and share what their experiences, ideas, and beliefs.

In all forms of engagement, people were given some background information about ODF and the Board's role in caring for and managing Oregon forests and the need to update their strategic plan. We developed questions and prompts for the survey as well as community conversations that fell under four general areas of inquiry:

- How people currently see themselves as connected to Oregon forests, and how they would like to be more connected in the future
- The ways that people think of and approach safety in regards to Oregon forests
- How people are thinking about and preparing for extreme events related to Oregon forests
- Considerations of a variety of different perspectives and experiences across the state with Oregon forests

We also provided a series of short audio stories from Oregonians talking about their different perspectives, roles, and hopes for Oregon forests, with the goal of exposing people to experiences that differ from their own.

Through the survey, participants were also asked where they lived in Oregon as well as their age, their race, ethnicity or Tribal affiliation, and their preferred language.

The content for engagement activities is available in *Appendix A. Annotated Survey* and in *Appendix B. Kitchen Table Conversation Guide*.

PARTICIPATION

People provided input from every county in the state. The people who offered their time and ideas ranged from first-time participants to long-time forestry professionals to professional advocates. Here are some highlights regarding participation:

- Over 4,000 participants overall
- 3,870 survey responses (provided in 9 languages)
- 7 community conversations hosted by both OKT community organizers (one with Black and Latino Oregonians, four in Spanish, one in Chuukese, one with rural LGBTQ+ Oregonians. Approximately 100 people participated in the Spanish language conversations.
- Two self-organized conversations that included professional foresters and recreators.
- Two food bank partnerships
- OKT staff tabled at four events (Washington County Powwow, Maxville Heritage Site Anniversary, Klamath Tribe Powwow, Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests 50th Anniversary Celebration, and Rockwood Rock the Block), as well as one Saturday in October at the Tillamook State Forest Center.
- 65 interviews with community members at the above events
- Before formal engagement began, OKT staff talked to people representing approximately 40 organizations to learn how and where forests are being talked about in Oregon. These conversations also inform this report.
- Four community conversations, offering people the opportunity to look at preliminary results of the initial engagement and then offer their perspective on what is most important to focus on.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to summarize shared values and divergent values related to Oregon’s forests, discuss common themes, and point out areas where there may be differing viewpoints and desires. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every detail of every comment shared; however, meeting summaries from community conversations and all responses to open-ended comments were shared with ODF. We also include a selection of quotes or comments we heard in different engagement settings. Quotes and comments included in the report either illustrate a particular point in someone’s own words or echo what other people shared. Comments submitted through surveys are not altered or edited by Oregon’s Kitchen Table except for length. They are presented as written by participants, in their own words. For quotes or comments in languages other than English, we have provided a rough translation. We have included the county of residence when known.

The following is a summary of the input that came through multiple pathways to Oregon’s Kitchen Table, including the survey, individual interviews, and community conversations. This input has been synthesized, so where there are quantitative survey results, we have included the percentages of how many participants selected a particular option. We have woven in analysis of in-person input throughout.

SECTION 2: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Over the course of the 9 months we conducted community engagement activities, we noticed some cross-cutting patterns in the input people gave. Some of those came through in the language that people used to describe their perceptions and experiences. We also noticed some distinctions in how people perceived or defined different values and beliefs about Oregon forests. Several of these are explored in more detail in the other sections, but since they cut across different areas, communities, and topics, we want to note these patterns. These include:

- While not universal, there was often a vitriolic tone in how people talked about a variety of forest management approaches as well as groups of people, particularly

related to the positions they held or where they lived in the state. Some of this division was particularly evident in polarized counties in Southern Oregon and the Willamette Valley.

- On the other hand, while we did hear from people who believe that Oregonians hold strongly opposing values about forests, we also heard from many people who either learned something new from the audio stories or were surprised to hear stories from people who held the same perspectives and values they did. In particular, people noted that they were unaware of the interdependency of salmon and forests, the impacts of forest practices like herbicide use on water quality, and differing experiences around safety and forests.
- Many people do think of others' viewpoints and interactions with forests, especially when they're asked to think about trade-offs. This was evident in the high numbers of people who are connected to forests through recreation and cultural activities but don't prioritize those activities over other activities.
- When asked about values, people will identify similar values; however, we saw differences when people go into more detail about what those values mean to them. We heard this when people talked about sustainability and healthy forests, for instance.
- People also hold a wide variety of views about what the term "forest management" even means, with some people sharing detailed, nuanced views about particular practices and other people equating forest management with clear cutting or thinning specifically. Still others viewed "forest management" as any kind of human interaction or intervention in forests.
- Sustainability and forest health were both repeatedly raised as important to people from all parts of the state and from many different backgrounds. There was less clarity about the definitions of either "forest health" or "sustainability".

- Many of the responses reflect a shared awareness of how changing conditions - particularly related to climate change - impact both their beliefs about how forests should be cared for and managed as well as how people see themselves as

“The reoccurring thing I see affecting forests and supported ecosystems and wildlife, and therefore recreation, timber products, jobs and income is impacts of climate change.”
(Multnomah County)

being able to connect now and in the future to Oregon forests. Of note, the majority of engagement activities occurred during the peak months of wildfire season, with the Maui wildfires of 2023 occurring in the middle of the engagement period. In addition, most people gave input prior to the January 2024 extreme winter weather events that impacted forests in a section of the state. We

recognize that input and views about extreme events in relation to forests in particular parts of the state could have had a different focus had we conducted the majority of the community engagement activities during the winter 2024 months.

- People have very differing beliefs about “the science” involved in forest management. There is a strong sense that people with differing perspectives are misinformed or unaware of what is factually accurate or proven regarding approaches to forest management. No matter

“Any forest plan should rely heavily on the latest peer-reviewed science concerning the critical role forests have on climate change biodiversity.” (Lane Co)

where people sit, there is a belief that other people are not taking into account the

“I believe that the people who know forests best are those who live & work in them & their expertise has not been factored into the plans in the past.” (Marion Co)

true science behind forest management. We heard this particularly related to clear cutting and thinning practices and more generally to even the concept of human beings managing forests at all. Several people also placed high importance on the lived experiences that people who live in or adjacent to forests have compared to people who live further away from forests.

- Overall, many people want to see Oregon achieve a balance between the many forest-related activities and interests with 50% of respondents selecting “It’s

important to manage forests in a way that balances the need for jobs, recreation, education, or cultural activities, and protection of the environment. That is most important even if it means some parts of forests are closed off for some of these things.”

- While many people in their comments echoed the importance of achieving a balance, people also recognize the complexities and challenges faced in achieving any kind of balance related to Oregon forests.

I mostly interact with the forests through recreation, which I do several times per week in every season of the year. In my personal experience, I want access (including trails, roads, plowing in winter, and parking), I seek solitude, I seek connection with the natural world, I delight in the beauty and forest sounds that soothe my world-weary soul. In addition to that, I use wood and paper products, I value exceptional water quality for drinking and recreation, and I also respect that forests are the homes for animals, plants and birds. The range of interests, even just my own, require a complex and collaborative approach to forest management. (Wasco Co)

SECTION 3: WHAT PEOPLE HAVE IN COMMON

The design of the OKT engagement process was intended to create spaces for people to share their personal experiences and perspectives as well as to consider the experiences and needs of others. While people shared divergent views and different experiences and priorities, we do notice several areas where participants shared common values, similar concerns, and many of the same emotions around forests.

PRIDE AND GRIEF

People feel immense pride in Oregon forests and cherish their relationships with

“We lose Oregon life without our forests and what they provide.” (Linn Co)

Oregon forests. At the same time, there is a profound sense of loss or grief. The sources of that pride and the causes of that grief

“Working with wood is amazing. Especially when you get to the finish work, cabinets and trim. The natural grain of the wood cannot be replaced. When you work with wood you get to feel and smell and see the beauty of the lumber.” (Harney Co)

differ greatly as a result of where people are situated relating to forests. Some people spoke proudly of their work in connection to forests, whether that work is related directly to timber products, environmental stewardship, a combination of both, or indirectly in cases where economic development is tied to forests in some way. Other people spoke proudly of making - or in some cases, re-making or rebuilding - their own homes in or adjacent to forests. We also heard people talk about their own knowledge of forests and forest ecosystems proudly. Here, how people gained the knowledge or awareness about forests that they are proud of differed, too.

Grief came through in how people talked about loss related to forests across a range of connections and activities. Some people shared stories of loss - of homes, land, particular stands of trees – as the result of wildfires. Other people talked more broadly about a feeling of loss due to climate change and shifts in their observations of forests and forest ecosystems. Still others, mourned the loss of forest-related jobs. We often heard about loss in people’s comparisons between how people interacted with forests in the past to how people feel like they are currently able to interact with forests. For some people this came through when talking about wildfire and climate change while for others this came through when talking about changes to how they access forest land managed by different types of owners (federal, state, private, local, etc.).

“Grew up with endless trees where I could ride my horses or hike through, my heart breaks with each fire.”

“One of my grandfathers worked for a timber company that harvested sustainably for many years. That company was later sold to a large corporation that over-harvested the same land. It breaks my heart to see how healthy forestland has shrunk during my lifetime of 74 years.” (Benton Co)

CONSIDERATIONS OF BOTH PAST AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

While talking about forests, many people brought up both past generations and future generations. Some Oregonians referred to their parents' or grandparents' relationships to forests as part of their own connections. Others talked about making different choices from past generations regarding forests. We heard this in particular

from people who shared that they actively took steps away from work dependent on the timber industry that previous generations in their family had done.

