

Agenda Item No.:	4
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	2017 Forest Health Report
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SUMMARY

This agenda item provides an overview of the Forest Health Unit’s work on major insect, disease, and other damaging agents affecting Oregon forests in 2017, as required by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 527.335.

CONTEXT

The Board’s 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon defines a healthy, vital forest landscape as one that maintains its functions, diversity, and resiliency within the context of natural and human disturbances and is capable of providing people with the array of values, uses, and products desired now and in the future. The Board supports protecting and improving the health and resiliency of Oregon’s dynamic forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds (Goal F). The Board’s objectives for Goal F include promoting resilient forest landscape conditions and management practices that will lead to reductions in the adverse impacts from forest insects and diseases (Objective F.7). The Board’s guiding principles and philosophies includes a commitment to continuous learning, evaluating and appropriately adjusting forest management policies and programs based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research (Value Statement 11).

BACKGROUND

At their November 2017 meeting, the Board received a general update on Forest Health unit activities. Unit updates usually occur in September of each year; extreme fire activity in 2017 limited the September meeting to a fire update. Topics included: the annual aerial survey report on statewide status and trend for insects and disease, including the 2016 Forest Health Highlights publication; a progress report on the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Slow the Spread program; and a status report on key invasive species including the Emerald Ash Borer, strategic planning for its likely introduction to Oregon, the gypsy moth detection and eradication program, and the Pest Detector education and early detection program.

ANALYSIS

Core business and high-priority Forest Health projects over the last nine months include (see Attachment 1 for details):

- **Annual/biennial survey efforts for insects and disease:** Statewide annual aerial survey, Sudden Oak Death fixed-wing and helicopter surveys, administration of State Forests ground-based root disease survey contracts, recreational area hazard tree assessments.
- **Annual insect trapping programs:** Douglas-fir Tussock moth, gypsy moth (cooperator).
- **Annual treatment programs:** Bark beetle cost-share program assistance, Sudden Oak Death Slow the Spread Program, gypsy moth eradication (cooperator).
- **Special projects:** Columbia River Gorge invasive wood borer survey, compare-contrast between high resolution SOD imaging and aerial survey results, Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan (cooperator).
- **Technical assistance, support, and education:**
 - Customers: Forest landowners (family, industrial, other); ODF Stewardship Foresters, State Forests staff, Protection Division, and leadership; local, state and federal agencies; Tribes; university and industrial researchers.
 - Interagency/collaboratives: Cooperative Annual Statewide Aerial Survey, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Swiss Needle Cooperative, The Oregon Bee Project, Pest Detector Program, SOD Task Force, Gorse Action Group, Oregon State University (OSU) Swiss Needle Cast Cooperative.
 - Board Committees: Committee for Family Forestlands, Regional Forest Practices Committees
- **Annual and other reports, publications:** Draft 2017 Annual Forest Health Highlights (Attachment 2), update of insect and disease Fact Sheets, other popular articles.
- **Attendance of local, state and national forest health meetings and conferences**

Unit personnel have also been involved in various other duties as assigned, including fire assignments.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) 2017 Forest Health Unit Update
- (2) DRAFT Forest Health Highlights in Oregon – 2017