

Agenda Item No.:	7
Work Plan:	Private Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Forest Practices Act (FPA) Rule Policy Review
Presentation Title:	Briefing on Developing the Monitoring Strategy
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## **SUMMARY**

This agenda item updates the Board on the Private Forests Division's development of an update to its overall Monitoring Strategy (Strategy). The Private Forests Monitoring Unit uses this Strategy to prioritize its work. We describe our work to date, including: developing questions, seeking input on their prioritization, and working with stakeholders throughout this process. This item does not relate to specific monitoring questions, rather the process by which the department and Board work together to develop and prioritize questions related to private forests.

## **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 include 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 on non-federal forestlands. Updating the Monitoring Strategy will guide the Board's adaptive management process and ensure 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). The Monitoring Unit used the previous Monitoring Strategy to create a deliberate approach to adaptive management. The updated Strategy provides a description of the Unit's monitoring approach and articulates a list of prioritized monitoring questions. The Strategy supports the Monitoring Unit's mission because it addresses monitoring questions in a methodical and rational process with opportunity for input and direction by stakeholders and decision-makers. Results of monitoring efforts are brought to the Board 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 Strategy will help fulfill the goals of the Monitoring Unit, which include:

- 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 Strategy in 2002 (ODF 2002). Since then, the Unit has addressed many of the plan's priority questions and the Board has updated their own strategic plan, the 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon*. During discussion on their water quality topic, the Board has expressed interest in future monitoring projects and priorities. At their January 2015 meeting, the Board directed the Department to use a charter work plan to guide the process of updating the Strategy. The Department is updating the Strategy to ensure it reflects current needs and priorities.

## ANALYSIS

### Summary of update to the Monitoring Strategy

We developed a structured process to update the Monitoring Strategy (Attachment 1). In Phase 1, we developed monitoring questions based on three sources of information: stakeholder input, the 2002 Monitoring Strategy, and ODF internal discussions. In Phase 2, we categorized these questions into types of monitoring (i.e., effectiveness, compliance, and voluntary). We sent the categorized questions to stakeholders and asked them to identify the highest priority questions for us to address. We will combine stakeholder priorities with analyses of Board, ODF, and partner agencies strategic documents to determine the overall priority of questions. Phase 3 begins with drafting the updated Strategy and sending it to stakeholders for their input. After addressing stakeholder input in a final draft Strategy, we will present it to Board for review, input, and approval.

To date, we have received input on updating the Monitoring Strategy from the following:

- twelve (12) individuals (e.g., landowners, conservation community, industry),
- five (5) staff members of other agencies,
- one (1) person representing a Tribe, and
- seventeen (17) ODF staff members.

### Timeline

We anticipate completing both the prioritization of questions and a draft of the Strategy this spring (see timeline, Attachment 2). We will send this draft to stakeholders for their input, which we should receive by late spring. We anticipate addressing feedback from stakeholders and bringing the Final Draft Strategy to the Board in September 2016.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is informational only.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Department will continue to develop the draft Monitoring Strategy, with stakeholder review and input. We expect to bring the completed Final Draft Monitoring Strategy to the Board in September 2016.

### **REFERENCES**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Process for updating Private Forests Monitoring Strategy.
2. Timeline for completing the Monitoring Strategy