

Agenda Item No.:	4
Work Plan:	State Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Evaluating opportunities for improving economic performance on Board forestlands
Presentation Title:	Alternative Forest Management Plan update
Date of Presentation:	November 5, 2015
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CONTEXT

The purpose of this staff report is to update the Board of Forestry on the work of their Subcommittee on Alternatives to the Northwest State Forests Management Plan (FMP) in which the Division has been directed to explore a Land Allocation approach. As noted in the April 22, 2015 memo to the Board of Forestry, the Subcommittee directed the Division to model a range of production and conservation approaches. The Subcommittee met in August 12, 2015 to review draft Land Allocation model outputs and draft conservation metrics. The Subcommittee approved conservation metrics and directed staff to revise the model and further refine the definition for conservation.

Subcommittee direction was documented in the September 15, 2015 memo to the Board of Forestry. The revised outcomes of the Land Allocation approach were reviewed at the October 19, 2015 Subcommittee meeting. This agenda item will provide a brief update on this work.

BACKGROUND

The Board directed the Department to revise the State Forests Management Plan (FMP) to achieve two goals: financial viability and increase in conservation outcomes. They established a Subcommittee to work with the Division during the FMP revision process. The Subcommittee has engaged in an active exploration with county commissioners and stakeholders on framing up and modeling a Land Allocation approach for managing State Forests. The Subcommittee met in August 2015 and reviewed model outputs and conservation metrics. The Subcommittee directed staff to conduct further model revisions, map conservation and production emphasis areas, and further explore a definition for conservation. This direction was captured in the September 15, 2015 memo to the Board of Forestry.

At the October 19th 2015 Subcommittee meeting, the Division provided Draft maps depicting potential production and conservation emphasis areas. The maps estimate current stand age and stand age in 100 years within each emphasis areas. The Division

also explored ways to measure and analyze conservation outcomes and conducted a coarse evaluation of riparian buffers and retention of green trees, snags, and downed wood in harvest units. Modeled volume and revenue were reported (predicted for 100 years) as well as stand age and volume harvested within the production and conservation emphasis areas.

The above analyses and draft outcomes of a Land Allocation approach were reviewed at the October 19th Subcommittee meeting. This information will further the discussion, helping to refine the development and shape a plan for the consideration of the Board of Forestry. A brief update on outcomes from the October 19th Subcommittee meeting will be provided.

NEXT STEPS

Diligent development, analysis, and drafting of the FMP revision is important to ensure that a revised plan meets the following: the twin goals of financial viability and increase conservation outputs; the requirements of Greatest Permanent Value; is operationally feasible on the six northwest State Forests Districts; and addressed the needs of trust counties. The base model outcomes established by Subcommittee direction and informed by stakeholders is currently being studied by staff. This is an open and fluid process subject to change and adjustment. As additional information is developed it will be considered by the Subcommittee to further refine the details of a revised FMP.

RECOMMENDATION

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