“We need to think long term; generations. We have become a "me" society with people wanting things "now". We should think about the future, and what we want the world to look like 100 years from now. We should want more forests in the future.” (Tillamook Co)

In addition, many people discussed ensuring that future generations can access forests in different ways, from careers to recreation to conservation and health benefits. Across different geographies and communities, people voiced a desire to take steps on behalf of future generations. In one of the community conversations held in February 2024, a participant said they hope to see ODF and the Board take “ownership of the past, stewardship of the future.” They explained they want ODF and the Board to consider reflecting on the institutions’ own pasts while thinking about their roles for the future. Another person in the discussion shared a different approach to how ODF and the Board could consider their role in light of future generations and suggested, “Think about generational passing on –‘here’s who taking my place’ in caring for or managing Oregon forests in the coming years.”

“My family was raised learning to gather chokecherries, huckleberries, wild plums and elderberries. My great great grandmother camped along the supper williamson river and ate deer meat and heart stories of little people and big food, we lived at camp mist of the summers on the Klamath Marsh and could smell the march and willows.”

IDENTITY

Oregon forests are immensely tied to identity, both individually and collectively. Many people pointed to their history, the generations that came before them, and the generations that will come after them when talking about how important forests are to their own identities. Several people who we talked with at community events also often described themselves as connected to Oregon forests because “I live in one.”

Some people shared that they feel they need to hide parts of themselves when in

“As a woman, it's unsafe to travel alone in the forest. Camping alone is even more dangerous. When I'm in the forest I carry a gun.” (Washington Co)

forested areas or working in forestry related careers, particularly in rural parts of the state. We heard this most often from women, LGBTQ+ people, Black people, and people who identified as people of color.

WILDFIRE CONCERNS

Wildfire concerns are at the top of people’s minds. This is a common thread from across the state and across backgrounds. People repeatedly brought up the 2020 Labor Day fires when talking about a range of issues related to their relationships to forests, as well as their views on forest management.

A pervasive sense of fear is associated with wildfire alongside a general belief among participants that catastrophic wildfires are inevitable. *Section 5. Extreme Events* discusses in more depth people’s experiences and thoughts related to wildfires and impacts on their beliefs and perceptions about Oregon forests.

“Para mi sentirme segura es saber que me encuentro en un espacio en el cual puedo respirar aire limpio sentirme conectada con la naturaleza me llena de paz / For me, feeling safe is knowing that I am in a space where I can breathe clean air. Feeling connected to nature fills me with peace. (Clatsop Co)”

SECTION 4: CONNECTIONS

The majority of participants in the various community engagement activities indicate feeling connected to Oregon forests, with 74% of survey participants selecting that they feel “very connected to Oregon forests” and 20% of Oregonians feel “somewhat connected.” Those connections happen in many different ways; however, one of the most common activities that people mentioned or selected during this process relates to different types of recreational activities. This includes both current connections as well as the kinds of connections people would like to build upon.

For some people, recreation was the only or one of their only connections to forests, while for others, recreation was one among many ways they interact with

“I run a campground in the forest. Having an intact forest is what attracts my guests. If there forest isn't here I am out of business.” (Columbia Co)

or feel connected to forests. People identified a range of different types of recreational activities, as well as a variation in the intensity and frequency of those activities.

“I work in a Lumber Mill. Our product that we make creates many jobs. We produce the lumber that make the houses that we all live in, the shavings for your pets beds, the bark for your landscape, the pencils you write with, the paper that you write on, the chips for your OSB. etc.” (Polk Co)

HOW PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY CONNECTED

Of the different ways that people identified what connects them to Oregon forests, the following were ranked very high (over 80% of survey respondents):

- for recreation
- for enjoying wildlife and nature
- for clean air and water
- that forests exist

While fewer survey respondents mentioned that they are connected to the forests through their work/ occupation (21%) or because they owned forestland (33%), a few groups of people who identified as being in forestry-related work or careers or who owned forestland of varying sized held self-hosted community conversations to provide input.

The type of work that people say they do in connection to forests covers a wide variety of sectors, careers, and positions. These ranged from logging-related work to conservation to education and to both direct forestry related work (marketing for a company in the recreation sector, for instance) to more indirect forestry-dependent work (providing a variety of services like barbers to others in the community who work in forests). In one conversation among a group of people working in forestry, participants said they want to make sure that the Board and ODF “consider human impacts of management decisions.” People also shared a sense of feeling like some forest work (especially traditional timber or logging industry) is more highly valued than other forest-dependent work (like fishing).

WHAT WILL HELP MORE CONNECTIONS TO OREGON FORESTS

In terms of how people want to be more connected to Oregon forests, recreation was the category the most participants (63% of survey respondents) selected, followed by “Protect and take care of water, plants, fish and wildlife in forests” (57%) and “learn how to prepare for and respond to extreme events” (38%). We also asked people what could help make the connections they’d like to have with forests happen.

“По моему мнению можно добровольно привлечь население на высадку лесов. Разработать рекламную кампанию и привлечь семьи Орегона для увеличения наших лесных ресурсов. Многие семьи хотели бы принять участие в высадке лесов. Моя семья была бы рада это делать.” / “In my opinion, it is possible to voluntarily involve the population in planting forests. Develop an advertising campaign and engage Oregon families to increase our forest resources. Many families would like to take part in planting forests. My family would be happy to do this.” (Multnomah Co)

While “ways to volunteer to help forests” didn’t rise to the top three (28%), several people mentioned a desire for more information about or access to volunteer opportunities in interviews, open-ended comments, and conversations. Several people shared a willingness to take part in more volunteer activities related to forests, particularly related to replanting or reseedling activities. Many different kinds connections relate or intersect with each other for people, such as wanting more information or opportunities for learning in order to participate in volunteer efforts around restoration.

In addition, several participants pointed to the need for more organized activities or events, especially ones that are specifically organized by or for particular communities. We heard this from people who identified as LGBTQ+ as well as people of color.

“I’m Jewish, and a lot of cool queer and trans Jews in Portland have done awesome work hosting community events that center on nature and Jewish ceremony/observance. For instance, we often hosts trans mikvehs in the river. So more resources for grassroots orgs to host community events about how their culture engages with nature.” (Multnomah Co)

Resources That Are Accessible in Multiple Languages

“Estaria bein que en cada bosque contraran pesonal que hable varios idiomas que nos de un bienvenida y nos avise como es ese parque que estamos visitando, como que podemos esperar de estar alli para no sentirnos inseguros del boque que estamos visitando / It would be nice if in each forest they had people who speak several languages who would welcome us and let us know what the park we are visiting is like, what we can expect from being there so we don't feel insecure about the forest we are visiting.” (Multnomah Co)

We heard from participants who speak Russian, Chuukese, Ukrainian, Mandarin, and Spanish a strong desire for more language accessibility. People listed particular resources or pieces of infrastructure they would like to have available in their own languages, including signs as well as interpretation and / or educational materials and resources. In addition, several people mentioned that forestry staff who could provide those resources, support, and guidance in their languages is also important. People want to see a range of different types of information – including information regarding safety, education, interpretation, recreation, and access – in their own languages so they can take part in activities and play a role in caring for Oregon forests.

Education or Learning Opportunities

People frequently mentioned opportunities for learning, including youth-focused education programs both within schools, as well as outside of schools. Adults also shared that they wanted to learn about different aspects of forests – from safety to restoration and protection to access – for themselves as well as for their families or communities. When asked about what could help make more connections possible, 34% of survey respondents selected “More programs in high school and colleges that teach about forests.”

While many people said they want to see more forest education for people in Oregon, different groups also want to offer the knowledge and experiences they have around forest issues. We heard this from people who originally come from other parts of the world who shared stories of how

“Give us as parents information and learning tools for use with our children. Children have the most amount of time left on the planet and a lot of access to ways to learn.”

connections to and experiences with forests elsewhere – even in very different climates and ecosystems - shaped their relationships and viewpoints about forests in Oregon.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Several participants – including people who identify as Native, Indigenous and / or tribal members or citizens, as well as people who did not - showed an interest in ensuring that Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a part of Oregon’s approach to caring for and managing forests.

“We're facing compounding climate and biodiversity crises following a century characterized by the removal and exclusion of Indigenous people and practices, over-extraction of timber, and extreme fire suppression. . . .The agency should work to rebuild relationships with tribal nations and communities and pursue opportunities for co-management.” (Lane Co)

31% of survey respondents selected “Relying more on Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This means knowledge that Native and Indigenous people have of forests.” In conversations and in comments, people said it was important to them that Tribes and Native and Indigenous people are central to caring for and managing forests through traditional knowledge and cultural practices. Several people mentioned this in the context of wildfire management.

“The land back movement not only encourages the return of indigenous lands to indigenous peoples, but those same people being able to use the land. Accessibility, education, and understanding by different parties seem good routes to safety.” (Wallowa Co)

Person-To-Person Connections and Relationships

In response to questions about desired connections to forest, as well as questions about safety, many people mentioned more person-to-person contact or guided opportunities to learn, explore, and engage. Having someone in this role who spoke their language was particularly important for people who preferred to communicate in a language other than English. People also wanted to see guides, forest educators, and

others from their own cultures or communities. There was general support for a diversity of people serving in this capacity in Oregon forests.

