

Workplan Narrative

Purpose

Board of Forestry workplan are developed on a biennial basis (calendar year) and identify the critical objectives for the board to achieve the goals of the Vision for Oregon's Forests, as well as more routine and recurring responsibilities throughout the year. This workplan focuses the majority of the board's limited bandwidth on the most important topics and drive agenda development for the two-year period. Plans also include mid-cycle workplan status check to allow the board to discuss priorities, adjust or make corrections to workplans if needed, as well as integration of any new statutory mandates.

Two sets of board workplans exist: strategic and standard business. ODF's Deputy Directors and Division Chiefs are responsible for developing the framework of both plans for presentation to the board for input during its annual fall retreat. Following approval by the board, deputy directors and division chiefs are responsible for fulfilling the department's commitments in the workplans.

The board is responsible for complimentary working with other agencies (liaisons) and any other work independent of the department into the final workplans. The board is also responsible for seeking public input to help guide the board as it builds, implements and adjusts its work plans.

The intent of the accompanying draft workplan is to serve as a starting point for the board's development and approval of its final 2027-2028 workplan. The items included in the draft are only those for which the board has required actions under statute, rule, directive or the Board Policy Manual. The narratives below provide additional context for individual work plan items and their key milestones.

Items that were identified in previous workplans or as important to the department, but are not statutory requirements or standard board business, have been tracked and will require board determination on if, how, and where they are incorporated into the board's workplan. Additionally, the draft workplan reflects the department's recommendations for delivery of information and steps leading to required board decisions; however, the final decision on how the required actions are achieved will need to be determined between the board and ODF leadership.

Key Topics for the Board of Forestry

Below are the key standard business and strategic topics for calendar years 2027 and 2028 that ODF proposes bringing before the Board of Forestry. Consolidated timelines for when the board should expect information or needs to take action related to these topics are provided in the draft workplan.

Agency Administration & Business Services Divisions

Relevant Statutory Responsibilities for the Board

- May acquire real property (ORS 526.166)
- May sell, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of real property (ORS 526.194)
- Provide direction to state forester on equipment pool participation and equipment transfer (ORS 526.144)
- May terminate equipment pool (ORS 526.152)

Strategic Board Business

Workplan Management: Board work plans are intended to strengthen the board's ability to be an effective policy-making body, direct the department's work, and focus the board's and department's efforts on the most important issues. The board and department's work plan process is designed to create a systematic way for the board to identify issues and set priorities that lead to specific decisions and products. The process is also designed to link with the biennial budget cycle where resources are identified and allocated within the department.

State Forests Division

Relevant Statutory Responsibilities for the Board

- Under authority and direction of board, except as otherwise provided for the sale of forest products, the state forester shall manage Board of Forestry lands so as to secure the greatest permanent value of those lands to the state (ORS 530.050)

Standard Board Business—Decisions

Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Performance Measures

Prior to implementation of the Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan (FMP), the board will choose to set performance measures related to forest resources identified in the plan to further guide the State Forester on development of more specific implementation and operational plans. This is not a statutory or rule requirement; however, it was determined by the board during adoption of the FMP that it was not to become effective

(i.e., rule would not be filed with Secretary of State) until performance measures were adopted.

Other Intermittent Topics

State Forests Harvest Accomplishment Reporting: The board will receive a report on state forests annual operations plans (AOPs) harvest accomplishments. This will be accompanied by the annual Council of Forest Trust Land Counties report.

Forest Resources Division

Relevant Statutory Responsibilities for the Board

The Forest Practices Act, ORS 527.610 to 527.770, 527.990 and 527.992, assign specific duties, powers, and responsibilities to the board . Notably these include:

- Exclusive authority to develop and enforce forest practice rules under the Forest Practices Act and to coordinate with other state agencies and local governments which are concerned with the forest environment (ORS 527.630).
- Authority to adopt rules to administer the Forest Practices Act, subject to the procedures set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 527.714 (ORS 527.710).
- Responsibility for appointing members to a number of statutorily required advisory committees in addition to any committees the board elects to convene under their discretion in ORS 526.016.

Standard Board Business—Decisions

Committee Appointments: The board appoints members of the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC), Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF), Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) and the three Regional Forest Practice Committees (RFPCs).

Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Budget Approval: Per Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) 629-603-0130 and 629-603-0200, the board determines the budget for the IRST housing agency, IRST research projects and analyses, participation grants for AMPC and other aspects of the AMP.

Committee for Family Forestland (CFF) Annual Activity Report: The CFF provides an annual report to the board capturing their activities and progress made in addressing issues facing family forestlands.

Standard Board Business—Information-only

Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Progress Report: OARs 629-603-0100 and 629-603-0500s require the state forester to annually report on the status of the adaptive management program efforts and progress.

Operator of the Year Awards: The board presents three "Forest Practices Forest Operator of the Year" awards to operators selected by each of the regional forest practices committees and learns of operators being recognized with merit awards.

Private Forest Accord (PFA) Annual Progress Report: Section 52 of Senate Bill 1501 (2022) requires an annual legislative report on progress implementing the PFA Report.

PFA Report on Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) and Petitions: Section 58 of Senate Bill 1501 (2022) requires a legislative report by February 1, 2028, on whether incidental take permits are received by the deadline and whether a petition was filed.

Other information only items: Additional items will be submitted via email to the board and posted to board webpage as completed to increase the frequency of information flow, honor the volunteer time donated by board members and respond to board member concerns related to the size and digestibility of board meeting packets. This will include but is not limited to: the Forest Practices Act Interagency Meetings Report, Compliance Monitoring Reports and when applicable the Adaptive Management Program Committee Research Agenda and a report on implementation of the ODF/Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Memorandum of Understanding.

