

Agenda Item No.:	7
Work Plan	Administrative
Topic:	Legislative Concept (LC) development
Presentation Title:	Principles and Guidance for 2017 Legislative Concept Development
Date of Presentation:	January 6, 2016
Contact Information:	Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester 503-945-7205 or nancy.hirsch@oregon.gov Chad Davis, Project Leader 503-945-7408 or chad.davis@oregon.gov

SUMMARY

This agenda item seeks Board input and direction on:

- Draft guiding principles that guide the development of legislative concepts and
- Draft legislative concepts for the 2017 legislative session.

CONTEXT

Legislative concept development, a part of the Board’s and Department’s strategic planning cycle, begins in the fall of odd-numbered years. Legislative concepts may result in bills that will be introduced during the 2017 legislative session. Prior to that decision, the Department will engage with multiple groups, including the Board, Department leadership, stakeholders and the Governor’s Office. Bills represent an important opportunity to advance Board and Department goals, objectives and priorities, or to address barriers.

Based on Board guidance, the Department will engage with stakeholders and others in the continued development of legislative concepts, with ongoing Board consultation as the process proceeds. The 2017 legislative concepts will be due to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Governor’s Office by April 11, 2016. Review at those levels generally focuses on alignment with statewide budget and policy considerations, and with the Governor’s priorities.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Guiding principles

The agency’s executive team has utilized a set of principles to guide development of legislative concepts. These are submitted for the Board’s consideration:

2017 legislative concept development will:

Seek input and ensure alignment. Key inputs for legislative concepts include alignment with other elements of the Board's and Department's strategic planning cycle, such as:

- Budget development for strategic initiatives
- *Forestry Program for Oregon* objectives
- Board and Department work plans
- Public input from periodic issue scans and other sources
- Governor's priorities
- Proposals pending from past legislative sessions

Consider the political and economic environments. These factors may render some legislative concepts more viable, necessary or timely than others. This environment requires ongoing assessment as concepts are developed.

Consider feasibility / workload. The number and complexity of concepts should reflect the Department's capacity to engage in the necessary outreach and legislative interaction. Some concepts are relatively simple, non-controversial, and/or offer opportunities for "housekeeping" changes. Others are larger in scale, and may connect to or establish major statewide policy direction.

Initial concepts

The following list, presented for Board consideration and discussion, represents preliminary thinking about possible 2017 concepts.

Fire Protection

- Note: To ensure deference to the Fire Program Review Committee process, nothing has been identified for the Fire Protection Division fire as it is too early to know if any legislative concepts will emerge or result from that work.

State Forests

- None.

Private Forests

- **Forest Products Harvest Tax Rate.** Historically, legislation has been introduced each session to set tax rates for Forest Practices Act administration, support of the Oregon State University (OSU) Forest Research Laboratory, and professional forestry education at the College of Forestry, OSU. For the Department of Forestry, when combined with public funds (General Fund), the bill maintains the concept of shared responsibility for the Forest Practices program delivery between the general public and program recipients.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board review the proposed guiding principles and initial draft list of legislative concepts, and provide direction on desired changes.

NEXT STEPS

Based on guidance received through this agenda item, staff will continue developing concepts and return to the March Board meeting for additional direction.