

Board Work Plan Template

Issue/Topic: *Federal Forests*

Background:

Federal agencies manage 60% of Oregon's forestland on behalf of the public. While different ecological dynamics are drivers in Oregon's diverse forests, an increase in forest restoration statewide will provide important ecological, economic, and social benefits for Oregonians. In particular, it will also have positive impacts for rural communities. Collaborative efforts have successfully built trust across diverse stakeholder groups and reduced interest-based litigation. Where collaboratives have been effective, additional federal and state resources are broadening the base and pipeline of active management. As collaboration has become mainstream in Oregon, concerns have been voiced by some citizens and stakeholders. Some view collaboration, and efforts to reform Federal policies governing forest management, as a two pronged strategy leading to unregulated timber harvest. Other constituents perceive collaboration as a Trojan Horse which will ultimately reduce access, use and benefit by local communities.

In 2009, the Board adopted *Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands*, a report produced by the Federal Forest Advisory Committee (FFAC). Since, the Governor's Natural Resource Office has convened the Federal Forest Working Group (FFWG) to implement actions identified within the State's purview in the 2009 Report. The FFWG initially identified and scoped out what became the ODF Federal Forest Health Program (FFH) funded in both the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 biennia by the State Legislature.

Purpose:

The intent of this work plan is to amplify the "Oregon Model", a functional partnership among local forest collaboratives, the State, and the Federal agencies to accelerate the restoration of forests and watersheds managed by the US Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. To date, this Model has been successful at a place-based scale. The deliverables in this work plan are intended to qualify and quantify forest restoration statewide, and strengthen the foundation for success. Through success, the Oregon Model can be an example for other western States.

Scope:

The scope for this work plan includes all federal forestland statewide, including lands managed by the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Deliverables:

- 1) Quantify opportunities for restoration within existing land management plan constructs
 - a. Deliverable A: Map of active restoration opportunities for each national forest based on current land designations (e.g. Wilderness, etc) and administrative policies (IRA's, RHCA's, etc.)

- b. Deliverable B: Acres (exhibited in a table) of forest acreage and percentage that is allocated or designated into different management opportunity categories
- 2) Revisit *Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands* (2009 report from the Federal Forest Advisory Committee) and the work of the *Federal Forest Working Group* to determine any next steps needed to amplify the Oregon Model
 - a. Deliverable: to be determined
- 3) Engage in media outreach/campaign
 - a. Deliverable: Coordinated media outreach strategy regarding the opportunities for forest restoration and the successes to date of the Oregon Model

Timeframe with Milestones

- Spring 2016 – Presentation of maps and table to Board – Spring 2016
- Spring-Summer 2016 – Board agenda topics regarding status of collaboration
- Fall/Winter 2016 – Board adoption of outreach strategy

Resources required

- ODF Staff time to prepare maps and tables
- Time on Board agenda
- Otherwise, to be determined