Other Intermittent Topics

Forest Practices Act Enforcement Items: Under the Forest Practices Act, a finding or order of the state forester may be contested following the procedures set in rule. These can include civil penalties hearings, hearings for people adversely affected by an operation, and other orders such as citations, cease orders or repair orders issued for violations of the forest practice rules. Hearings are held by an Administrative Law Judge who hears the case and develops a proposed order for the board's consideration. The board then reviews the proposed order and facts of the case prior to issuing a final order.

Protection Division

Relevant Statutory Responsibilities for the Board

- Shall review, make any needed changes, and approve forest protection district budgets annually (ORS 477.265)

- Shall cooperate with Rangeland Fire Protection Associations in preparation of annual budgets and review, modify, and approve these budgets annually (ORS 477.325).

Standard Board Business—Decisions for CY 2026 & 2027

Forest Protection District and Rangeland Fire Protection Association Budget Approvals: As directed by statute, “The State Board of Forestry shall annually review the forest protection district and rangeland protection budgets, make any changes in the budgets that are proper and consistent with law, and pass final approval on all protection budgets and the prorated acreage rates therein.”

Updates to the Oregon Smoke Management Rules: The department intends to initiate a comprehensive review of the smoke management rules. This review will incorporate feedback from other partner agencies, and we anticipate an update to the rules to bring to the board.

Standard Board Business—Information-only

Forest Protective Association (FPA) Letters: In each of the agreements with the non-operating forest protective associations, there is an opportunity for communication directly to the board from each protective association “...an annual letter from the Association to the Forester providing input on Department operations affecting the District or the Association (to be transmitted to all members of the Board) ...”. This can be delivered as a consent agenda item.

Other Intermittent Topics

Forest Protection Association Agreements: Periodically, agreements are updated, and board approval of updated agreements are necessary under OAR 629-041-0100. This can be delivered as a consent agenda item.

Rangeland Fire Protection Association Formation: Periodically, a request for a public hearing on the possible formation of a Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) will come before the board for approval. Based on the outcome of the hearing, the board may receive a request for approval on the formation of an RFPA. This can be delivered as a consent agenda item.

Forest Patrol Assessment: Periodically, property owners of forestland that is newly classified by a county forestland classification committee, request to appear before the board for an appeal of the addition of property to the forest patrol assessment. The forestland classification process may also prompt review of the administrative boundaries of the department’s forest protection districts.

Board of Forestry Workplan

Item & Milestones	2027					2028				
	Board Meeting	Board Meeting	Board Meeting	Board Meeting	Retreat	Board Meeting	Board Meeting	Board Meeting	Board Meeting	Retreat
	Jan	Mar	Jun	Sep	Oct	Jan	Mar	Jun	Sep	Oct
Strategic Work										
Workplan Management										
Assessment of potential workplan items and updates				Work					Work	
Develop and review draft workplan										Work
Finalize workplan	A - Decide					A - Decide				
Mid course workplan update/corrections					Work					
Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Performance Measures	A - Decide									
Specified Resource Sites: Marbled Murrelet Rulemaking										
Smoke Management Program Rulemaking		A - Info	A - Decide							
BoF Addendum Development Process										
Completed Board Member Orientation Package										
Completed Board Agenda Development Procedures										
Completed Annual Board Governance Performance Evaluation Procedures										

Standard Board Business

Key Performance Measures and Annual Performance Progress Report										
Annual Performance Progress Report provided to the Board before submittal to LFO and CFO				C - Info					C - Info	
Recommendations for modification of the KPM's presented to the Board for review and input					Discuss					
Adaptive Management Program Budget Approval				A - Decide						
Forest Protection District Budget Approvals			A - Decide					A - Decide		
Rangeland Fire Protection Association Budget Approvals			A - Decide					A - Decide		
Forest Protective Associations Letters			C - Info					C - Info		
Adaptive Management Program Progress Report	C - Info					C - Info				
Committee For Family Forestlands Annual Activity Report				A - Decide					A - Decide	
Private Forest Accord Annual Progress Report	C - Info					C - Info				
Private Forest Accord Report on Incidental Take Permits & Petitions						C - Info				
Fire Season Report			A - Info	A - Info				A - Info	A - Info	
State Forests Harvest Accomplishment Reporting	C - Info					C - Info				
Operator of the Year Award	A - Info					A - Info				
Climate-Smart Forestry Awards										
Committee Appointments										
Adaptive Management Program Committee	C - Decide					C - Decide				
Committee For Family Forestlands			C - Decide					C - Decide		
Regional Forest Practices Committee				C - Decide					C - Decide	
Independent Research and Science Team	C - Decide			C - Decide						
Emergency Fire Cost Committee										

Information Reports--Delivered Electronically

Adaptive Management Program Research Agenda
Compliance Monitoring Report
Forest Practices Act Agency Meetings Report
ODF/DEQ Water Quality MOU Implementation Report
Tethered Logging Violations within 100 ft of a Stream Report
Urban & Community Forestry Program Annual Report

Key

C - Info = Consent - Informational Briefing, No Decision Made & No Agenda Time
 A - Info = Action and Information - Informational Briefing & No Decision Made
 Tour = Field Tour for Information
 Discuss = Deliberate Towards Decision at Later Date
 C - Decide = Consent Item with Decision Made
 A - Decide = Action & Information with Decision Made
 TBD = To be Determined