

Oregon Board of Forestry – Virtual Public Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

The Board of Forestry will hold its March meeting virtually to allow interested persons to view the meeting and participate without having to travel or assemble indoors. The meeting will be streamed live on the department’s YouTube channel. There will be an opportunity for the public to provide live testimony during the meeting. Written testimony may be submitted for information items, before or up to two weeks after the meeting day to boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov with the agenda item number included with the submission.

Link to view Board of Forestry Meeting available at
<https://www.youtube.com/c/OregonDepartmentofForestry>

Prior meetings’ audio and this meeting’s written material is available on the web www.oregon.gov/odf/board. The matters under the Consent Agenda will be considered in one block. Any board member may request the removal of any item from the consent agenda. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after approval of the consent agenda. Public comment will not be taken on consent agenda items.

Consent Agenda

| | | | |
|-------------|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 8:30 – 8:31 | A. | <u>July 21, 2021, Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes</u> | Acting State Forester |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | B. | <u>Financial Dashboard Report – January and February 2022</u> | Bill Herber |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | C. | <u>Annual Approval of the State Forester’s Financial Transactions - 2021</u> | Bill Herber |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | D. | <u>Elliott State Forest Decertification</u> | Mike Wilson and Eric Tenbrook |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | E. | <u>Smoke Management Annual Update</u> | Tim Holschbach |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | F. | <u>Frenchglen Rangeland Protection Association Boundary Expansion</u> | Levi Hopkins |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | G. | <u>Forest Practices Interagency Meeting Report</u> | Josh Barnard |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | H. | <u>2022-2024 Board Work Plans Decision</u> | ODF Leadership |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | I. | <u>2023 Legislative Concept Development</u> | Ryan Gordon and Adam Meyer |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | J. | <u>Addition of Lower Bridge Rangeland Protection Association</u> | Levi Hopkins |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | K. | <u>Burnt River Rangeland Protection Association Boundary Expansion</u> | Levi Hopkins |
| 8:30 – 8:31 | L. | <u>2023 Policy Option Packages</u> | Bill Herber |

Action and Information

| | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|
| 8:31 – 9:30 | 1. | <u>State Forester and Board Member Comments</u> A. Public Comments [for information items on agenda and topics not on agenda-see page 2].... Register online B. Legislator Comments [9:15 – 9:30 a.m., Congressman Blumenauer] | |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | 2. | <u>Private Forests Accord Discussion</u> | ODF Leadership and External Presenters <i>External parties to the development of the Private Forests Accord will provide information to the Board on anticipated rule changes and timelines. This is an informational item.</i> |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | 3. | <u>2022-2024 Board Work Plan Decision-Forest Resources</u> | Kyle Abraham and Josh Barnard <i>Forest Resources Division will provide an update to the Board’s two-year work plan with reference to the Private Forests Accord. This is a decision item.</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | | Morning break | |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | 4. | <u>Wildland-Urban Interface and Wildfire Risk Mapping Discussion</u> .. | Tim Holschbach and Chris Dunn (OSU) <i>The Department will provide an update on the rulemaking process, provide an overview of staff recommended rules, and ask the Board to initiate public hearings. This is a decision item.</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:45 | | Lunch | |
| 12:45 – 1:00 | 5. | <u>Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee Testimony</u> | David Yamamoto or John Sweet <i>The FTLAC is a statutorily established committee that advises the Board on State Forests policy. This is an informational item.</i> |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | 6. | <u>Endangered Species Management Plan</u> | Mike Wilson and Nick Palazzotto <i>State Forests Division will provide a recommendation on the Division’s role and the content framework for the marbled murrelet endangered species management plan. This is a decision item.</i> |
| 2:00 – 2:45 | 7. | <u>Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan</u> | Bodie Dowding, Tyson Wepprich, and Cindy Kolomechuk <i>State Forests Division will provide draft strategies and performance measures for the Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan. An update will also be provided on the HCP timeline and process, including its status in the NEPA process. This is an informational item.</i> |
| 2:45 - 3:00 | | Afternoon break | |

