



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. • P.O. Box 12339, Salem, OR 97309  
503/364-1330 • fax 503/364-0836 • email: rstorm@oregonloggers.org  
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## State Forest Management Plan – Revised Guiding Principles

Comment by Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.  
before the Oregon Board of Forestry – July 24, 2018

Chair Imeson and Board members, my name is Rex Storm, Certified Forester and Forest Policy Manager for Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL). I make these comments on behalf of the 1,000+ AOL member companies, representing logging, transportation, construction and allied forest management businesses working in Oregon. AOL member companies provide services to manage public and private forests on a contract basis, including Northwest Oregon's state forests. Some members are state forest timber-forest contract purchasers. The revised State Forest Plan and its guiding principles are of critical concern to our work.

*We encourage the Board to strengthen the Forest Plan's proposed Guiding Principles and proposed monitoring metrics to more clearly articulate the importance of producing timber value and revenue.*

1. **As written, the eleven proposed Guiding Principles would not sufficiently compel active management that over the long-term would increase the growth, harvest, and protection of state forests for timber value and revenue.**
  - The sum total of the proposed foundational Principles 1-5 fails to articulate the imperative of this timber growing and production factor to guide management decisions.
  - Relegating timber growing to an ancillary function of State Forests would be counter-productive and destructive to future forest productivity.
  - Principle language describing biodiversity and watershed health utilizes active verbs mandating outcomes—such as “maintain and enhance” or “conserve and improve”; whereas the language guiding financial viability of the Department and range of social benefits is markedly passive—such as “are considered” or “contribute to”.
  - The economic production of timber growing and managing is discounted and an auxiliary function; rather than—as we propose—a beneficial source of both future and current value and revenue.
2. **The proposed Principles betray a necessary commitment to use of professional management experience to both improve and increase current and future forest growth, forest protection, and forest access for multiple uses.**
  - Proven silvicultural practices and sound science that would improve future forest growth and health would reap biological and watershed rewards—additionally would improve timber value and revenue.
  - Proven practices in timber yield protection, and forest road/trail access, would improve future forest growth and health would reap biological and watershed rewards—this also would improve timber value/revenue.
3. **The proposed *Impacts Analysis Framework* use of symbols to describe key monitoring metrics is insufficient to measure the important outcomes expected by Counties, timber sector, communities, stakeholders, and publics.**
  - Symbols fail to articulate progress, trends, scope, or scale of key desired Plan outcomes.
  - Symbols fail to articulate important economic revenue and timber outcomes from the Plan

In closing, I urge the Board's reconsideration to elevate the posture of growing, harvesting, and protecting timber value and revenue. Thank you for your consideration.