

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Feedback Summary

October, 2021



ODF has developed a set of draft goals to guide development of the Forest Management Plan (FMP). The goals will be used to ensure ODF provides the economic, environmental, and social values required of state forests. Comments on the draft FMP goals were received through the following engagement opportunities:

- August 10 FMP-HCP Meeting Open to the Public – 70 attendees, 14 comments received
- August 18 FMP Joint Stakeholder Meeting – 22 attendees, 71 comments received
- Draft FMP Goals Survey – 54 participants, 459 comments received
- FTLAC Meetings on August 27, Sept 17, Oct 8 – 7-member committee

Goal Type	Goal Language, Feedback Summary & Revisions
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**Please note goals are not in any particular or priority order*

Forest Health	Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians.
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General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
83.02%	13.21%	1.89%	1.89%	0.00%	
44	7	1	1	0	53

Key feedback themes (37 comments received):

- Forest Health is not a forest resource but more of an overarching lens or priority for the plan (along with Climate Change and Wildfire). Protecting drinking water and water sources is important.
- Discontinue clear cutting and grow older forests.
- Too much weight is given to economic goals versus environmental and social goals.
- Goal language is optimistic and vague. How will the agency measure forest health?
- More emphasis on rural communities impacted by State Forest management decisions.
- Goal is a restatement of GPV.
- Forest health should include post-fire management, restoration and address Swiss Needle Cast.

Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Climate Change	Lead by example in demonstrating climate-smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.
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General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
64.81%	18.52%	0.00%	12.96%	3.70%	
35	10	0	7	2	54

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Key feedback themes (48 comments received):

- Climate change is not a forest resource but an overarching lens or priority for the plan.
- Goal type should be changed.
- Support for growing older forests and avoiding clearcutting.
- Include climate justice, carbon storage, sequestration and climate resilience. Emphasize mitigation and adaptation.
- Definitions and clarity needed for the climate-smart forestry and climate adaptation terms.
- Evaluate leakage in goal impact analysis – if harvest is diverted will it move somewhere else with less regulations?
- Acknowledge carbon emissions from wildfire.
- Consider equity and most vulnerable communities.
- A desire to emphasize things that are outside of agency authority.
- Recognize carbon storage in wood products.

Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Wildlife

Maintain, protect, and enhance functional and resilient systems and landscapes that provide the variety and quality of habitat types and features necessary for long-term persistence of native wildlife species.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
77.36% 41	18.87% 10	1.89% 1	1.89% 1	0.00% 0	53

Key feedback themes (37 comments received):

- Interest in old growth and conditions that predate colonial contact.
- Interest in including “all” native wildlife species.
- Reductions in clearcutting.
- Clarifications about goal order and priority.
- Tradeoffs for one type of habitat versus another and strategy considerations.
- Increasing transparency of goal, reducing jargon like maintain, protect, and enhance.
- Include commitments or decision-making processes.
- Several comments will be used to inform strategies.

Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Aquatics and Riparian

Maintain, protect, and restore dynamic, resilient, and functioning aquatic habitats that support the life history needs of a full range of aquatic and riparian-dependent fish and wildlife species.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

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STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
81.13%	13.21%	3.77%	0.00%	1.89%	
43	7	2	0	1	53

Key feedback themes (2 comments received):

- Word choice suggestions and reducing adjectives.
- Add water quality and quantity to the aquatic and riparian habitat goal.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Word choice consistency with drinking water goal. Add water quality and quantity for habitat.

Updated Goal: *Protect, restore, and maintain dynamic, resilient, and functioning aquatic habitats, including high water quality and healthy stream flows, that support the life history needs of aquatic and riparian-dependent fish and wildlife species.*

Aquatics and Riparian

Maintain and protect forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water for private and public domestic use.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
81.13%	15.09%	1.89%	1.89%	0.00%	
43	8	1	1	0	53

Key feedback themes (45 comments received):

- Significant support to change resource type to “Drinking Water” and add water quantity to goal.
- Support for reducing the use of pesticides.
- Word choice suggestions.
- Several strategy suggestions.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Change goal type to “Drinking Water”. Add ‘quantity’. Consider language suggestion around “within ODF’s control” to recognize other drivers. Consider word choice, make consistent with ODF-DEQ Clean Water Act language, “protect, restore, maintain”.

Updated Goal: *Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.*

Pollinators and Invertebrates

Provide suitable habitats across the landscape that contribute to maintaining or enhancing native, sensitive, and endangered pollinator and invertebrate populations.

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General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
76.47%	15.69%	5.88%	0.00%	1.96%	
39	8	3	0	1	51

Key feedback themes (16 comments received):

- Support for reducing the use of pesticides.
- Include the soil food web.
- Lump pollinator and invertebrates goal into wildlife.
- Simplify goal language.

Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Plants

Maintain understory vegetation representing a diversity of native vegetation associations and seral stages across the landscape including sensitive and endangered plant populations.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
78.85%	19.23%	1.92%	0.00%	0.00%	
41	10	1	0	0	52

Key feedback themes (20 comments received):

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides.
- Acknowledge differences in early seral community composition and concomitant effects ecosystem function resulting from distinct perturbations.
- Suggestions for a paradigm shift in silvicultural management to achieve the goal.
- Address invasive species.
- Consider the effects of understory vegetation as ladder fuels in the context of fire risk.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Potentially add the word “restore”- larger conversation on restoration.

Timber Production

Provide sustainable and predictable production of forest products that generate revenues and jobs for benefit of the state, counties, local taxing districts and communities.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

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STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
30.19%	37.74%	11.32%	20.75%	0.00%	53
16	20	6	11	0	

Key feedback themes (3 comments received):

- Confusion between Common School Lands (CSFL) and Board of Forestry lands.
- Questions about how to manage the lands overall: more harvest/less harvest/carbon sequestration, etc.
- Clarify if the intent is maximizing revenue or volume.

Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC): emphasize timber production benefits and highlight the importance of public services provided (with revenue) and rural community wellbeing.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Remove the goal specific to CSFL to reduce confusion. Provide a revenue goal that highlights public services. Add goal focused on economic opportunity and providing timber for forest products. Add a community wellbeing goal.

Updated Goal: *Provide revenue that supports public services in rural communities provided by the state, schools, counties, and special districts.*

Timber Production

Manage Common School Forest Lands to secure the greatest permanent value to the people of the State of Oregon and generate long-term revenues to the Common School Fund.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
32.69%	30.77%	13.46%	21.15%	1.92%	52
17	16	7	11	1	

Key feedback themes (36 comments received):

- Confusion about Greatest Permanent Value and the differences in rule.
- Interest in reducing the dependence of schools on timber revenue and making changes through the legislature.
- Balancing harvest, social, and environmental benefits.
- Clarifying that “predictable production” refers to the harvest and sale of timber.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Remove goal specific to Common School Forest Lands to reduce confusion. Draft goal with revenue and services emphasis and a goal focused on economic opportunity and making timber available for forest products.

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Updated Goal: Provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provides economic opportunity, jobs, and the availability of forest products.

Forest Carbon Contribute to Oregon's carbon stores within State Forest lands.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
59.26%	20.37%	5.56%	11.11%	3.70%	
32	11	3	6	2	54

Key feedback themes (44 comments received):

- Tradeoff between storing more carbon in the forest versus storing more carbon in wood products.
- Desire for old growth and to keep trees longer.
- Clarify the intent – how will the agency contribute?
- Suggest using “increase carbon stores”.
- Use habitat conservation areas (HCAs) and Riparian Conservation Areas to support carbon storage.
- Combine with the Climate Change goal.

FTLAC: broaden language to highlight storing carbon in State Forest Lands and in harvested wood products.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Highlight carbon storage in the forest and in harvested wood products.

Updated Goal: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products.

Air Quality Maintain and protect healthy air quality standards.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
75.47%	15.09%	0.00%	1.89%	7.55%	
40	8	0	1	4	53

Key feedback themes (26 comments received):

- Interest in eliminating slash burning.
- Clarify the relationship between forests and air quality.
- Effects of wildfire on air quality and identifying tools to manage wildfire.
- Interest in eliminating pesticides and informing communities about pesticide use.
- Interest in retaining old growth trees.
- Climate change and carbon sequestration.

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Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Soil **Maintain, protect, and enhance soils.**

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
81.13%	16.98%	1.89%	0.00%	0.00%	
43	9	1	0	0	53

Key feedback themes (28 comments received):

- Clearcutting damages soils.
- Consider the value of soil in carbon storage.
- Clarifying what enhancing soil means.
- Wording suggestions that include adding “productivity and ecosystem function”.
- The goal is too vague.

Suggested revision based on feedback:

Updated Goal: *Maintain natural soil processes, protect soils from damage and increase soil carbon.*

Wildfire **Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and supporting wildfire resilience of local communities.**

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
71.15%	17.31%	5.77%	5.77%	0.00%	
37	9	3	3	0	52

Key feedback themes: 38 comments received. Conflicting views on how older stand contribute to or mitigate fire risk. Community protection and resilience. Manage for diversity and stand density. Consider fire use in management. Reduce risk vs. mitigate. Include drinking water.

Suggested revision based on feedback:

Updated Goal: *Reduce risk of catastrophic wildland fires to communities, forest production, wildlife habitat and aquatic systems, and manage forests to enhance community and landscape resilience.*

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Recreation, Education, and Interpretation

Provide high-quality forest recreation, interpretation, and education opportunities to create meaningful and enjoyable experiences which foster appreciation and understanding of forests and contribute to community health, forest stewardship, and economic wellbeing.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
59.62%	34.62%	3.85%	1.92%	0.00%	
31	18	2	1	0	52

Key feedback themes (9 comments received):

- Language suggestions, including defining or removing “high quality”.
- Desire to balance logging and recreation infrastructure.
- Interest in making State Forests inclusive and prioritizing access for communities that haven’t felt safe or welcome in the past.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Consider adding a deeper Interpretation and Education strategy to foster understanding of the holistic range of content and balance of values. Consider removing “high quality” from goal.