- 3:00 – 3:30 **8. Bureau of Land Management-West Oregon Operating Plan** Mike Shaw and Ron Graham
The Department will provide an update on the status of the western Oregon operating plan and an update on futuring. This is an informational item.
- 3:30 – 3:45 **9. Draft Board Policy Concepts for Financial Oversight** Bill Herber and Sabrina Perez
Department continues the discussion with the Board on potential policy concepts for inclusion in a policy-related to the Board’s financial oversight as defined in MGO Recommendation #16. This is an informational item.
- 3:45 – 4:00 Afternoon break
- 4:00 – 4:45 **10. Forestry Program for Oregon Revisioning** Ryan Gordon, John Tokarczyk, and Danny Norlander
The Department will discuss with the Board the scope and process design for the revision of the Forestry Program for Oregon. This is an informational item.
- 4:45 – 5:00 **11. Board Closing Comments and Meeting Wrap Up**..... Chair Kelly and Board Members
Board Chair and members to summarize meeting’s action items and provide closing comments.

The times listed on the agenda are approximate. At the discretion of the chair, the time and order of agenda items—including the addition of an afternoon break—may change to maintain meeting flow. The board will hear public testimony [*excluding marked items] and engage in discussion before proceeding to the next item. * A single asterisk preceding the item number marks a work session, and public testimony/comment will not be accepted.

BOARD WORK PLANS: Board of Forestry (Board) Work Plans result from the board's identification of priority issues. Each item represents the commitment of time by the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry staff that needs to be fully understood and appropriately planned. Board Work Plans form the basis for establishing Board of Forestry meeting agendas. The latest versions of these plans can be found on the Board's website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Board/Pages/AboutBOF.aspx>

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The Board of Forestry places great value on information received from the public. The Board will only hold public testimony at the meeting for decision items. The Board accepts written comments on all agenda items except consent agenda and Work Session items [see explanation below]. Those wishing to testify or present information to the Board are encouraged to:

- Provide written summaries of lengthy, detailed information.
- Remember that the value of your comments is in the substance, not length.
- For coordinated comments to the Board, endorse rather than repeat the testimony of others.
- To ensure the Board will have an opportunity to review and consider your testimony before the meeting, please send comments no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting date. If submitted after this window of time the testimony will be entered into the public record but may not be viewed by the Board until after the meeting.
- For in-person meetings, sign in at the information table in the meeting room when you arrive. For virtual meetings, follow the signup instructions provided in the meeting agenda.

Written comments for public testimony provide a valuable reference and may be submitted before, during, or up to two weeks after the meeting for consideration by the Board. Please submit a copy to boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov, and written comments received will be distributed to the Board. Oral or written comments may be summarized, audio-recorded, and filed as a record. Audio files and video links of the Board's meetings are posted within one week after the meeting at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Board/Pages/BOFMeetings.aspx>

The Board cannot accept comments on consent agenda items or a topic for which a public hearing has been held and the comment period has closed. If you wish to provide oral comments to the Board, you must email the Board Administrator to sign up for live testimony, contact, Hilary.Olivos-Rood@odf.oregon.gov, by 5 p.m. Friday, March 4, 2022. Instructions for providing public comment virtually will be confirmed by email and the link provided before the meeting.

Three minutes will be allotted for each individual to provide their comments. Those requesting additional time for testimony should contact the Board Support office at 503-945-7210 at least three days before the meeting. The maximum amount of time for all public testimony for agenda items with a Board decision will be thirty minutes.

WORK SESSIONS: Certain agenda topics may be marked with an asterisk indicating a "Work Session" item. Work Sessions provide the Board opportunity to receive information and/or make decisions after considering previous public comments and staff recommendations. No new public comment will be taken. However, the Board may choose to ask questions of the audience to clarify issues raised.

- During consideration of contested civil penalty cases, the Board will entertain oral argument only if Board members have questions relating to the information presented.
- Relating to the adoption of Oregon Administrative Rules: Under Oregon's Administrative Procedures Act, the Board can only consider those comments received by the established deadline as listed on the Notice of Rulemaking form. Additional input can only be accepted if the comment period is formally extended (ORS 183.335).

