

Oregon Department of Forestry
Private Forests Strategic Initiatives – 2020-2021

Division/Program: Private Forests

Strategic Initiative Summary Matrix

Initiative	Status
Supporting Sustainable Family and Community Forestry	Revised
Forest Practices Act Monitoring for Water Quality	Revised
Forest Products Harvest Tax	Recurring legislation

The Private Forests division has 3 initiatives:

- (1) Supporting Sustainable Family and Community Forestry
- (2) Forest Practices Act Effectiveness and Implementation
- (3) Forest Products Harvest Tax

The Division related Board work plan is described below in the context of these initiatives.

Strategic Initiative: Supporting Sustainable Family and Community Forestry

Background/Context - Bringing together rural and urban Oregonians through forests is a key function of the Oregon Department of Forestry. Keeping forests vibrant and healthy for wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, clean water, social value, economic value and so much more, takes technical expertise, particularly where forests meet communities.

Purpose/Relevance - Additional capacity is needed to meet forestry challenges across ownerships and land uses in wildland/urban interface areas and communities. ODF field foresters will provide technical assistance to landowners and communities, deliver and administer incentive programs for clean water and sound forestry practices, implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan), promote voluntary conservation measures, address current and emerging invasive species problems, provide fire prevention and fuels reduction expertise, and administer the Forest Practices Act. These actions will maintain healthy forests and the values forests provide for all Oregonians.

It will take a combination of these components to be successful and address the initiative holistically.

I. Component A:

Description

- Provide one-on-one technical assistance, delivery, and administration of incentives for fire and forest management programs, implement the Oregon Plan, and administer the Forest Practices Act.

- Implement priority, landscape-based, issue-oriented sources of incentive financial assistance dollars.
- Fulfill current legislative mandates for urban forestry assistance, rural forestry assistance, fire prevention, and fire suppression.
- Provide capacity to address issues affecting the sustainability of family forestlands in Oregon.
- Expand the agency's capacity to administer the Forest Practices Act on family forestlands through more focused outreach and education, especially in the wildland-urban interface areas.

II. Component B:

Description

12 FTE Wildland Urban Interface Foresters

PROJECTED BOARD WORK PLAN ITEMS

- Policy Option Package

Strategic Initiative: Forest Practices Act Effectiveness and Implementation

Background/Context - The Department provides a one-stop regulatory approach for forest practices on non-federal lands; we implement the federal Clean Water Act standards, fill and removal requirements, laws related to forest road construction and maintenance, and rules protecting water quality and public safety associated with shallow rapidly moving landslides. The FPA specifically highlights monitoring in areas of water quality, streamside forests, pesticide use and landslides and public safety at operational and watershed scales. The proposal would provide resources to meet statutory requirements for resources to address scientific and policy issues related to water quality.

Purpose/Relevance - The proposed action advances the agency's mission of maintaining working forests and the social, economic and ecological viability of those forests into the future. The proposed package enhances capacity to ensure the implementation and effectiveness of the FPA through field and policy support in conjunction with the design and implementation of monitoring projects as prioritized in the Private Forests monitoring strategy.

It will take a combination of these components to be successful and address the initiative holistically.

I. Component A:

Description

- In coordination with Private Forests, State Forests staff, and other natural resource agencies, lead the development of research and monitoring efforts related to roads, ground-disturbing practices, harvesting, and landslides through the development and review of methodologies, oversight of data collection, data analysis, and report development.

- Oregon is developing a 100 year water vision with emphasis on natural and built infrastructure. Information on how forestlands contribute to adequate cool, clean water for native fish and wildlife and healthy watersheds is critical to informing this vision for forestlands.
- Monitoring rules and practices related to harvesting, road construction, and road maintenance, treatment of slash, and landslides and public safety for application consistency throughout the state.

II. Component B:

Description

Implementation monitoring group:

1 NRS4

2 NRS2

1 NRS1

Interagency monitoring coordination/TMDL work:

1 NRS4

Management Capacity:

1 PEMD

PROJECTED BOARD WORK PLAN ITEMS

- Policy Option Package
- FPA policy and rule sufficiency decisions

Strategic Initiative: Forest Products Harvest Tax

Background/Context - The Forest Products Harvest Tax (FPHT) rate for the next biennium is a routine part of the agency budget. The FPHT supports administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, professional education at the Oregon State University College of Forestry, and professional forestry education at the College. This concept amends ORS 321.015 to set the rates for the segments of the tax related to the Forest Practices Act and OSU functions. Rates for other segments of the tax are addressed elsewhere in statute or in the budget development process. Harvest rates to support Forest Practices Act functions are calculated considering three factors: the current biennium's ending balance, forecasted harvest levels for the next two years, and projected requirements for the next biennium.

Purpose/Relevance - The Forest Practices Act is a cornerstone of natural resource protection in Oregon, requiring post-harvest reforestation, streamside buffers and other measures to ensure sound forest management. When combined with public funds, use of harvest tax dollars for Forest Practices Act administration maintains the concept of shared responsibility, among landowners and the public, for forest practices enforcement and services on private land. This cost-sharing acknowledges that healthy private forests provide public benefits, such as timber production, jobs, clean water and wildlife habitat.

It will take one component to be successful and address the initiative.

III. Component A:

Description

Implementation of a revised forest products harvest tax rate for the 2021-2023 biennium that meets biennium funding needs.

PROJECTED BOARD WORK PLAN ITEMS

- *Legislative Concept*