

Agenda Item No.:	11
Work Plan:	State Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Evaluating opportunities for improving economic performance on Board forestlands; Subcommittee on Alternative Forest Management Plans
Presentation Title:	State Forest Management Revision Project - Recommendation from the Subcommittee on an overarching approach for the Forest Management Plan Revision
Date of Presentation:	March 4, 2015
Contact Information:	Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief (503) 945-7351 <a href="mailto:liz.f.dent@oregon.gov">liz.f.dent@oregon.gov</a> Brian Pew, State Forests Deputy Division Chief (503) 945-7213 <a href="mailto:brian.pew@oregon.gov">brian.pew@oregon.gov</a> Josh Barnard, Project Leader (503) 945-7359 <a href="mailto:josh.w.barnard@oregon.gov">josh.w.barnard@oregon.gov</a>

**CONTEXT**

The purpose of this staff report is to update the Board of Forestry on the work of their Subcommittee on Alternative Forest Management Plans. The Subcommittee met on February 17th to review the draft principles, definition, and measures of financial viability, conservation and production. This agenda item will provide a brief update on this work in the development of a “land allocation” approach to managing State Forests.

**BACKGROUND**

The Board directed the Department to consider revisions to the State Forests Management Plan to meet two goals: financial viability and an increase in conservation outcomes. The Board of Forestry met on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and reached a unanimous decision accepting the Subcommittee’s recommendation to pursue a “land allocation” forest management approach. The Board also provided direction to Staff for modeling a range of strategies to help write and inform the future forest management plan. Following the Board of Forestry recommendation on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Staff began writing and modeling the future management plan. The Subcommittee reviewed the draft principles, definitions, and measures of financial viability, conservation and production at their February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Subcommittee will provide an update on this work at the March 4<sup>th</sup>, Board of Forestry meeting.

**NEXT STEPS**

Careful drafting of the plan revision is important to ensure the next plan meets the twin goals and is implementable on the six northwest State Forest Districts. This involves sophisticated modeling and analyses, review by the field organization, and overall assessment on the likelihood of achieving established goals.

### Continued Outreach and Collaboration

Staff will continue to work in collaboration with Trust Land County Commissioners, specifically the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee. The Department will continue to lead an ongoing public process and seek stakeholder input.

### Upcoming Products

Key products that will be developed between now and July 2015 include:

1. Draft Forest Management Plan: This new plan will use a land allocation approach, defining how areas will be managed for conservation and production.
2. Modeled Outputs: Our ability to meet our goals will be estimated with a spatially explicit model and include future projections.
3. Science Review: The draft plan and modeled outputs will be reviewed by an independent science team.
4. Board of Forestry Approval for Rulemaking: The intent is to seek Board approval to begin rulemaking with a Draft Plan by the July Board of Forestry meeting. This will initiate the formal rulemaking process including a series of public hearings.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This information is provided as a Board update. No action is necessary.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) Informal Checklist
- 2) Products and Timelines