GENERAL INFORMATION: For regularly scheduled meetings, the Board's agenda is posted on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov two weeks prior to the meeting date. During that time, circumstances may dictate a revision to the agenda, either in the sequence of items to be addressed or in the time of day the item is to be presented. The Board will make every attempt to follow its published schedule and requests your indulgence when that is not possible.

To provide the broadest range of services, lead-time is needed to make the necessary arrangements. If special materials, services, or assistance is required, such as a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, or large print material, please contact our Public Affairs Office at least three working days before the meeting via telephone at 503-945-7200 or fax at 503-945-7212.

Use of all tobacco products in state-owned buildings and on adjacent grounds is prohibited.

DRAFT Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2021

INDEX

| <u>Item #</u> | <u>Page #</u> |
|--|---------------|
| A. MARCH 3, 2021 BOARD OF FORESTRY MEETING MINUTES..... | 2 |
| B. MAY 20, 2021 BOARD OF FORESTRY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES..... | 2 |
| C. MAY 27, 2021 BOARD OF FORESTRY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES..... | 2 |
| D. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT | 2 |
| E. DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2021 | 2 |
| F. 2021 BOARD GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE SELF-EVALUATION..... | 2 |
| G. COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS CHAIRPERSON APPOINTMENT | 2 |
| H. DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION OUTCOMES | 3 |
| 1. ACTING STATE FORESTER, BOARD MEMBER, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS | 3 |
| 2. STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT DISCUSSION..... | 4 |
| 3. COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS ANNUAL REPORT..... | 5 |
| 4. 2021-2023 WILDFIRE RULEMAKING OVERVIEW | 6 |
| 5. FOREST TRUST LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY..... | 7 |
| 6. FIRE SEASON UPDATE | 8 |
| 7. 2021-2023 DEPARTMENT BUDGET UPDATE | 8 |
| 8. BOARD CLOSING COMMENTS AND MEETING WRAP UP | 9 |
| 9. *EXECUTIVE SESSION..... | 10 |

Items listed in order heard.

Complete audio recordings, handouts, and presentations from the meeting are available within each agenda item included with the minutes and at www.oregonforestry.gov.

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held virtually on July 21, 2021, and hosted by the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters located at 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

All Board members, presenters, and the public joined remotely in the online meeting. Chair Kelly called the virtual public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and conducted a roll call to confirm quorum. He noted for the record, Board member Joe Justice’s absence. Chair Kelly outlined the virtual Board proceedings, noted the executive session provisions, and reviewed the oral public testimony instructions. Stated the public meeting will be live-streamed, recorded, and posted online. He mentioned that written public testimony can be submitted through August 4, 2021, to be included with the meeting record.

Board Members Present:

Karla Chambers
Brenda McComb

Ben Deumling
Jim Kelly

Chandra Ferrari

Board Members Absent:
Joe Justice

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. MARCH 3, 2021, BOARD OF FORESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Approved March 3, 2021, Board of Forestry meeting minutes.

ACTION: Approved March 3, 2021, Board of Forestry meeting minutes.

B. MAY 20, 2021, BOARD OF FORESTRY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Approved May 20, 2021, Board of Forestry special meeting minutes.

ACTION: Approved May 20, 2021, Board of Forestry special meeting minutes.

C. MAY 27, 2021, BOARD OF FORESTRY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Approved May 27, 2021, Board of Forestry special meeting minutes.

ACTION: Approved May 27, 2021, Board of Forestry special meeting minutes.

D. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT

Report to the Board on the annual performance of the Department's financial status.

INFORMATION ONLY.

E. DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2021

Department provided an executive financial report and summary submitted monthly to the Board, which included June 2021. The report included up-to-date information about the Department's financial condition, the financial and budgetary status, as well as other ancillary topics as appropriate for Board oversight.

INFORMATION ONLY.

F. 2021 BOARD GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE SELF-EVALUATION

Board of Forestry completed its annual self-evaluation for 2021 using its adopted governance performance measure.

ACTION: Board proceeded with alternative one and approved the summary evaluation report as the conclusion of the 2021 self-evaluation process.

G. COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS CHAIRPERSON APPOINTMENT

This agenda item includes an update on the chair and appointments for members of the Committee for Forestlands (CFF).

ACTION: Board approved the appointment of citizen-at-large member Wendy Gerlach as the chair of the CFF. The Department also recommends appointing Gary Jensen as the Southern Oregon representative, Maurizio Valerio as the Eastern Oregon representative, and Kate McMichael as the landowner-at-large representative of the CFF. The biographies are noted in Attachment 2.

H. DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION OUTCOMES

Department provided a summary of outcomes from the 81st Legislative Assembly regular session to the Board.

INFORMATION ONLY

Board Discussion: None

Karla Chambers motioned to accept consent agenda items A through H. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Karla Chambers, Ben Deumling, Chandra Ferrari, Brenda McComb, and Jim Kelly. Against: none. With Board consensus Items A through H were accepted, and the motion was carried.

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

1. ACTING STATE FORESTER, BOARD MEMBER, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (39 minutes and 19 seconds – 18 MB)

Chair Kelly welcomed Board member comments and the Acting State Forester Nancy Hirsch to provide opening comments.

Acting State Forester Comments:

- Shared outcomes from the passage of state legislation and how it will allow for the Department to invest financially and expand capacity to meet the priorities of the agency and Board.
- Reflected on the key priorities of the agency, including employee well-being, regaining trust across state leadership, fulfilling Macias Gini O’Connell (MGO) recommendations, maintaining readiness for fire season, advancement of business and strategic initiatives, and fulfillment of the mandates from Senate Bill 762.
- Described the Departments efforts to better understand the magnitude of the investment received during the 81st Oregon Legislative Assembly regular session. She explained the work being completed to plan, operationalize, and implement the identified priorities while maintaining core business.

Board Member Comments:

- Chair Kelly spoke on what will be on the Board’s horizon within the next year. Commented on the Board’s role in developing strategic initiatives for the agency and reviewed what is on the Board’s plate for 2021. He expressed favor for remaining focused on competency in recruitment, organizational structure, and financial condition improvements.
- Chair Kelly shared comments from Board Member Justice about his first-hand experience as a landowner representative and in working with the Department in responding to the active Elbow Creek wildfire in northeast Oregon. Board members recognized the efforts of the Department and others in responding to these fires across the state.
- Board Member Chambers spoke to the Acting State Forester’s comments around the financial condition of the Department and highlighted the improvements made within a short period of time, noting the agency’s cash position, account receivables achieved and gaining a better understanding on account payable obligations. Board members expressed

gratitude for the leadership, staff work, and Acting State Forester's role in making progress on this matter.

- Board Member McComb commented on the inclusion of Cal Mukumoto in the overseeing of the implementation and progress of the MGO agency recommendations. She also expressed the rising trends of drought, low humidity, and other conditions that highlight the importance of addressing climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increase of carbon sequestration.
- Board Member Ferrari reflected on the Acting State Forester's comments relative to the incoming budget and the substantive benefits from these outcomes.
- Chair Kelly closed by reviewing the various roles each Board member will have in the upcoming Rulemaking Advisory Committees (RACs) with recommended engagement practices to help achieve the goals set forth by Senate Bill 762. He thanked the Board for participating in addition to their other liaison and board roles.

Public Testimony:

- Laura Wilkeson from Hampton Lumber provided oral testimony to the Board about the active wildfire and mobilization of resources being coordinated across the state to respond. She highlighted the benefits of active management on working forestlands, how the northwest region of Oregon is not untouched by fire and echoed the value of mitigative measures towards achieving sustainable harvest levels.
- Amanda Astor from Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) provided oral testimony to the Board on the various roles loggers and forestry workers have in and out of fire season. She encouraged the Board to support workforce development, to direct the department to prioritize economic development in the forest sector, and highlighted how forest management does not end with fire season, noting AOL organization is willing to assist in these efforts.

INFORMATION ONLY.

2. STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT DISCUSSION

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (13 minutes and 37 seconds – 6.24 MB)

Handouts ([attachment 1](#), [attachment 2](#), [attachment 3](#), and [attachment 4](#))

Chair Kelly introduced the topic, outlined the items for the Board's decision, and welcomed the subject matter experts (SME) working with the Board on the recruitment for the next State Forester. He invited the Board members to comment on the position recruitment drafts proposed for final adoption and reminded them of the statutory requirements the Board must follow in recruiting a chief executive officer in state government.

Public Testimony:

- Amanda Astor from Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) provided oral testimony to the Board on the Department's mission and importance in hiring an individual with practical knowledge in several focus areas with ability to communicate executive leadership directives across the agency. She noted how the scope of decisions made by Department leadership and potential impacts to communities, the economy, and Oregonians.

- Seth Barnes from Oregon Forests Industry Council (OFIC) provided oral testimony to the Board on the criteria for the next State Forester, citing Oregon Revised Statute 526.031, and explored the associated attributes of a practical forester. He shared a list of desired attributes, experiential knowledge, and leadership characteristics ideal for the next State Forester.
- Micky Ryan provided written testimony ([attachment 5](#)) on behalf of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Cascade Volcanoes Chapter, outlining various issues they would like the new State Forester to understand and the Board to consider as they determine the leader for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Board Discussion: None

ACTION: Board adopted attachments one through four included with the staff report.

Ben Deumling motioned to adopt the materials presented. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Karla Chambers, Ben Deumling, Chandra Ferrari, Brenda McComb, and Jim Kelly. Against: none. With Board consensus, the motion was carried. The Board adopted the skills and attributes, position description, job announcement, and recruitment plan for the recruitment of the next State Forester.

3. COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS ANNUAL REPORT

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (36 minutes and 10 seconds – 16.5 MB)

Presentation ([attachment 6](#)) and Handout ([attachment 7](#))

Josh Barnard, Private Forests Deputy Chief, introduced the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) presenters, listed the presentation’s main points, and reviewed the committee’s charter.

Wendy Gerlach, CFF newly appointed Chair, summarized the key issues, membership succession, and new members included with the committee’s annual report submitted to the Board. Evan Barnes, CFF Chair highlighted the issue of uncontrolled fires, associated impacts, and risk severity.

Barrett Brown, CFF Northwest Oregon landowner representative, shared examples of the diverse family forest issues the committee discusses with private forestland owners and explained how many reside in the wildland-urban interface. He encouraged the Board to engage, be a supportive partner with CFF, and help with keeping the family forestland community informed.

Kate McMichael the CFF landowner at large representative, offered perspective to the Board as a new family forestland owner who experienced the impacts of the 2020 fire season, the winter storm, and heat dome of 2021, as they work to recover the healthy forest stands and woodland ecosystems. She described the benefits of a forestland community network, the resources available in Oregon for landowners, and the challenges of small woodland management.

Barnard reviewed the national data on woodland ownership, type of forest activities, reasons for ownership, and methods of landowner assistance engagement. He also reviewed the various ownerships of forests in Oregon. Barnes closed by inviting questions about the annual report.

Public Testimony: No testimony was submitted for the item.

Board Discussion:

- Discussed the priority issues and top needs for woodland owners.
- Reviewed the number of family forestland owners with five to 10 acres who live in Oregon.
- Chair Kelly appreciated the committee members' work on these issues, keeping the Board apprised, and the relationships built between the Department and family forestland communities as CFF bridges those connections.
- Explored the policy, voting mechanisms, and process the committee follows in making recommendations to the Board.
- Discussed whether a representative of the Pacific Northwest chapter forest stewards guild is a member of the CFF.

ACTION: Board accepted the Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report.

Karla Chambers motioned to approve the Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report as presented. Ben Deumling seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Karla Chambers, Ben Deumling, Chandra Ferrari, Brenda McComb, and Jim Kelly. Against: none. With Board consensus, the motion was carried, and the CFF annual report is accepted.

4. 2021-2023 WILDFIRE RULEMAKING OVERVIEW
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (53 minutes and 35 seconds – 24.5 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 8](#))

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief, provided background and additional context for the initiation of the administrative rulemaking brought to the Board for approval. He noted how this work is proactively advancing wildfire protections in Oregon envisioned by the Governor's Wildfire Council and speaks to the tenets of the national cohesive strategy for adequate response, fire-adapted communities, and resilient landscapes as pathways to mitigate catastrophic risk of wildfire. He reviewed each rulemaking directed by the legislature with the passage of Senate Bill 762, and how it connects to the state and national strategies through policymaking.