We also heard that the importance of person-to-person connections in sharing information and providing resources and guidance to community members in order to increase connection was important. In one conversation among Chuukese speaking community members, several elders agreed that to “better work or gather input from the Chuukese communities, decision makers should come out often to the communities and share resources or information about and learn the needs and challenges that many of the families were experiencing.”

Maybe consider having more "hosts" - someone to live on sites in campers. This would help keep an eye on all kinds of activity, which is becoming more of a problem with homelessness. (Klamath Co)

People often used the terms “host” or “guide” to describe the kind of role they think could help support the connections they’d like to see. While some people used these terms to refer to specific existing roles in forested areas – such as “campground hosts” or “nature guides” – other people used them to refer to how people in different roles could approach their responsibilities to create a sense of belonging and welcoming in forests.

During the February 2024 community conversations with Board members and ODF staff, community members in attendance repeatedly expressed their appreciation for being able to sit down in-person (or over Zoom in one case) with ODF staff and Board members and talking with each other.

SECTION 5: ACCESS AND SAFETY

Questions related to safety raised a variety of views on everything from physical safety to environmental safety to feelings of belonging or not belonging in Oregon forests. Many people responded that they were surprised that people might not feel safe in forests or shared that they had spent time and energy educating themselves to be able to feel safe. Other people said that while they generally felt safe, they could understand why others wouldn't.

The four community conversations held in February 2024 to discuss the results of the 2023 engagement activities provided an opportunity to talk with community members, ODF staff, and Board members about both safety and access issues more deeply and think about how input on safety and access could be integrated into ODF and the Board’s new strategic plan.

In a couple of the community conversations, people raised the idea of ODF considering different levels or “tiers” in providing opportunities for access. One person suggested that transportation, language, and signage, for example, would need to take into account different levels (from “beginners” to increasing levels of experiences up to “expert”). Another person focused on how different “invitations” or ways of “inviting people into outdoor spaces” would need to be adjusted to support people at those different levels. In addition, they thought that “trusted people” from within a community with a shared culture would play an important role in helping people move through different tiered levels “until people can say, ‘I get the forests.’”

FORESTRY STAFF

While many people mentioned wanting to see more forestry or park staff in Oregon forests, there was a variety of explanations about what roles those staff ought to play, with some people wanting to see security staff and others wanting to see more interpretative or educational staff, particularly people from a variety of communities and cultures leading culturally specific activities or events. Other people mentioned an increase in “hosts” who could help orient people. Still others wanted to see more staff focused on enforcing rules and regulations in forests to increase safety.

WELCOMING AND BELONGING

“It’s really more about respect for people and place. Some people could care less about the nature they just experienced by dumping baby diapers next to a trail. Some how, some way, we have to enforce behavior on those who are incapable of regulating themselves. I know there aren’t answers right now (after all - it’s a free country!!), but I do think that some kind of behavior regulation, to some degree, needs to be put into the hands of forest stewards and not just law enforcement. Extending the ‘regulation’ to issues of safety seems appropriate, too.” (Yamhill Co)

In one of the February community conversations, participants explored what approaches forestry staff, including enforcement staff, could take, beginning with “having a ranger welcome” people and “engage in conversation.” Again, people emphasized that staff – particularly staff who are from communities of color and communities who speak a language other than English – can be role models to indicate to people, especially youth, that “they are in the right place.”

“Forests are places where cultural and social issues impact who is there and who feels welcome.”

One person noted that even as they have experienced tensions between locals who live in or very close to forests and visitors, they’ve also observed that both groups have a shared desire: “the feeling of belonging.” Another person noted, “With familiarity comes togetherness.” They recounted seeing how initially groups of motorcycle campers of different ethnicities used to camp separately, camping near each other but in their distinct groups. Over time, as they became more familiar with one another, groups merged until people were all camping together.

“We need more education for new forest users, and more enforcement and stronger punishment for forest abusers. We may also need more restrictions on access, or preferably make access more difficult and rugged so that only people who are truly prepared can get into the more remote, unpatrolled areas of our forests. (Tillamook Co)”

HUMAN BEHAVIOR

We heard a range of safety concerns related to human behavior: trash and dumping; people living on public forest land; theft and vandalism; violent acts, including historical acts targeting LGBTQ+ people, Black and Indigenous people, and other people of color; and drug use or operations located within forests.

In particular, many people voiced strong opinions about human behavior that has or could result in wildfires. Several people want to see more accountability in place for when this does happen. Often people viewed others whose behaviors might cause - or have caused – wildfires as not belonging in forests.

In conversations and comments, several people said they support increased access to Oregon forests, as long as a sense of stewardship or proper caretaking came with increased access. In one conversation, someone said, “Expanding access is virtually always a good thing, but it is contingent on visitors having respect for the land.”

“Longer hunting seasons. When you give a couple hundred guys 4 days to hunt, everyone is out in the relatively small space stomping on top of one another. Longer seasons more seasons or something. Spread it out a little more so that there are less people all at once. Or bigger units so that people can hunt over larger areas.”

Concerns about guns and where or when shooting or hunting is allowed in forests were high, including among people who themselves identified as hunters or gun owners. People voiced concerns that parts of forests are misused as shooting ranges or that their sense of safety decreases during hunting season.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Some of the comments around safety focused on forest management practices that have led to people feeling unsafe, particularly in regards to use of herbicides and wildfire prevention and containment. People frequently connected wildfire awareness and management with concerns about safety.

Безопасность для меня это сохранение лесов. Так как лес дает чистый воздух и чистую природную среду. А это здоровье для будущих поколений. / “For me, safety is the preservation of forests. Because forests provide clean air and a clean natural environment. And this is health for future generations.” (Clackamas Co)

For some people, forests offer an increased sense of safety compared to other, more populated environments. Several people also mentioned that they view the forest as a space for physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: OPPORTUNITIES and TENSIONS

In addition to wanting to feel welcoming and belonging to increase a sense of safety and access, people frequently raised improved or additional infrastructure as

critical. Some people described an action or piece of infrastructure that would make them feel safer while others described the same action as making them feel less safe. These include: the use of cameras or drones in parts of forests; increased or improved cell phone reception; and paved or improved roads.

我希望在森林中有更多介绍政府是如何保护森林的相关信息，和更多看到介绍森林里相关动植物的展板。我也希望森林里的电话和网路信号可以被加强。这样我在森林里徒步时会感觉更安全 / “I would like to see information on how the government protects the forests and more displays on the flora and fauna in the forests. I would also like to see the telephone and internet signals in the forest strengthened. This would make me feel safer when hiking in the forest.” (Deschutes Co)

Many participants – particularly people who are Spanish speaking – want to see more lighting in areas of Oregon forests. A few people added that they are thinking of increased lightning in urban forests specifically.

We heard differing views about the presence of motorized vehicles and roads in forests. For some people, recreating with All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) is an important component of how they interact with forests. There are some people who attribute more roadways to an increased sense of safety and access while others want to reduce traffic and motorized vehicles. This is partly attributed to safety concerns as well as concerns about environmental impacts on nature and wildlife.

“I have always felt safe in forests and as I get older I stay closer to people when I hike, and stay aware of others. I would like more support for getting elders and school-age kids into the forests as I believe in the innate caretaking our trees offer us that must be passed to generations who may easily mow them all to keep their phones charged. Education begins the relationship of “person and forest” humans need to experience to come to care and hopefully honor and defend the forests.” (Curry County)

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SAFETY AND ACCESS

In several of the community conversations as well as through comments on the survey, several people raised the need to reduce access to Oregon forests. While some people view reducing access as a measure to protect forest ecosystems, other people want to reduce access in order to preserve particular types of experiences in forests. For some people, the experience they value relies on quiet or solitude; for others, their preferred interactions in forests rely on freedom of movement with fewer restrictions.

SECTION 6: EXTREME EVENTS

In almost every conversation – in groups or individually - that we had, wildfires were among the first topics that people raised about Oregon forests from the start of the conversation. Over half of survey respondents are thinking about ways to avoid and prepare for extreme events in forests. 39% responded “a lot” and 38% responded “some.” Many people think that framing “extreme events” as “extreme” is no longer applicable as such events have become routine. As one person in Lincoln County put it, “‘Extreme’ events have become ‘common’ events.”

“Having spent the last four summers with very nearby large wildfires--and knowing that human still cause the majority of Oregon's fires--I would feel safer if there were fewer people with limited forest knowledge with fire-creating implements in the woods. I know this contradicts my desire for more people to know and understand how forests actually work--and how we humans are responsible to work with them, not just neglect them--but it's definitely a feeling that fires engender. (Lane Co)”

In almost every conversation we had, wildfires were among the first topics that people raised. The concerns related to wildfire range from the personal (topics like house hardening and evacuation routes) to the community level (extra resources to support wildfire preparedness) and even more globally (concerns about who might profit after a wildfire and large-scale impacts of smoke and air quality due to wildfires).

People – particularly those who shared they have asthma – said that wildfire smoke is just as concerning as wildfire itself for them.

