

Agenda Item No.:	6
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	Private Forests Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Unit Update
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SUMMARY

This agenda topic provides an update on Private Forests monitoring unit activities since the update to the Board of Forestry in September 2016. Unit updates usually occur in September of each year. This update was delayed when the September 2017 Board meeting was shortened due to extreme fire activity.

CONTEXT

The Board's 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon supports an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) as a cornerstone of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon (Objective A.2). The discussion of Goal A recognizes that the FPA includes a set of best management practices to ensure that forest operations meet state water quality standards. The Board's objectives also promote management practices that protect forest soil productivity from losses due to human-induced landslides, soil erosion, and soil compaction (Objective D.8). The Board's guiding principles and philosophies includes a commitment to continuous learning, evaluating and appropriately adjusting forest management policies and programs based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research (Value Statement 11). The Board has also adopted administrative rules that emphasize effectiveness monitoring for riparian management areas, landslides and public safety, and pesticides.

BACKGROUND

At their September 2016 meeting, the Board received a general update on Private Forests monitoring activities. Topics included: a compliance audit annual report, an update of the voluntary measures project, progress report on analyses for Riparian Function and Stream Temperature (RipStream) project, Trask Watershed Road Sediment study, the pesticides Water Quality Pesticide Management Team, and the monitoring strategy.

ANALYSIS

High-priority Forests Practices monitoring projects over the last year include (see Attachment 1 for details):

- Completion of a compliance audit annual report plus ongoing work (Attachment 1).
- Completion of two reports in support of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Board presentation: June 2017).
- Initiation of scoping for streamside protections review for eastern Oregon and Siskiyou FPA geographic regions (Board presentations: July 2017, January 2018).
- Support and funding for manuscript preparation and submission of two key RipStream stream temperature manuscripts and preparatory work for large wood recruitment and riparian stand characteristic and function analyses.
- Initial draft of a white paper summarizing the science and policy deliberations supporting the Board's decisions to update the riparian rules to meet the Department of Environmental Quality's water quality standard known as the Protecting Cold Water (PCW) criterion (OAR 340-041-0028 (11)).
- Completion of the update to the Monitoring Strategy for Private Forests Division (Board presentation: November 2016).

Unit personnel have also been involved in various other duties as assigned.

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Forest Practices Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Update