

Agenda Item No:	7
Work Plan Title & #:	Emerging Issues: Intersection of Land Use Policy and Outcomes with Maintaining Working Forests
Presentation Title:	Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Oregon and Washington: 2018 Update
Date of Presentation:	September 5, 2018
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SUMMARY

This agenda item provides the Board of Forestry a summary of the information contained in the report *Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Oregon and Washington: 2018 Update*. This report, produced by ODF in collaboration with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program of the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, quantifies the amount of non-Federal land converted from resource uses to more developed uses since the 1970s in Oregon and Washington. This information is the first presentation to the Board on this Emerging Issue topic.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

ODF and FIA collaborate to carry out periodic studies assessing land use change on non-Federal land in Oregon and Washington based upon interpretation of aerial imagery. Specifically, the studies quantify conversion of resource lands (i.e., forest, farm, and range lands) to more developed uses (i.e., urban and low-density residential) in the two states. Existing study data covered the period 1974–2009 in Oregon, and 1976–2006 in Washington. Recent work by ODF and FIA, published in the *2018 Update* report, updates Oregon’s land use data through the year 2014, and Washington’s land use data through the year 2013. The use of consistent methodology throughout the study period allows assessment of how land use trends have changed relative to comprehensive land use planning regulations, population growth, and economic recession.

The study finds that Oregon has been very successful at preserving resource lands from development, with 97% of non-Federal land that was in resource uses in 1974 remaining in those uses in 2014. Rates of resource land conversion slowed dramatically following full implementation of comprehensive land use planning. For forest lands in particular, the average annual rate of conversion of wildland forest to other uses fell by 66% following land use implementation: during the full 1974–2014 period, approximately 247,000 acres of non-Federal wildland forest in Oregon were converted to other uses. However, the ten years 1974–1984 (prior to full implementation of land use planning) account for approximately 50% of this conversion, with the remaining 50% spread across the 30 years 1984–2014. Rates of forest conversion also show a distinct relationship with ownership type, with industrial and public owners largely retaining land in wildland forest use, while the majority of wildland forest conversion since 1974 resulted from transactions on private non-industrial owners. The *2018 Update* report explores

these land use trends in the context of broader ecosystem and economic concerns, and compares Oregon's land use trends to the contemporaneous trends in Washington.

ODF will continue to work with FIA to update this land use analysis. With the increased spatial analysis capacity available today, this baseline data can also serve to inform other policy considerations regarding water quality, specific forest habitat types, etc. When complete 2018 aerial imagery for Oregon becomes available, the land use data will be updated in order to assess land use trends in the period of the post-recession economic recovery.

RECOMMENDATION

- This agenda item is for information only.

NEXT STEPS

- Work with FIA to update Oregon land use data to the year 2018, upon release of complete statewide aerial imagery for 2018.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Oregon and Washington: 2018 Update