Tim Holschbach, Fire Protection Deputy Chief of policy and planning, presented an overview of Senate Bill (SB) 762, explaining the rulemaking requirements, agency collaborations, and products required by the legislation will advance policy over the next few years. He reviewed the proposed composition of the rulemaking advisory committees (RACs) for each rulemaking topic, noted the diverse set of participants, and highlighted the opportunities for public engagement through each rulemaking effort. He listed the key dates in the rulemaking process, explained how these dates achieve the targets set by the Legislature in SB 762 and described the anticipated Board actions relative to each rulemaking topic objectives.

Grafe described the scope of engagement needed to complete these rulemakings, the numerous positions allotted to bring capacity to the Division for implementation, and the alignment with agency partners on sequencing of work to minimize redundancies. He acknowledged the Board's support and how this work hallmarks a paradigm shift for the Department and closed by seeking

questions. Acting State Forester Hirsch summarized the scope of the action items in front of the Board for a decision.

Board Discussion:

- Reviewed the origins of the proposed RAC list of participants recommended by the Department, the Board's authority to modify the RAC composition overtime to ensure inclusivity, and the demands associated with each RAC assigned to advise on the rulemaking topics relative to frequency and interest. Reflected on the objectives for each rulemaking effort, how competing interests are anticipated, technical experts will be consulted, and a need for third-party facilitation.
- Commented on the Oregon Explorer map's climate data, resources utilized, and potential projections for the wildfire risk mapping being updated and maintained over time for the wildfire risk assessments.
- Discussed the exposure of liability associated with this scope of work, and the consultative role the Department of Justice will have with the rulemaking processes.
- Explored the requisite for a 20-year plan, any correlation it may have with the various rulemaking and report efforts for 2022, and where this plan will be housed.
- Commented on interfacing with tribes to determine their level of interest or engagement with these topics are ongoing.

Public Testimony: No testimony was submitted for the item.

ACTION: Board approved initiation for the promulgation of administrative rules relative to the following.

- **Develop administrative rules pertaining to a statewide map displaying wildfire risk (Attachment 1, Section 7).**
- **Create a Certified Burn Manager Program (Attachment 1, Section 26).**
- **Review and clarify enforcement rules promulgated under ORS 477.515 and ORS 477.625 (Attachment 1, Section 25).**
- **Further review and clarification of Oregon Administrative Rules pertaining to fire prevention, OAR Chapter 629, Division 47.**
- **Establish a definition of Wildland-Urban Interface, determine the criteria to identify and classify Wildland-Urban Interface in Oregon. (Attachment 1, Section 31-33).**

Brenda McComb motioned to move forward with the promulgation of rules regarding Senate Bill 762. Chair Kelly called for a vote. Voting in favor of the motion: Karla Chambers, Ben Deumling, Chandra Ferrari, Brenda McComb, and Jim Kelly. Against: none. With Board consensus, the motion was carried, and the initiation for the promulgation of administrative rules relative to Senate Bill 762 was approved.

5. **FOREST TRUST LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (44 seconds – 351 KB)

Board Chair Kelly confirmed with Board Administrator, Hilary Olivos-Rood, no commissioners were providing comments and the item concluded.

INFORMATION ONLY.

6. FIRE SEASON UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (52 minutes and 54 seconds – 24.2 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 9](#))

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief, summarized the key components of the presentation, provided elaboration on intricate elements of the briefing for additional context for the Board, and acknowledged the investments forthcoming to the Department to advance fire protection in Oregon.