All bets are off under climate change... It appears that the best approach is to work with your neighbors and focus collectively doing key fuels reduction projects near people's homes. (Yamhill Co)

Even when extreme events happen far away in either time or space – or might not even have occurred yet – people described lasting and intense impacts on their perceptions of forests as well as their connections to forests. In one community conversation, people shared how their interactions with forests have changed, with people choosing not to camp in forestland “out of concern of fire risk there.” In that conversation as well as in other community engagement activities, people’s concerns about potentially becoming stranded in a forest due to fire influenced behaviors

and interactions with forests, particularly recreation like hiking or camping. There is also widespread interest in understanding evacuation routes in particular in case of a wildfire, whether that means evacuation routes from forested land or from communities that could be in the path of a wildfire.

People differ in terms of their beliefs in how forests should be managed in order to prevent or prepare for wildfires, particularly in terms of the role that thinning or logging plays in that management. We heard some interest in seeing incentives for homeowners or forestland owners to reduce fuels, conduct home hardening, or take steps to address clean up on their properties for fire safety.

Other people were less confident in the effectiveness of these approaches. People also hold differing views on how fire itself could help reduce fuel for wildfires. At different times people referred to “prescribed burns,” “cultural burns,” or “beneficial fire,” highlighting both different knowledge of practices as well as potentially different practices all together.

I strongly support the use of beneficial fire, as practice by First Peoples who have stewarded the land for far more generations than settlers and colonizers have been here. For this to happen, education must take place so those who haven't heard of these practices can understand all the benefits. (Curry Co)

Some people expressed concerns about how any type of fire – including those managed by people - might have a negative impact on air quality and health. Other people said they want to see prescribed burns or cultural burns

used in order to manage forests to prevent catastrophic wildfire. People again raised wanting to make sure there is infrastructure in place to support people in the event of a wildfire. People mentioned wanting signage in multiple languages as well as increased cell services or the use of drones for monitoring in forested lands.

While wildfire concerns dominate input related to extreme events, people also identified the following: contamination or pollution of water sources; earthquakes and tsunamis; severe weather such as extreme rains, winds, or snowstorms; and invasive species, insects, and disease infestation. Many people connected climate change to several possible extreme events, including events like wildfire, flooding, and drought. Several people said that they viewed deforestation or the “loss” of forests as extreme events. Some people also expressed a concern about workforce, specifically around both the impacts of extreme events for people who work in the timber industry or fight wildfires.

We noticed that people talked a lot about forests in general and extreme events in particular using visuals or images. A couple of groups who participated in a community conversation but didn’t feel like they have particularly close relationships with forests noted that they’re very aware of how large and beautiful Oregon forests are. The word “lush” came up in a couple of different places when people talked about how they thought of Oregon forests. We also heard people talk over and over again about how forests look after a fire – often for a very long time – or due to drought conditions. People also talked about how visually striking forestland looks after clearcuts. What people saw or witnessed in these areas often influenced how people thought of particular management practices.

“Extreme flooding events after clear cuts. Without healthy mature forests to capture winter storms the water runs off quicker and causes downstream flood waters to rise quickly and higher than before.” (Tillamook Co)

SECTION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The past several months provided ODF and the Board an extended opportunity to learn how people in different Oregon communities want to connect not only with Oregon forests but also with future decision making about Oregon forests. The range of community engagement activities that took place during this particular effort to gather input for the new strategic plan also provides ODF and the Board with a sense of how they might connect over time with Oregonians.

When participants talked about climate change, wildfire concerns, and human interactions or relationships they themselves experience or observe, we also heard a recognition that these conditions are changing and will continue to change. For some people, such change has led to grief and loss. For other people, changing conditions also opens up possibilities and opportunities to shift people’s and community’s relationships to and interactions with forests in positive ways.

Regarding further engagement around the strategic plan, we recommend that ODF and the Board consider the following opportunities:

- **Approach the strategic plan as a “living document”** for ongoing review and adaptation as Oregon forests – and our interactions with them - change. People’s perceptions, beliefs, and relationships with Oregon forests will continue to shift and evolve as conditions change.
- **Identify additional spaces for new kinds of interactions (including shared experiences and shared learning) with community members, ODF staff, and the Board.** People are appreciative of the opportunities to be asked what they think and to be able to engage in shared spaces with ODF staff and the Board. We heard this throughout the months of engagement activities but we especially heard it during community conversations in February 2024 when staff and Board

“All [audio] stories expressed a strong sense of grappling with change over how forests are valued, managed, and the threats they face.” (Jackson Co)

members were present and actively engaged in the discussions. In the Zoom community conversation in February, many participants wanted more time for discussion than the scheduled 90 minutes. As one person put it, they want the opportunity to hold “a space for longer conversations and hopefully more connections between everyone.” One of the groups in the Zoom conversation developed what they called “Five Rights” related to forests, including the “Right to participate and be heard in governance processes.”

- **Consider focused regional or place-based opportunities for community engagement.** Many people noted that differences in communities also mean different ways of thinking about what might be the

“Important for plan to differentiate between needs/values and desires of west side and east side of the state. Increased representation and restoration project participation/funding in eastern Oregon would be so exciting!” (Union Co)

most effective modes of community outreach and engagement. We heard a desire for more place-based engagement particularly when it comes to how ODF applies and implements high level policies. One person said, “For a statewide board, the issues are really different from one another.

What works on the Siuslaw won’t work on the Deschutes. Central Oregonians tend to work well together. You can call anybody – and you know who to call.”

- **Continue to offer spaces for Oregonians to share their stories about forests.** People repeatedly connected their perspectives and priorities for Oregon forests to their own histories, identities, and personal experiences in Oregon forests. Many people also shared an interest in hearing each other’s stories to better understand different perspectives or to learn new something new. Given this – along with people’s hunger to learn more about forests – ODF and the Board have an opportunity to continue to convene people together to share and hear one another’s stories.
- **Focus future rounds of community engagement on particular concerns or issues related to forests.** As this particular community engagement effort has been aimed at developing ODF and the Board’s strategic plan, the questions we posed to people in the different activities were broad and wide-ranging. What we heard now provides ODF and the Board

several opportunities for more focused, deeper engagement on a few areas where we noticed energy and excitement. While there were many issues that participants clearly feel passionate about and that no doubt ODF staff and the Board will be making decisions about in the near future, there were a few areas where we noticed widespread interest. Those areas include: wildfire management, preparedness, and response; recreation, education, and interpretation activities and opportunities, particularly ones that encourage feelings of welcome, safety, and belonging; and increased language access to support both these areas as well as forest ecosystem protection and restoration activities.

- **Continue to emphasize person-to-person connections in community engagement processes.** We noticed the importance of relationship and community building during the engagement activities themselves, from people eagerly sharing their own stories to engaging in dialogue with ODF staff and Board members during conversations. We also noticed this same desire come up in what people shared about what they want to see for the future of Oregon forests, from type of forestry staff to place-based implementation of policy decisions. This engagement process offered some – though limited – opportunities to be directly in conversation with Oregonians. Future decisions will offer ongoing and continued opportunities to do so as well.

“We need to cooperate at all levels, especially face-to-face, and to compromise across critical differences in order to solidify working relationships. But -- we also need to slow down, enough to pay better attention, to listen and think. (In other words, we need to be better humans! Not better human individuals, but better in groups. So thanks for your work.) . . .It involves an organizational transformation. But it is the way to heal what ails us. And if we are more whole, our forests will be.” (Marion Co)

- **Identify who might be key partners in carrying out community engagement.** Several people recognized that other public agencies play a role for particular areas of concern, such as impacts of forest management on water and soil quality. Other people emphasized that many different entities

will be important leaders and partners in expanding access to forests and helping people feel safe. One person said, “these are collective, not individual issues; manage (them) according to local areas.”

SECTION 8: Conclusion

This engagement process provides ODF staff and the Board of Forestry with a sense of what people most value and want to see for the future of Oregon forests. While this particular period of community engagement concludes with the final adoption of the new strategic plan in the coming months, we encourage ODF and the Board to return to community members to share how their input was used to create the strategic plan.

Because the strategic plan will serve as a guide for many upcoming ODF decisions – particularly what actions ODF will take to implement the strategic plan – it will be just as important to return to Oregonians to highlight how they have taken into account what people shared in this process. In turn, these future decisions will very likely call for deeper, more focused engagement on particular trade-offs inherent in implementation.

Many people – while they feel passionately about their connections to Oregon forests and identify individually, communally, and as a state with Oregon forests – want to see others’ needs, values, and priorities taken into account. At the same time, people generally understand that striking that balance will be a challenge, especially given how closely and personally people are tied to Oregon forests.

Throughout this process, several people – including Board members and ODF staff – wondered where there could be spaces to be able to overcome very different perspectives, experiences, and values that come up in almost every conversation about Oregon forests. Nearly everyone – no matter their connection to Oregon forests or their perspectives on a number of contested issues – expressed a strong commitment to ensuring future generations of Oregonians can continue to connect to forests in a myriad of ways. We hope this commonly held desire offers an opening for people to take their places at the table for future conversations about Oregon forests.

Welcome!

Would you please answer some questions in this survey to share your thoughts about forests in Oregon?

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry are in charge of managing Oregon forests. Now they are updating their plan the forests. They want to hear from you to make sure that the plan covers what matters most to people about forests. Your input will also help the state make other decisions about forests in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry are working with Oregon’s Kitchen Table. We are a program of Portland State University.

