

Mission, Vision, and Values from the 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon

What is the Oregon Board of Forestry's mission?

The current Board of Forestry defines its mission as:

Leading Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote sustainable management of Oregon's public and private forests.

What is sustainable forest management?

It is important that Oregonians agree about what sustainable forest management means and how to evaluate our forests' performance in meeting sustainability goals. In this context, the Board of Forestry defines "sustainable forest management" as meaning:

Forest resources across the landscape are used, developed, and protected at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current environmental, economic, and social needs, and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs [based on Oregon Revised Statute 184.421].

On a statewide basis, sustainable forest management will provide:

- Healthy and diverse forest ecosystems that produce abundant timber and other forest products;
- Habitat to support healthy populations of native plants and animals;
- Productive soil, clean water, clean air, open space, and recreational opportunities;
- Healthy communities that contribute to a healthy state economy; and
- Accountability and trust between all parties, where human well-being and equity are goals of the process as well as outcomes of the decisions.

What is the Oregon Board of Forestry's vision for the future?

If the *Forestry Program for Oregon* is implemented successfully, the Board of Forestry's vision is that Oregon will have:

1. Healthy forests providing an integrated, sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits.
2. Public and private landowners willingly making investments to create and maintain healthy forests.
3. Statewide forest resource policies that are coordinated among natural resource agencies.
4. The Board of Forestry recognized as an impartial deliberative body operating openly and in the public interest to achieve the Board's mission.

5. Citizens who understand, accept, and support sustainable forestry and who make informed decisions that contribute to achievement of the vision of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

6. Adequate funding for the Department of Forestry to efficiently and effectively accomplish the mission and strategies of the Board of Forestry, and department personnel policies that encourage and recognize employees, allowing them to meet their full potential in providing excellent public service.

What values form the basis for Oregon Board of Forestry decisions?

The following value statements identify the current Board of Forestry's guiding principles and philosophies.

The Board of Forestry values:

1. A global context. We believe Oregon's forests are important to the global environment, economy, and society, and that forest landowners, managers, government agencies, interest groups, and all other Oregonians should consider the impact of their decisions at local, state, national, and international levels.

2. The dynamic nature of Oregon's forests. We recognize that Oregon's forests are diverse, dynamic, and resilient ecosystems at a landscape scale. A broad range of forest conditions exists naturally, and various forest values, in proper proportion, are mutually compatible over time.

3. The intrinsic value of Oregon forest resources. We believe that while Oregon's native forest plants, animals, and ecosystems provide economic, scientific, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic values, their existence alone warrants their stewardship and enhancement.

4. Active management. We believe Oregon's forests should be actively managed to maintain forest health, to conserve native plant and animal species, and to produce the products and benefits people value. In this context, we define "active management" as the application of practices through planning and design, over time and across the landscape, to achieve site-specific forest resource goals. Active management uses an integrated, science-based approach that promotes the compatibility of most forest uses and resources over time and across the landscape.

5. Meeting current and future needs. We believe forest resources should be used, developed, and protected at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current environmental, economic, and social needs, and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs.

6. Landowners and the public sharing responsibility for sustainable forests. We believe forest sustainability depends on the contributions of both landowners and the public. We support the private landowner's right to practice forest management in a manner that meets or exceeds Oregon's Forest Practices Act. The public must also play an active role by supporting incentives and other non-regulatory methods that encourage continued investment in Oregon's forests to maintain and increase the public values provided by private forests.

7. Forests that contribute to quality of life. Oregon's forests and the state's rural and urban populations are interdependent. We believe Oregon's forests play a significant role in providing all Oregonian's a high quality of life, including products, jobs, water and other ecosystem services, recreation, tax revenues for community well-being, and a quality environment.

8. Healthy rural Oregon. We believe a healthy rural Oregon, which relies on working landscapes, is vital to the quality of life enjoyed by all Oregonians. Forests contribute to this healthy rural economy through generating traditional forest sector jobs and tax revenue and also through a healthy environment that supports associated trades such as salmon fisheries and forest recreation.

9. Different landowners playing different roles. We believe different land ownerships play different roles in achieving the full suite of environmental, economic, and social needs met by the forested landscape. Private forest landowners play unique and valuable roles in Oregon's forest landscape, and their continued vitality must be assured in the face of threats by development, inequitable regulation, reduced technical and financial assistance, and economic challenges.

10. Informed public participation. We value broad-based, informed public participation and consensus-based decision-making whenever possible.

11. Continuous learning. We are committed to continuous learning. The results of forest management policies and programs should be evaluated and appropriately adjusted based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research.