

Agenda Item No.:	2
Work Plan:	Private Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Forest Practices Act (FPA) Rule Policy Review
Presentation Title:	Charter work plan for updating Monitoring Strategy
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2015
Contact Information:	Terry Frueh, Monitoring Specialist, Private Forests 503-945-7392, terry.frueh@oregon.gov Marganne Allen, Manager, Field Support 503-945-7240, marganne.allen@oregon.gov Lena Tucker, Deputy Division Director, (503) 945-7529, lena.tucker@oregon.gov

SUMMARY

This agenda item presents a summary of the charter work plan to update Private Forests' Monitoring Strategy that will be used by the Department to prioritize Private Forests Monitoring work. The Department developed this work plan to describe steps in updating the Strategy and plan for stakeholder involvement.

CONTEXT

The Board of Forestry's (Board) 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon* supports an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) as a cornerstone of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon (Objective A.2). It also strives to integrate adaptive forest management, monitoring and assessments into learning, planning and decision-making processes (Objective A.3). The Board's guiding principles and philosophies includes a commitment to continuous learning, evaluating and appropriately adjusting forest management policies and programs based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research (Value Statement 11).

The overall goal of the Private Forests Division's monitoring efforts is to assess the implementation and effectiveness of rules and measures to achieve resource protection goals during forest operations. Updating the Monitoring Strategy will guide the Board's adaptive management process of ensuring an effective and science-based FPA.

BACKGROUND

The Monitoring Unit of ODF's Private Forests Division conducts monitoring to assess the effectiveness and implementation of rules promulgated under the Forest Practices Act (FPA) to protect natural resources, and other related programs (e.g., Oregon Plan Voluntary Measures). Historically, the Monitoring Unit's agenda has been directed by a strategic plan. The strategic plan provides a description of the Unit's monitoring approach and articulates a list of prioritized monitoring questions. The strategic plan is vital to the Monitoring Unit's mission because it address monitoring questions in a methodical and rational process with understanding, acceptance, and support by stakeholders and decision-makers. Results of monitoring efforts are taken to the Oregon Board of Forestry as part of its adaptive management approach to forest

practices rules. Monitoring results also help guide training efforts, administration of the FPA, and delivery of other related programs. The goals of this strategic plan are to:

- Provide the Board, legislature, and other stakeholders timely, pertinent, and sound information at multiple temporal and spatial scales regarding the effectiveness, implementation and assumptions associated with forest practices rules and best management practices, and outcomes on the ground;
- Coordinate with other monitoring and research efforts to ensure efficient use of state resources and contribute to enterprise, integrated monitoring at the state level;
- Determine if rules, regulations or other programs are being implemented in accordance with expectations and whether they are effective in meeting resource protection goals;
- Address highest priority FPA monitoring questions for the Private Forests Division;
- Work collaboratively with technical experts and stakeholders to produce high quality, transparent monitoring results; and
- Provide technical advice and support to other natural resource agencies engaged in baseline monitoring efforts (e.g., forest and stream conditions).

The Department developed the current strategic plan in 2002 (ODF, 2002). Since 2002, the Monitoring Unit has addressed many of the plan's priority questions and the Board has completed a new strategic plan, the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. During discussion on their water quality topic, the Board has discussed interest in future monitoring projects and priorities. The Department is updating the strategic plan to ensure the strategy reflects current needs and priorities.

ANALYSIS

This project will develop the Unit's strategic plan that prioritizes monitoring projects. We will complete this plan by including stakeholders in its development, and by ensuring plan alignment with the Board and Department's priorities and those of other agencies. In addition, we will develop methods to periodically evaluate this plan and update as appropriate. Finally, similarities, differences, and cross-linkages between implementation and effectiveness monitoring will be clarified.

There are several objectives to developing the plan. The overall focus is a well-prioritized list of monitoring questions that is integrated with the State's enterprise monitoring efforts. This objective will be accomplished by systematically analyzing plans and strategies of the State (e.g., 10 Year Plan for Oregon Project, Healthy Environment Policy Vision), the Board and Department (e.g., Forestry Program for Oregon, Key Performance Measures), and partner agencies. The plan will have a logical process for updating and ensuring we address the correct priorities. We will have a transparent and inclusive process for stakeholder participation in developing the Strategy (see list of stakeholders in the charter work plan, Attachment 1). Stakeholders will help develop and prioritize monitoring questions and the outline for the strategic plan, and review the draft strategic plan. Finally, the priority for each question will have a spatially explicit component since questions might not have the same priority across the state (e.g., past monitoring projects addressed issues in western Oregon that have not been addressed

in eastern Oregon). The plan will focus on both implementation/compliance and effectiveness monitoring.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board direct the Department to proceed with updating the Monitoring Strategic Plan, using the charter work plan and associated timeline as guides for this work (Attachments 1 and 2).

NEXT STEPS

Based on Board direction, the Department will develop, with stakeholder input, an outline of the strategic plan, and monitoring questions and their prioritization. The Department will then draft a strategic plan with additional stakeholder input. We will bring a progress update on this process to the Board in September 2015, with the goal to bring the completed plan to the Board in January 2016.

REFERENCES

Oregon Department of Forestry. 2002. *Forest Practices Monitoring Program Strategic Plan*. Salem, Oregon.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Charter Work Plan for Updating Monitoring Strategy
- (2) Timeline for Updating Monitoring Strategy