Why are the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry updating their plan for Oregon forests?

ODF and the Board’s plan includes the mission, values, and goals that they use to make decisions about our state’s public and private forests. It was last updated in 2011.

How will the state use the results of this survey?

The Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry will update the plan for Oregon forests with your input. They will also use your input information to make other decisions about forests. Oregon’s Kitchen Table will give the board and ODF a report with the results of this survey. We will also include a report of community talks and other events. You will be able to see the report on our website at <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>.

How can I help?

Please share your thoughts in this survey. Ask people you know who live in Oregon to take this survey.

Will my answers on this survey be linked with my name?

No. We will not tie your answers to your name or contact information if you choose to share those.

1. How connected do you feel to Oregon forests?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question =3,657
Very connected	74%
Some connection	20%
A little connection	5%
No connection	1%
I'm not sure or I don't know	1%

2. How are you connected to Oregon forests? Check all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Total Respondents = 3,870
For work	21%
For recreation (like hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, biking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicles, having a picnic, and more)	87%
To enjoy in a cultural or spiritual way	52%
To enjoy wildlife and nature (like fish, water, trees, plants, and animals)	86%
To get food or protect food and medicines in the forest, including First Foods	33%
My family or I own forestland	19%
For clean air and water that forests provide	81%
It's important to me that forests exist	80%
For the products forests provide (like wood or paper)	48%
I'm not connected to forests at all.	1%
Other (please describe)	8%

If you selected work, please describe what kind of work if you want to:

Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon's Kitchen Table for more information.

3. How would you like to be more connected to Oregon forests?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Total Respondents = 3,870
Recreation (like hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, biking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicles, and more)	63%
Find or create job opportunities for myself or people in my community to work in forests	23%
Learn how to prepare for and respond to extreme events (like wildfire or floods)	38%
Protect and take care of water, plants, fish and wildlife in forests	57%
Learn about or make products created from Oregon's forests	18%
Get or protect food in the forests	28%
Ways to volunteer to help forests	28%
I'm connected enough	18%
Other (please describe)	5%

4. What would make more connections possible for you? Please choose the three that appeal to you the most. Please choose only three.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Total Respondents = 3870
Feeling safer in Oregon forests	16%
More items that make the forests easy to use (like signs, benches, restrooms, paved walkways, or roads)	20%
More forest protection from human use	36%
More access to wild spaces in forests	24%
More information and signs about forests in my language	3%
More ways for us to make products from forests	14%
More ways to help protect plants, water, fish and wildlife in the forest	49%
More events or activities about forests that honor my experiences, interests, and culture	11%
More information about jobs related to Oregon forests	11%
More programs in high school and colleges that teach about forests	34%
Relying more on Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This means knowledge that Native and Indigenous people have of forests.	31%
Other (please describe)	6%

Some people have told us that they would like to feel safer in Oregon forests. Safety means different things to different people. Please tell us what would help you feel safer in the forest if you want to:

Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon’s Kitchen Table for more information.

5. How much do you think about ways to avoid and prepare for extreme events in or near forests?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question =3,823
A lot	39%
Some	38%
A little	18%
Not at all	4%
I’m not sure or don’t know	1%

6. When you think about extreme events in or near forests, what are you most worried about?

Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon’s Kitchen Table for more information.

People in Oregon have many different experiences in forests. Here Oregonians share their stories about how they are connected to Oregon forests. Each is two minutes or less. The next questions will be about these stories. Please take a few minutes to listen to them.

If you would like to hear more audio stories, go to Oregon's Kitchen Table to hear more [here](https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/page/forests-oregon) - <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/page/forests-oregon>.

7. What did the stories make you think about? Please share just a few words that you are thinking about.

Responses provided upon request to OKT

8. Did you learn anything new from listening to the stories above?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question =2874
Yes	28%
No	44%
I’m not sure	28%

If yes, what did you learn?

Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon’s Kitchen Table for more information.

9. Please choose the one statement below that is most like your own opinion. Please choose just one. You might not entirely agree with it.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 3,768
It’s important to use forests to create and keep jobs. I want this even if it impacts trees, water and wildlife. I also want this even if it means that people can’t use the forests as much for recreation, education, or cultural activities.	8%
It’s important to protect trees, water, fish and wildlife in the forests. I want this even if it means that some jobs will go away. I also want this even if it means that people can’t use the forests as much for recreation, education, or cultural activities.	35%
It’s important to make it easy for people to use the forests for recreation, education, or cultural activities. I want this even if it impacts trees, water and wildlife. I also want this even if it means that some jobs go away.	7%
It’s important to manage forests in a way that balances the need for jobs, recreation, education, or cultural activities, and protection of the	50%

APPENDIX A. Annotated Survey

environment. That is most important even if it means some parts of forests are closed off for some of these things.	
---	--

10. What else would you like ODF and the Board of Forestry to know for its updated plan?
Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon’s Kitchen Table for more information.

Now we are going to ask a few questions about you. This is to help us make sure that we know we are hearing from the whole community. You can choose to answer these questions or not.

11. Which county in Oregon do you live in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to This Question = 3739
Baker County	1%
Benton County	3%
Clackamas County	7%
Clatsop County	4%
Columbia County	1%
Coos County	1%
Crook County	1%
Curry County	1%
Deschutes County	4%
Douglas County	3%
Gilliam County	<1%
Grant County	<1%
Harney County	<1%
Hood River County	1%
Jackson County	5%
Jefferson County	<1%
Josephine County	2%
Klamath County	1%
Lake County	<1%
Lane County	12%
Lincoln County	4%
Linn County	2%
Malheur County	<1%
Marion County	5%

APPENDIX A. Annotated Survey

Morrow County	<1%
Multnomah County	22%
Polk County	2%
Sherman County	<1%
Tillamook County	6%
Umatilla County	<1%
Union County	1%
Wallowa County	1%
Wasco County	<1%
Washington County	9%
Wheeler County	<1%
Yamhill County	2%

12. What is your age?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to This Question =3,655
17 years old and younger	2%
18 to 29 years old	6%
30 to 39 years old	12%
40 to 49 years old	18%
50 to 59 years old	15%
60 to 69 years old	21%
70 or older	24%
I prefer not to answer	2%

13. Which of the following describes your racial or ethnic identity? Please mark all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Total Answers = 4,220
American Indian, Alaska Native	5%
Canadian (Inuit, Métis and First Nation)	<1%
Indigenous Mexican, Central American	2%
Indigenous South American	1%
Asian Indian	<1%
Chinese	2%
Filipino	<1%
Hmong	<1%

APPENDIX A. Annotated Survey

Japanese	1%
Korean	<1%
Laotian	<1%
Vietnamese	<1%
South Asian	<1%
Other Asian	<1%
African (Black)	1%
Black, African American	2%
Caribbean (Black)	<1%
Other Black	<1%
Mexican	5%
Central American	1%
South American	1%
Other Hispanic or Latinx	1%
Middle Eastern	1%
North African	<1%
Native Hawaiian	<1%
Guamanian or Chamorro	<1%
Marshallese, Micronesian, Palauan	1%
Samoan	<1%
Tongan	<1%
Other Pacific Islander	1%
Slavic	3%
Eastern European	6%
Western European	35%
Other White	30%

If you would like to share in your own words how you describe your race, origin, ethnicity, ancestry or Tribal affiliations, please use this space:

Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon's Kitchen Table for more information.

14. What language do you prefer to receive information in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	Respondents to this question = 3,733
Arabic	<1%
English	92%

APPENDIX A. Annotated Survey

Chuukese	1%
Mandarin	1%
Russian	1%
Spanish	4%
Ukrainian	1%
Vietnamese	<1%
Another language not listed here	1%

13. Is there any information about you or aspects of your identity that affect how you interact with forests?

Responses provided to ODF and the Board of Forestry. Contact Oregon's Kitchen Table for more information.



KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION GUIDE:

Oregon Forests



WWW.OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG



This Guide is for anyone in Oregon who wants to organize and host a Kitchen Table Conversation with their family, friends, or neighbors about forests in Oregon.

We hope this Guide provides helpful ideas for organizing a community conversation, a structure for what to talk about during the conversation, and a clear way to summarize what people shared and get it to OKT.

If you need support or assistance, please reach out! Email info@oregonskitchentable or call (503_)725-5248

CONTENTS

Our Approach

Gathering People

Purpose / Background

Guiding the conversation

Gathering input

Tips and templates

OUR APPROACH

Oregon's Kitchen Table strives to include all Oregonians in the decisions that affect their lives, with a particular focus on reaching, engaging, and hearing from Oregonians who have been left out of traditional public processes.

We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person consultations are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways.

We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues / policies. We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced. People participate in many different ways: through online and paper surveys, individual or small group interviews, culturally specific and community events, festivals, listening sessions, or public meetings open to anyone.

One of the approaches we use is what we call a Kitchen Table Conversation: a group of people gathering together to learn from each other and share what they think in the language, setting, and format that is most comfortable for them.



GATHERING PEOPLE TO TALK

INVITATION

Use whatever method people will pay attention to, but make sure it feels warm, welcoming, and inviting. It might be a text, a phone call, What'sApp, a social media post, or an email. Some people set up e-invites. Make clear the time, place, purpose, what to expect (food or participant incentive), and if they need to RSVP.