Recreation, Education, and Interpretation

Manage REI infrastructure and recreational use in an environmentally sustainable manner that seeks to minimize adverse impacts to natural resources and forest ecosystems.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
66.04%	28.30%	3.77%	1.89%	0.00%	
35	15	2	1	0	53

Key feedback themes (19 comments received):

- Conflicts between forest management and recreation values.
- Suggestions for strategy development.
- Several strategy related comments on wildfire.
- Avoid using the REI acronym because it is connected to the outdoor apparel and equipment store.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Remove REI acronym and spell out.

Updated Goal: *Manage Recreation, Education and Interpretation infrastructure and recreational use in an environmentally sustainable manner that seeks to minimize adverse impacts to natural resources and forest ecosystems.*

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Transportation System Manage the transportation system to facilitate the anticipated activities in a manner which provides for resource protection, transportation efficiency, safety, and sound fiscal management.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
46.15%	32.69%	11.54%	1.92%	7.69%	
24	17	6	1	4	52

Key feedback themes (27 comments received):

- Concern that roads are still a major source of sediment and that the solution is to vacate roads/reduce road density.
- Desire to not vacate roads.
- Stopping hazard tree removal along highways.
- Only allowing clean transportation on ODF's road network.
- Confusion about what ODF's transportation system is and its relevance to the FMP.

Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Scenic Manage forests in ways that value scenery and forested settings that are visually appealing.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
48.08%	30.77%	13.46%	5.77%	1.92%	
25	16	7	3	1	52

Key feedback themes (27 comments received):

- Old growth is visually appealing and harvests are not.
- The goal is highly subjective and open to broad interpretation.
- The goal does not acknowledge working forest context or the range of scenic values attributable to all seral stages.

Suggested revision based on feedback:

Updated Goal: Manage forests in ways that value scenery and a range of forested settings.

Mining, Agriculture, Administrative Sites and Grazing Permit mining, agricultural use, administrative sites and grazing when resource use is compatible with other forest resource goals.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

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STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
13.21% 7	35.85% 19	16.98% 9	33.96% 18	0.00% 0	53

Key feedback themes (18 comments received):

- Uses and/or activities are not compatible with healthy and sustainable forest ecosystems.
- Uses should not be grouped in one goal.
- Support for the potential economic and social benefits of the activities.

Suggested revision based on feedback: None at time of report. Continued analysis and consideration needed.

Special Forest Products Provide opportunities to obtain special forest products.

General level of support as drafted (from survey):

STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL
13.21% 7	58.49% 31	7.55% 4	3.77% 2	16.98% 9	53

Key feedback themes (18 comments received):

- Goal language is vague and general.
- Need to define special forest products to increase understanding.

Suggested revision based on feedback:

Updated Goal: Provide opportunities for the public to sustainably harvest a wide array of special forest products for recreational, personal, and commercial use (including but not limited to firewood, salal, moss, mushrooms, etc.).

Cultural The cultural goals are still *under development in coordination with the federally recognized Tribes.*

General level of support as drafted (from survey): Not Applicable

Key feedback themes (17 comments received):

- Engage the Tribes in development.
- Recognize and address the diversity of communities of people.

Suggested revision based on feedback: Define culture. Address overlap with Education and Interpretation goals and strategies.

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ODF received several comments suggesting additional goals. The Project Team drafted two new goals in response to feedback and will recommend these to the Board of Forestry. ODF will discuss other goal suggestions and consider whether these should be added or incorporated into the FMP goals.

New Goals (drafted by team in response to feedback)

Community Wellbeing	Establish strong relationships and mutual trust with all communities of place and communities of interest who have connections with Oregon State Forests.
Forest Restoration	Increase forest resilience through restoration by assisting in the recovery of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors.

Other Goal Suggestions (from stakeholders and the public)

Chemical Spray	“ODF should develop specific goal language seeking to reduce reliance on chemical spray use in its forestry practices on state public forest land, especially aerial spray (as measured against the 2021 status quo).”
Collaboration and Coordination	“Collaborate and coordinate with other state, tribal, and federal agencies to maximize expertise and capacity.”
Social Justice	“Ensure forest management planning and implementation fully evaluates and redresses environmental justice impacts, facilitates meaningful involvement of impacted communities, and prioritizes distribution of benefits and minimization of burdens to historically underserved communities—including BIPOC, rural, low-income, and forest labor communities.”
Mature and Old Growth Forest	“Identify priority management areas for mature and old growth forest characteristics.”
Rural Communities	“Rural, forest-dependent communities are vibrant and resilient and able to benefit from active forest management.”
Wood Products	“Oregon’s forests continue to enable local production of sustainable and renewable wood products for housing, paper supplies and other pressing societal needs.”