

Agenda Item No.:	7
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Board of Forestry Updates
Presentation Title:	J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard and Oregon Seed Bank Update
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Contact Information:	Mike Kroon, J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard Manager, Private Forests, 503-930-3517, Mike.E.Kroon@Oregon.gov Don Kaczmarek, Geneticist, Private Forests, 503-930-3685, Don.Kaczmarek@Oregon.gov

SUMMARY

This agenda topic provides an overview of the J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard and the Oregon Seed Bank programs.

CONTEXT

The Board’s 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon, Goal C, identifies maintaining the productive capacity of Oregon's forests which means to maintain the amount of forestland and ensuring harvest rates for timber and non-timber forest products do not exceed growth rates. Objective C.7 encourages forest landowners to manage their forests in a manner that is consistent with a goal of long-term wood volume growth in Oregon equaling or exceeding rates of timber harvest and mortality across all ownerships. In addition, the FPA describes “forests make a vital contribution to Oregon by providing jobs, products, tax base and other social and economic benefits, by helping to maintain forest tree species, soil, air and water resources and by providing a habitat for wildlife and aquatic life and the public policy of the State of Oregon to encourage economically efficient forest practices that ensure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species”... The Board also supports active management of forest resources over time and across the landscape (Value Statement #4).

BACKGROUND

The J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard and the Oregon Seed Bank support private industrial, federal, State and family forest landowners in growing, or making available, improved forest tree seed which support the above listed goals and policies. The Private Forests Division houses both programs. ORS 526.470 and ORS 526.472 describe the authority and operating principles of the seed orchard and seed bank.

ANALYSIS

The J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard furthers the productivity, health, and economic sustainability of Oregon's forests by growing high quality tree seed. Goals for the orchard include meeting the seed production and management objectives of orchard cooperators. The orchard uses an innovative, long-term, public-private cooperative business model to benefit members. There are 29 cooperative orchards with 24 different cooperative members including state and federal agencies, and industrial forestry companies of all sizes. Orchards include Douglas-Fir orchards from Oregon and Washington, western hemlock, western red cedar, and Valley Ponderosa Pine. Yields of cone crops are generally consistently high and predictable. During the 2016 harvest season the bearing orchards produced 2,653 pounds of Douglas-fir seed, or enough to reforest about 75,000 acres of land.

The Oregon Seed Bank is a self-sustaining program relying upon the purchase and selling of forest tree seed. The Seed Bank assures appropriate, climatically adapted tree seed is available for family forest landowners throughout Oregon. The Seed Bank is able to purchase a portion of seed from the seed orchard and make this seed available to family forest landowners. The Oregon Seed Bank has genetically improved Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar along available along with many other advanced disease resistant and improved tree species.

The State of Oregon continues to be a leader in working with our federal and private partners to promote improved tree seed in Oregon and Washington. Today, the Schroeder Seed Orchard has the capacity to produce seed for all of Western Oregon and parts of Washington. The Oregon Seed Bank is able to leverage federal, private and State partners to purchase seed for landowners as needed. In addition to reforestation following harvest, Schroeder and the Seed Bank provide valuable seed needed to respond to wildfire and other unforeseen events, aiding ecosystem recovery and restoring economic viability.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only. Board comments, questions and suggestions are welcome.

ATTACHMENT

1. J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard brochure
2. Oregon Seed Bank brochure