GROUP SIZE

10-12 people is a nice size. But larger groups can be broken up into smaller groups. And you can still have a good conversation with 2-3 people.

FORMAT

You can meet in person, over Zoom, or group chat (people have used WhatsApp before, for example). You can talk while planting trees or clearing out invasive species. You can have the conversation on a bus during a field trip. Hold the conversation in a space that is easy and comfortable for people in your community.



WELCOMING

HOST

Think of yourself as the host, welcoming people at your table,

FOOD

If you are in person, have food! Even a simple snack (popcorn, cookies, water, fruit) will help people feel welcome.

FUN

If you're in-person or virtual, have some element of fun and joy that makes sense for your group: music, a short game, decorations.

ACTIVITY

Have an opening activity that allows for all to say something at the beginning so that they can get comfortable. For example, you could invite everyone to say one word that comes to mind when they think of Oregon forests.



ROLES FOR CO-HOSTS

If you are working with a partner or a team to co-host a conversation, decide who will take which role. Here are some common roles. You could also invite participants to join you and take on one of these roles.

- ~ Facilitator: Guides conversation, asks questions, and helps capture themes, commonalities, or differences.
- ~ Notetaker: Captures what people say. Bullet points are fine! If the notetaker can get any good quotes, that's great but not required.
- ~ Timekeeper: Use a clock (phone works!) to help make sure that there's enough time for each part of the conversation. Give facilitator / group time warnings.
- ~ Reporter: If there are small group discussions, shares a summary of what the group discussed for the whole group.
- ~ Observer: Helps the Facilitator make sure everyone gets a chance to talk or that no one person takes up too much time.



PURPOSE FOR GATHERING

Explain why you've inviting people in your community to gather together to talk about Oregon forests. Below is a description of what the decision is and why it matters. You can read this or summarize in your own words.



The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry are in charge of managing Oregon forests. Now they are updating their strategic plan for the forests.

ODF and the Board's plan includes the mission, values, and goals that they use to make decisions about our state's public and private forests. It was last updated in 2011. You can read more about how they are updating the plan here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/forestry-program-for-oregon-subcommittee.aspx>.

They want to hear what matters most to you about forests. Your input will help the state make decisions about Oregon forests.

GUIDING THE CONVERSATION

1. BACKGROUND

People have different experiences and knowledge about the topic. We honor all of those experiences and knowledge. Share the basic background provided in the "Purpose for Gathering" section.



2. QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

OKT has developed a few questions with the decision maker. We usually have a few main questions to pose along with follow up in case people need some direction in responding or in case there's extra time.

3. HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME TOGETHER

It's ok if people want to spend time on just one or two - we want to know where their interests and energies are, so that's fine!

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

Let people know that their names or anything that identifies them won't be shared. You'll give OKT a summary of what you all talked about. OKT will combine all the input from different conversations, surveys, and other ways people share what they think.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

How or in what ways are you connected to Oregon forests?

- How would you want to be more connected to forests?
- What would make more connections possible for you?

Take a few minutes to listen to 3-5 audio stories from people in Oregon about their connections to Oregon forests.

Listen to the audio stories here:

<https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/forests-in-oregon>

- What did the stories make you think about?
- What did you learn from listening to the stories above?

You heard some of the different interests or concerns about forests - economic / jobs, ecological, recreational, cultural, spiritual or educational - what seems most important to you?

- Are there other aspects or considerations that you think it's important for the Board of Forestry to think about?



CONNECTING BACK

Let people know where their input will go and how it will be used. You can use the timeline on the next page. Also let them know that you will connect with Oregon's Kitchen Table with whatever questions came up and circle back to people with any answers.

INVITING MORE VOICES

Share information about ways that people can invite others they know to share what they think. Use the postcards with the link and QR code included after the templates.

APPRECIATIONS

Let people know how important their input is and we appreciate hearing their ideas, thoughts, experiences and time on this important issue. You can invite everyone to share their appreciations for each other.

ACTIVITY

If there's time, you can invite people to share aloud. If there's not time, have post-it notes or cards for people to write or draw their response to a closing question:. One example: "What is one thing you want people from other parts of the state to know or understand about our community?"



CLOSING

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1. INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO PARTICIPATE

Engagement will happen September 7 - October 10.
Invite other people you know to share what they think!

Visit <https://bit.ly/oregon-forests>

OR

Scan here with your phone:



2. OKT REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

OKT will provide a report of what we heard to the Board and ODF. We will post the report and a summary of that report in 9 languages on the OKT website. We will also share it with anyone who gave us their contact information.

3. HOW ODF AND THE BOARD WILL USE THE INPUT

ODF and the Board will use this input as they make decisions about the plan's update. They will share a draft with the public 2024.

4. HOW ODF AND THE BOARD WILL USE THE UPDATED PLAN

The Board and ODF will make decisions on different activities and projects to meet the goals of the plan.

TIPS FOR SUMMARY

- ~ Bullet points are fine! This is a summary not a formal report.
- ~ Let us know any areas where there is agreement or disagreement in people's perspectives.
- ~ Let us know if there are any unique perspectives (an idea / experience / belief one person shared even if others didn't have it).
- ~ Add your observations/reflections: Feelings, sense of issues, concerns, positive experiences.
- ~ Let us know if there's anyone we ought to follow up with on any ideas they shared.
- ~ Share any questions about the project that you couldn't answer and who to follow up with.
- ~ Include any pictures from the conversation. Make sure to ask permission first!



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Date / Place:

of people:

General description of the group (age ranges, languages spoken, any ways the group might identify themselves):

Opening activity (what you did, anything anyone shared):



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Connections

Responses to Audio Stories



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Other aspects or considerations that people want the Board of Forestry and ODF to think about

Closing activity (what you did, anything anyone shared):



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Areas of agreement among the group

Areas of disagreement among the group



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Unique perspectives

Areas where someone was persuaded by someone's
else's point of view



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Direct quotes

Any observations you had

**SEND YOUR SUMMARY BY OCTOBER 10TH
TO SAGILES@PDX.EDU**

The Oregon Department of
Forestry and Board of Forestry
want to hear from you:

WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO SEE
FOR THE
FUTURE OF
OREGON
FORESTS?

Share what you
think!

<https://bit.ly/oregon-forests>

Scan here with
your phone:



Hosted by Oregon's Kitchen Table





QUESTIONS?
IDEAS?
NEED SUPPORT?
CONTACT US!

 503-725-5248

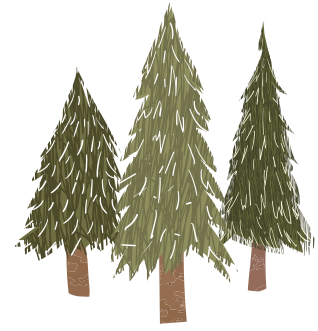
 INFO@OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG

 WWW.OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG





Welcome!
¡Bienvenidos!



Introductions ~ Introducciones



Today's Conversation ~ Conversación de hoy

Discussion
Guidelines ~
Guía de
discusión

Background ~
Antecedents

Results
~
Resultados

Discussion
~~
Discusión

Next Steps
Closing
~~
Próximos
pasos
Cierre

Discussion Guidelines ~ Guía de discusión

Give time and space
for each other

~~

*Dé tiempo y espacio
para cada persona*

Be mindful of who
is and isn't here in
the room

~~

*Sea consciente de
quién está presente*

Be respectful of
your neighbors

~~

*Sea respetuoso
con los demás*

Listen with
curiosity

~~

*Escuche con
curiosidad*

Keep conversation
on topic

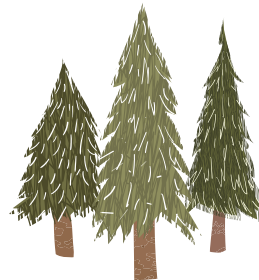
~~

*Mantenga la
conversación en el
tema*

ODF and Board of Forestry Joint work on Strategic Plan

~~

ODF y Junta Forestal Trabajo en conjunto sobre el Plan Estratégico

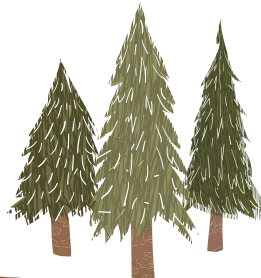


Participation ~ Participación

- 4,000+ people in 9 languages
- 3,870 people responded to the OKT survey
- ~200 people participated in a community conversation
- ~100+ people participated in an interview

~~

- más de 4,000 personas en 9 idiomas
- 3.870 personas respondieron a la encuesta de OKT
- aproximadamente 200 personas participaron en una conversación comunitaria
- más de 100 personas participaron en una entrevista



Observations ~ Observaciones

- Many shared values, but they differ in the specifics
- “Forest management” is a contested term
- People are thinking about and considering others’ views and experiences
- Interest in Traditional Ecological Knowledge

~~

- Muchos valores compartidos, pero difieren en los detalles
- "Manejo de los Bosques" es un término disputado
- Las personas están considerando y pensando sobre las opiniones y experiencias de otras personas
- Interés en conocimiento Ecológico Tradicional

Common Themes ~ Temas en común

- People feel immense pride and cherish their relationships to forests; but there is also a sense of grief and loss
- People think about both past and future generations' connections to forests
- Relationships with Oregon forests are tied to identities
- Wildfire concerns are top of mind

