

Agenda Item No.:	5c.1
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	2018 Forest Health Report
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SUMMARY

This agenda item provides an overview of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Forest Health Unit's work on major insect, disease, and other damaging agents affecting Oregon forests in 2018, as required by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 527.335.

CONTEXT

The Board of Forestry's (Board) 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon defines a healthy, vital forest landscape as one that maintains its functions, diversity, and resiliency within the context of natural and human disturbances and is capable of providing people with the array of values, uses, and products desired now and in the future. The Board supports protecting and improving the health and resiliency of Oregon's dynamic forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds (Goal F). The Board's objectives for Goal F include promoting resilient forest landscape conditions and management practices that will lead to reductions in adverse impacts from forest insects and diseases (Objective F.7). The Board's guiding principles and philosophies include a commitment to continuous learning, evaluating and appropriately adjusting forest management policies and programs based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research (Value Statement 11).

BACKGROUND

Topics included in the 2018 Forest Health Report: the annual aerial survey report on statewide status and trend for insects and disease; Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Slow the Spread program; a status report on key invasive species including the Emerald Ash Borer and strategic planning for its likely introduction, the gypsy moth detection and eradication program, the Pest Detector education and early detection program; and the Oregon Bee project.

ANALYSIS

Core business and high-priority Forest Health projects over the last 12 months include (see 5c, attachment 2 for details):

- **Annual aerial detection surveys for insects and disease:** The 71st consecutive year of statewide annual aerial survey was completed across all forest ownerships. Acres of mortality was approximately 675,000, near the 10-year average.
- **Sudden oak death:** Nearly 50 new infestations were found in 2018 outside the generally infested area of Brookings. Approximately 600 acres were infested with the EU1 strain.

Over 200 acres with EU1 were treated in 2018 with plans underway for the remaining acres. An economic risk assessment of SOD to Oregon's forest economy was completed.

- **Bark beetle cost-share program:** Using funds from the U.S. Forest Service, \$56,217 were paid to treat 212 acres across 15 ownerships in eastern and southern Oregon with the goal of preventing or mitigating bark beetle outbreaks.
- **Detections of new exotic forest insects:** The ODF/Oregon State University (OSU) Forest Pest Detector program revealed a new exotic species. In a separate insect trapping project, four new forest insect species were detected. ODF is working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) on further surveillance and risk assessments for these species.
- **Invasive weeds:** Cooperated with Curry County to plan (2018) and execute (2019) a special aerial survey for the forest weed, gorse. The Class A noxious weed, orange hawkweed, was surveyed and treated on Clatsop State Forest.
- **Special projects:** Assisted ODA with planning a gypsy moth eradication in Corvallis and contributed to the Oregon Bee Project to promote pollinator health.
- **Technical assistance, support, and education:**
 - Customers: Forest landowners (family, industrial, other); ODF Stewardship Foresters, State Forests staff, Protection Division, and leadership; local, state and federal agencies; Tribes; university and industrial researchers.
 - Interagency/collaboratives: Cooperative Annual Statewide Aerial Survey, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Swiss Needle Cooperative, The Oregon Bee Project, Pest Detector Program, SOD Task Force, Gorse Action Group, Oregon State University (OSU) Swiss Needle Cast Cooperative.
 - Board Committees: Committee for Family Forestlands, Regional Forest Practices Committees.
- **Annual and other reports, publications:** 2018 Annual Forest Health Highlights (5c, attachment 3), update of insect and disease Fact Sheets, other popular articles.
- **Attendance at local, state and national forest health meetings and conferences**

Unit personnel have also been involved in various other duties as assigned, including fire assignments.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.