

Agenda Item No.:	5
Topic:	<i>Vision for Oregon's Forests</i>
Date of Presentation:	September 4, 2024
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SUMMARY

The *Vision for Oregon's Forests* is a joint effort between the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry. The *Vision* establishes the strategic direction that will guide the policy and operational decisions for the Board of Forestry and department in the coming years and serves as the foundation for continued planning work. It also informs several other key department and board strategies and plans, including:

- Biennial Agency Request Budget
- Affirmative action; diversity, equity & inclusion; and employee engagement action plans
- Oregon's Forest Action Plan
- Agency communications and information technology strategies
- Succession management plan

The Board and Department received thoughtful and detailed input during the May 2024 public comment period. There were several prevailing themes across comments:

- Concerns about generalization in the statement asserting a decline in forest health across forests and ownerships.
- Acknowledgement of the role of the timber industry in the social and economic fabric of forest-adjacent communities/the outsized impact of forest policies on rural communities.
- Implementation of the Private Forests Accord.
- Acknowledgement of the key role small/family forestland owners have in keeping forests as forests.
- Workforce and education gaps.
- Purpose/function of document is unclear.

The subcommittee met for a final time to review the incorporation of these themes into the *Vision for Oregon's Forests*, the final version of which has been provided to Board members with this staff report and posted on the Board's webpage as part of the materials for this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board adopt the presented version of the *Vision for Oregon's Forests* (Vision for Oregon Forests_Final for adoption) as the vision and strategic direction for the Board and Department.

Some Board members and public commenters have noted the lack of measurable objectives in the *Vision for Oregon's Forests*. Without this component, the *Vision* cannot serve as a functional strategic plan. With the clearer articulation of the purpose of the *Vision*

1. The Department recommends the Board creates a short-term workgroup with Board and Department representation to determine whether it is necessary to establish overarching, observable and measurable outcomes associated with the goals of the *Vision for Oregon's Forests* for use in tracking the Board and Department's alignment with their stated shared vision. The workgroup would bring its recommendation to the full Board at its January 2025 meeting.

NEXT STEPS

With Board adoption, Attachment 1 will undergo design and publishing work, with the final design shared with the Board at the October retreat before being posted to the Board's website. The Department will continue with rollout planning to guide the sharing of the *Vision* with the agency as a whole,

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Final *Vision for Oregon's Forests*
- (2) Strategies for Oregon Forests