~~

- Las personas sienten un inmenso orgullo y valoran su relación con los bosques pero hay también una sensación de dolor y pérdida
- Las personas piensan sobre las conexiones con los bosques de ambas generaciones; tanto pasadas como futuras
- Los vínculos con los bosques de Oregón están ligados a identidades
- Los incendios forestales son una prioridad en la mente de las personas

Areas of Tension ~ Áreas de Tensión

- People want to see a balance among forest-related activities. They also see the complexity in achieving that balance.
- Beliefs that others misunderstand the science of forests
- Wide range of views regarding safety
- Conflicting views on motorized vehicles in forests

~~

- Las personas quieren ver un balance entre las actividades relacionadas con los bosques. También ven la complejidad en lograr dicho balance.
- Creencia que otros no comprenden la ciencia de los bosques
- Un amplio rango de opiniones respecto a la seguridad
- Opiniones contradictorias sobre vehículos motorizados en los bosques

Connections ~ Conexiones

Most often mentioned

- Recreation of different kinds
- Enjoying and caring for wildlife and nature
- Clean air and water
- Forests simply exist
- Learning to prepare for and respond to extreme events

~~

Mencionados con frecuencia

- Diferentes tipos de recreación
- Disfrutar y cuidar la vida silvestre y la naturaleza
- Aire y aguas limpias
- Los bosques simplemente existen
- Aprender a prepararse y a responder a acontecimientos extremos

People feel strongly connected to Oregon forests.

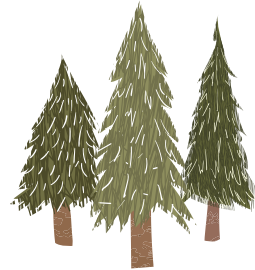
Las personas sienten una fuerte conexión con los bosques de Oregon

What Will Make More Connections Possible ~ ¿Qué hará posible más conexiones?

- Forest protection activities
 - Education and shared learning
 - Access (physical infrastructure, language, logging, recreation, motorized vehicles)
 - More person-to-person contact or guidance
- ~~
- Actividades de protección de los bosques
 - Educación y aprendizajes compartidos
 - Acceso (infraestructura física, idioma, talas, recreación, vehículos motorizados)
 - Más contacto de persona a persona u orientación

Tension: Access vs. Protection ~ Tensión: Acceso vs. Protección

Educar a las personas (en su idioma natal) de como cuidar los bosques y tener más acceso para personas con discapacidades físicas. ~ Educate people (in their native language) on how to take care of the forests and have more access for people with physical disabilities. (Washington Co)



Para mí, sentirme segura es saber que me encuentro en un espacio en el cual puedo respirar aire limpio. Sentirme conectada con la naturaleza me llena de paz ~ For me, feeling safe is knowing that I am in a space where I can breathe clean air. Feeling connected to nature fills me with peace. (Clatsop Co)

it's so frustrating wanting to ask for directions or pick up permits but to have to follow "banking hours." Most of us don't have the luxury of time on a weekday between 9-5 to stop by for a map or grab a mushroom permit...~ Es muy frustrante querer pedir información o permisos pero tener que hacerlo en "horarios bancarios". La mayoría de nosotros no tenemos el lujo de tener tiempo disponible durante la semana de 9 a 5 para ir por un mapa o un permiso para recoger hongos... (Deschutes Co)



The state should allow logging of state forests to enhance habitat for wildlife. Many animal species are struggling to maintain numbers and need clear cuts to increase numbers. It would also generate millions of dollars in tax revenue.

~

El estado debería permitir la tala de los bosques del estado para mejorar el hábitat para la vida silvestre. Muchas especies animales están teniendo dificultades en mantener sus números y necesitan áreas abiertas para poder incrementarlos. También generaría millones de dólares en ingresos fiscales.

For public lands that the public should be able to access, I think a major shift needs to happen in how owners coordinate access. And I can see how many people abuse our public lands by dumping or misusing recreational areas. As a single woman, I do not feel safe going to the forests alone.

~

Para que las personas puedan tener acceso a las tierras públicas yo pienso que un gran cambio debe ocurrir respecto a cómo los propietarios coordinan el acceso. Puedo ver cómo varias personas abusan nuestras tierras públicas tirando basura o abusando las áreas recreacionales. Como mujer soltera no me siento segura llendo sola a los bosques.-(Douglas Co)



Safety ~~ La Seguridad

- Wide range of feelings and perspectives regarding safety
- Different experiences with what would make people feel safe

~~

- Amplio rango de sentimientos y perspectivas relacionados a la seguridad
- Diferentes experiencias con lo que haría sentir seguras a las personas

Dependent on identity and experience

~~

Dependiente en identidad y experiencia

I'd feel safer if forests were thinned and had healthier understories. I'd feel safer if we stop clearcutting and planting trees too close together as streams are buried by soil falling down hillsides. (Lane Co)

Me sentiría más segura/o si los bosques estuvieran más abiertos y con sotobosques más saludables. Me sentiría más segura/o si paramos el desmonte y la plantación de árboles tan juntos debido a que los arroyos quedan enterrados bajo la tierra que cae de las laderas. (Lane Co)

~~

Yes, the color of my skin definitely causes reason to pause when planning to enjoy our forest and natural environment in a racist state. We love camping and fishing but the knowing of racist attacks on your family is a possibility, does not allow particular races to enjoy nature the way they should be able to, freely!

(Multnomah Co)

Si, definitivamente el color de mi piel hace que lo piense cuando estoy planeando en disfrutar un bosque o un entorno natural en un estado recista. Nos encanta acampar y pescar pero sabiendo que los ataques racistas a tu familia son una posibilidad no permite a ciertas razas el disfrutar de la naturaleza como debería ser; ¡libremente!

I do not know why others feel unsafe. I consider the forest one of the safer places as there are fewer people. Perhaps some cell towers at rangers stations so people have reception if they are casual visitors and nervous about being in the forest.

(Multnomah Co)

Yo no sé por qué otras personas no se sienten seguras. Yo considero a los bosques como uno de los lugares más seguros debido a que hay menos personas. Tal vez agregar torres de recepción celular en las estaciones de guardabosques para que las personas tengan recepción si son visitantes ocasionales o se sienten nerviosos de estar en el bosque.

~~

as an LGBTQ+ person I am constantly navigating my safety in public places. this sometimes comes into play while I am out exploring forests. I grew up exploring forests and I find a great deal of comfort and peace there. I want to ensure forests are managed and protected as much as possible. (Marion Co)

Como persona LGBTQ + estoy constantemente navegando mi seguridad en lugares públicos. Ésto también entra en juego cuando estoy explorando bosques. Yo crecí explorando bosques y siento un gran confort y paz allí. Quiero asegurar que los bosques estén manejados y protegidos lo más que sea posible.

It would help if there were more forest rangers, friendly trail volunteers, or just more law enforcement monitoring for illegal activity. (Yamhill Co) ~
Ayudaría si hubiera más guardabosques, voluntarios de senderos amistosos o más agentes de seguridad monitoreando por actividades ilegales.



I suppose I'm not keen on hunting tho I understand it's need, but I'd like to know that it's done with controls in place that truly work so that balance is provided for all involved (yes especially the animals) (Umatilla Co) ~

Supongo que no estoy muy interesado en la caza pero entiendo que es necesaria pero me gustaría saber que hay controles que realmente funcionan para proveer el balance para todos los involucrados (si, especialmente los animales)

Extreme Events ~ Acontecimientos Extremos

- Wildfire (and other climate-related disasters)
- Broad concerns about forest health
- Disagreement about how to prevent extreme events

~~

- Incendios forestales (y otros desastres naturales relacionados con el clima)
- Amplia preocupación sobre la salud de los bosques
- Desacuerdo sobre cómo prevenir acontecimientos extremos

Many people are thinking about ways to avoid and prepare for extreme events in forests.

~

Muchas personas están pensando en maneras de evitar y prepararse para acontecimientos extremos en los bosques.

Discussion Question ~ Preguntas

What did you notice about these results?

~ ~

¿Qué notó sobre éstos resultados?

Spotlight

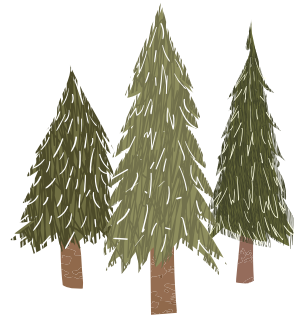
~

Foco de atención

Access and Safety

~

Acceso y la seguridad



Discussion Questions ~ Preguntas

Based on what “access to” and “safety in” Oregon forests means to you and what you’ve learned about other Oregonians needs and desires, what would you want ODF and the Board to consider as they make decisions in the future?

~~

Basado en lo que significa “acceso a” y “seguridad en” los bosques de Oregón para usted y en lo que aprendió sobre las necesidades y deseos de otros oregonianos, ¿qué desearía que el ODF y la Junta Forestal consideren al tomar decisiones futuras ?

Next Steps ~ Próximos pasos

OKT will share a full report with participants and on our site



OKT compartirá un reporte completo con los participantes y en nuestra página de internet

ODF and the Board will take the input and finalize their vision and strategic plan



ODF y la Junta Forestal tomará los comentarios y finalizarán su visión y su plan estratégico

Continued engagement opportunities

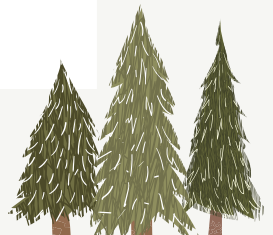


Continuar con oportunidades de participación



Thank you
Gracias

info@oregonskitchentable.org





Recreation, Education & Interpretation Program Evolution & Update

“Greatest Permanent Value” means healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.



