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| Agenda Item No.: | 3 |
| Work Plan Title & #: | Role of Forests in Carbon Policy and Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change |
| Presentation Title: | Forest Ecosystems Carbon Report |
| Date of Presentation: | April 24, 2019 |
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SUMMARY

In 2018, the Board affirmed its interest in maintaining climate change and forest carbon as a priority on the Emerging Issue workplan for 2019-2020.

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Legislature charged the Office of Carbon Policy (OCP) to conduct an assessment of carbon in Oregon’s forests. The OCP initiated an agreement to have ODF complete this work. ODF contracted with the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the US Forest Service to complete the Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report based on plot data from the Forest Inventory Analysis Program. This report is due to ODF in June 2019. Work is also underway on a second report to estimate the carbon stored in harvested wood products and will be complete by the end of 2019. A third report is planned to evaluate potential management and utilization scenarios on their ability to increase overall carbon storage and climate change mitigation.

To re-engage the Board on this priority topic, Department staff will present the history of climate change policy in Oregon and provide an overview of the initial results from the Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report.

CONTEXT

Oregon’s forests are strongly influenced by climate and topography. Modeled projections of long-term changes in climate based on rising concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide have been used to predict changes such as increased temperatures, rising sea levels, declining snowpack, extreme precipitation events, and increased risk of drought and heat waves. Oregon has been pursuing various climate and carbon policies since the early-to-mid 1990s, including multiple statutory changes, work groups and agency-driven plans. At its January 2019 meeting, the Board prioritized climate change as a priority for discussion during the year. This is the first topic in front of the new Board configuration to re-engage climate change as a priority policy topic.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

NEXT STEPS

In July, the Department will summarize the manner in which climate adaptation and resilience are built into existing work and engage the Board in discussion to identify next steps on the topic.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Annotated History of Climate Change-Related Policy in Oregon
2. State Forester's Presentation to Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, March 11, 2019