

OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY

Selected Text from the 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon

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.

Agency's published mission

To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forest to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.

What is sustainable forest management?

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.

VISION

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.

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 Oregonians 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.¹

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.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVE TOPICS

Please note the order in which the seven goals of the 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon are listed is not intended to indicate priority, nor is it intended that all strategies should be applied equally on every forest ownership. Instead, the goals should be viewed from a statewide, landscape perspective, with different landowners making different contributions

Goal A: Promote a fair legal system, effective and adequately funded government, leading-edge research and education, and publicly-supported environmental, economic, and social policies.

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| 1. Stable funding | 5. Forest cluster economic development |
| 2. Effective regulatory and non-regulatory programs | 6. Board of Forestry lands |
| 3. Adaptive management | 7. Human well-being and equity |
| 4. Active federal forest management | 8. Landslides and public safety |

Goal B: Ensure that Oregon's forests make a significant contribution towards meeting the nation's wood product needs and provide diverse social and economic outputs and benefits valued by the public in a fair, balanced, and efficient manner.

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| 1. Landowner challenges | 5. Coordination with Oregon tribes |
| 2. New markets | 6. Urban and community forests |
| 3. Employment and revenue | 7. Forest cluster and rural vitality |
| 4. Strategic industry investment | 8. Forest recreation |

Goal C: Protect and improve the productive capacity of Oregon's forests.

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| 1. Land use planning | 5. Diverse management objectives |
| 2. Active federal forest management | 6. Climate change adaptation and mitigation |

3. Residential emphasis forests
4. Forest land base retention
5. Wood growth, harvest, and mortality

Goal D: Protect and improve the physical and biological quality of the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.

1. Forest Practices Act administration
2. Water quality standard administration
3. Watershed research
4. Forest land base retention
5. Ecological processes and dynamics
6. Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
7. Drinking water
8. Soil productivity protection

Goal E: Conserve diverse native plant and animal populations and protect and improve their habitats in Oregon's forests.

1. Board of Forestry lands
2. At-risk plant and animal species
3. Invasive species
4. *Oregon Conservation Strategy* expectations
5. *Oregon Conservation Strategy* tools
6. Old growth definition and delineation
7. Fire-dependent/sensitive ecosystems

Goal F: Protect and improve the health and resiliency of Oregon's dynamic forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds.

1. Active fuels and vegetation management
2. Wildfire suppression cost control
3. Wildfire risk reduction/ecosystem improvement
4. Wildfire, insects, and diseases protection
5. Wildfire suppression priorities
6. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
7. Forest landscape resilience
8. Smoke management

Goal G: Improve carbon sequestration and storage and reduce carbon emissions in Oregon's forests and forest products.

1. Forest land base retention
2. Public and landowner education
3. Accessible carbon-offset markets
4. Advantages of Oregon forest products
5. Biomass as a renewable energy source
6. Biomass/bioenergy/bio-based products
7. Forest sector energy efficiency