Oregon
STATE FORESTS
Our COMMON GROUND

Program Overview:

- Recreation, Education & Interpretation Program (REI) unified under one organizational structure 2020; Result of State Forest Workforce Futuring Blueprint
- Program Overview:
 - Maintain services and infrastructure on Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam State Forests
 - 20 campgrounds, 515+ of motorized OHV trails, 135 miles of multi-use trails, target shooting lanes, river access, day use areas, opportunities for foraging, hunting & angling
 - Tillamook Forest Center
 - Visitors Services
 - Field Trips and School Groups
 - Public Interpretive and Educational Programs
 - Giftshop promoting local artists
 - Leverage State Forests Trust of Oregon to increase impact and reach





Recent Accomplishments:



- Completion of Strategic Plan (2023-2026)
- Deeper Integration With Other Forest Disciplines
- Refinement of Collaborative Relationship with State Forests Trust of Oregon



Oregon
STATE FORESTS
Our COMMON GROUND

REI Strategic Plan

2023-2026

Our mission is to create lasting and diverse outdoor recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities that inspire visitors to enjoy, respect, and learn about Oregon's state forests.

Our vision is to be the pathway for all to explore, learn about, and enjoy Oregon's state forests.



Oregon State Forests Our Common Ground

REI Strategic Plan Goals

- Update and enhance current interpretation and education services and the Tillamook Forest Center facility with an eye toward future expansion to foster understanding, connection, and stewardship on all state forests.
- Develop diverse and durable funding resources that provide for stable programming and increased financial capacity.
- Systematically grow partnerships and public engagement for ownership, support, and capacity to advance program goals.



Oregon
STATE FORESTS
Our COMMON GROUND

REI Strategic Plan Goals *(cont.)*

- Reimagine and integrate the REI story into all aspects of the program and provide public information to foster understanding, support, and ownership.
- Reimagine and adapt recreation, education and interpretation infrastructure across state forests to meet program objectives and the needs of recreationalists.
- Develop a deeper understanding of visitor use and the social and economic benefits and value of recreation, education, and interpretive opportunities on state forests.



Oregon
STATE FORESTS

Our COMMON GROUND

AGENDA ITEM 5

Page 7 of 20

Relevant Trends :

- Continued high levels of use since 2020
- Visitors from urban areas seeking close access to nature
- Visitors interested in diverse recreational and educational opportunities
- Visitors seeking outdoor spaces that make people from diverse backgrounds feel safe and welcomed
- Increased backlog of maintenance projects; inadequate funding to address needs





**CONNECTING PEOPLE
TO THE WONDERS OF
OREGON STATE FORESTS**

Board of Trustees:

Barrett Brown
Jay Graves
Michael Langley
Dave Lorenz
Maura Olivos
Erin Skaar
Lorie Wigle
Rick Zenn

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO
HELPING OREGONIANS
ENJOY AND APPRECIATE
OUR STATE FORESTS**

BACKGROUND

Supporting non-profit, partnering with ODF/REI to meet its recreation and education priorities

Founded in 1999 to build and promote the Tillamook Forest Center

Expanded into recreation projects in 2016 with legacy gifts from Wayne Naillon and Ed Kamholtz

Raises approximately \$40k / year from 140 donors, database of 2,000

Supported by .5 FTE

WHAT MOVES OUR DONORS



DESIGNATED FUNDS



Tillamook Forest Center

Wildfire Restoration

Recreation

40% donors, 43% funds

23% donors, 20% funds

9% donors, 11% funds

General Fund:
28% of donors, 26% of funds



STATE FORESTS ARE IMPORTANT TO OREGONIANS

Recreation is how 87% of Oregonians connect with state forests

In 2023, volunteers gave 43,900+ hours of service to recreation and learning on state forests, valued at \$452,900+

Opportunities for recreation on state forests increases the 'livability' of nearby communities to attract employees / employers

Time in nature helps reduce health care cost because of proven physical and mental health benefits

OUR SITUATION TODAY



SFTO has succeeded with major capital campaigns



REI needs SFTO to be a consistent, impactful fundraising partner



SFTO can build broader support for ODF/REI



SFTO needs a scaled, sustainable operating model

Expanding SFTO's Role to
INCREASE IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

1

**BROADEN OUR
NETWORK**

Friend-raise to
Fundraise

2

**PARTNER WITH
OTHERS**

Complement and
leverage capabilities
of other organizations

3

**BE A
CHAMPION**

Foster public and
private awareness
and support for REI

4

**BUILD OUR
CAPACITY**

Scale our efforts
through a sustainable
model

1 BROADEN OUR NETWORK

Friend-raise to Fundraise

Connect with state forest's deeply committed community through:

- Storytelling about the community of people and organizations
- Supporting volunteer recruitment and appreciation
- Offering opportunities to donate to projects they care about
- Engaging promotional and fundraising at events on state forests



2 PARTNER WITH OTHERS

Complement and leverage capabilities of other organizations

Collaborate with other groups to meet ODF/REI objectives:

- Help build and maintain facilities, support programs
- Joint fundraising events and grant applications
- Welcome and introduce more diverse communities to recreation on state forests

3

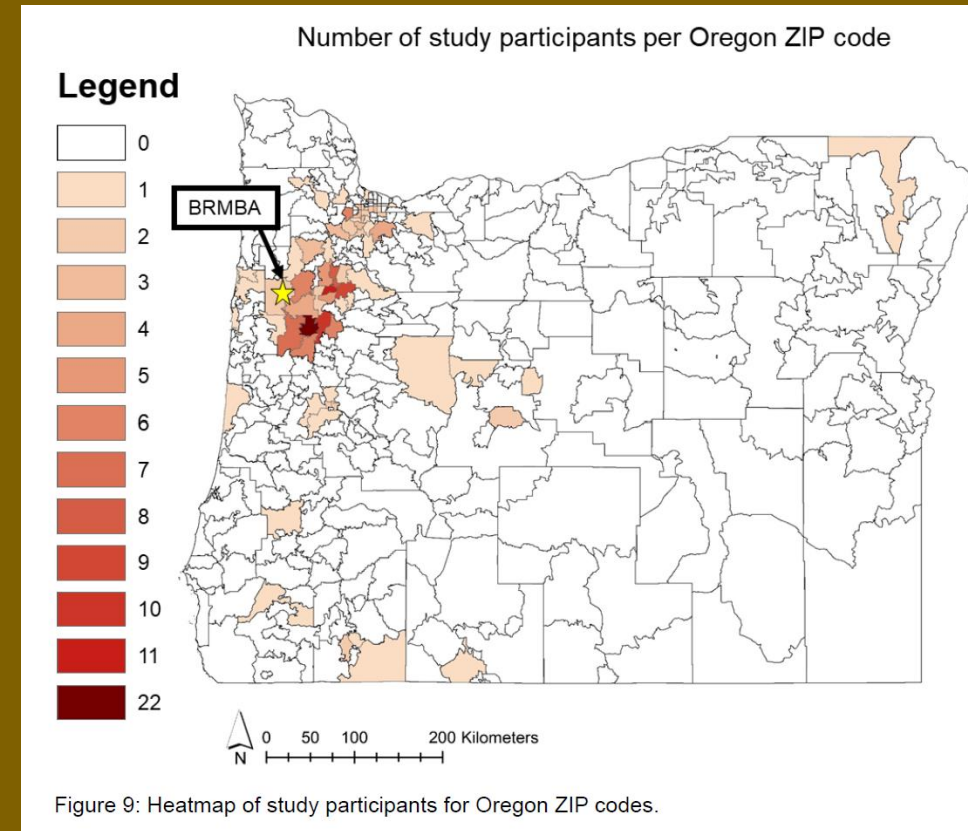
BE A CHAMPION

Foster public and private awareness and support for ODF/REI

Capture and use data to make the case for public and private support

Connect the benefits of ODF/REI to interests of civic, business, outdoor and education leaders

Lend our voice on regulatory issues that impact REI, e.g. funding, recreation immunity



4 BUILD OUR CAPACITY

Scale our efforts through a sustainable model

FY25

● **Expanded Role for SFTO**
Demonstrate success through friend-raising and partnerships

FY26-27

● **Secure a Capacity Grant**
Secure a capacity grant to fully implement strategy (from .5 to 2 FTE)

FY28
Onwards

● **Sustainable Operating Model**
Diverse strategies to support a mix of REI projects

OUR REQUESTS OF YOU

JOIN OUR EVENTS

Unearthing Forgotten Forestry Narratives - April 27, 1pm Tillamook Forest Center

Roots Exhibit - May 18-Sept 8, Presentation June 15, 1pm Tillamook Forest Center

CONNECT US

Those who share our passion and:

- We could learn from
- Might want to support our work
- Can help engage others

BE A CHAMPION FOR REI

- Communicate the value of recreation and learning on state forests
- Support ODF budget requests for recreation & learning
- Promote SFTO as an efficient, nimble partner that can help



Thank You

Wrap Up and Closing Comments