Ron Graham, Fire Protection Deputy Chief for Operations, reported on the fire season to date, emphasizing the connection between drought conditions, the June heat dome, humidity, fuel loads, and energy release component relative to significant fire potential. He reviewed the three-month weather outlook for temperature and precipitation probabilities as it relates to the significant wildland fire potential for Oregon, noting a fuels and fire behavior advisory effort for south central and central Oregon. He described extreme fire behavior, the potential outcomes associated, and the Department's level of preparation. He reported on the fire statistics to date, listing the ignition source of fires, average acres burned, and the number of fires with a 10-year average. Graham reviewed the current fire season briefing map, noted the incident command team leadership on the fires, and highlighted the coordinated work with key partners across Oregon made available through the Emergency Management Compact. He closed by listing the large fire costs to date, gross and net costs, between 2012 and 2021.

Board Discussion:

- Explored the data available on human-caused fires relative to mitigating the risk of fire, the Department's ability for fire restrictions based on data analytics, and strategies to reduce fire threat nationally.
- Discussed Department opportunities to learn more to prevent a catastrophic fire; considering the potential for landscape-scale restoration, indigenous knowledge on the prescribed burning cycle, the reality of extreme weather events, and regional opportunities available may vary.
- Commented on the applicability of the measures set forth with the enrollment of Senate Bill 762 and how it can assist the Department in understanding the change in the complexity of fire condition trends and effective mitigation of catastrophic risk.
- Accentuated the speed of mobilization of the Department's incident management teams in response to fire and acknowledged the proficiencies of the complete and coordinated effort within the organization and externally across the state.

Public Testimony: No testimony was submitted for the item.

INFORMATION ONLY.

7. 2021-2023 DEPARTMENT BUDGET UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (49 minutes and 56 seconds – 22.8 MB)
Handout ([attachment 10](#))

Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration, reviewed key definitions associated with state agency budgetary discussions, explaining how budgets operate on a cyclical process. He described the mechanisms in place for budget development and approval.

Herber listed the outcomes of the 2021 legislative regular session relative to the Department's budget, fund types, and workforce capacity. He described the position types, programs served, and types of positions that came from the 2021-2023 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB). He summarized the similarities, disparities, and modifications between the Agency Request Budget and LAB. Herber outlined the various legislative packages received and the agency packages that were not funded in this biennium. He noted that the fire positions added through Senate Bill 762 were funded under the existing split funding model, but limited to the 2021-2023 biennium, a one-time investment was made to offset the landowners' portion of that split essentially making those positions 100% General Fund funded for the biennium. He noted with the harvest tax bill not passing this session there is a funding gap that is anticipated to be addressed in the 2022 session.

Herber explained how the Department pays for the costs associated with a fire season is dependent upon when fire season occurs. He reviewed the Department's current financial condition related statistics from cash balance, accounts receivable, accounts payable, gross and net costs. He described all of the various factors considered when assessing the Department's cash solvency with financial management. Herber closed by summarizing the progress made with the Macias Gini O'Connell (MGO) recommendations, the contractor hired to oversee the project, and process improvement efforts. Acting State Forester Hirsch noted the complexity of managing the Department's budget and shared her appreciation for the collaborations that took place to complete this critical work.

Board Discussion:

- Sought clarity on position numbers for programs relative to the investments provided.
- Inquired about the fulfillment of the MGO recommendations.
- Discussed the Department's budgetary investments from the legislature and how they contribute to the 2021 fire season relative to positions and severity package.
- Reviewed the goals and challenges ahead of the Department and Board, relative to building back confidence in the agency, reopening lines of credit, and determining a solution for large fire funding in Oregon.
- Discussed the timber revenues trends and whether they have altered over the past years.
- Commented on the continued system improvements in data management, building bridges between siloed systems, maintaining relationships, and commitment of focused staff work.

Public Testimony: No testimony was submitted for the item.

INFORMATION ONLY.

8. BOARD CLOSING COMMENTS AND MEETING WRAP UP
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (11 minutes and 23 seconds – 5.21 MB)

Board Chair, Jim Kelly, provided some closing comments for the July 21 Board of Forestry meeting.

- Noted the November 2021 Board field tour would be postponed to April 2022 and explained the scope of the tour.
- Explored the Board member's interest in locations for the annual planning retreat.
- Reviewed Oregon Revised Statute 182.010 relative to the effectiveness of a board member from the 2015 edition of the *Membership Handbook for Boards and Commissions*, published by the Governor's Office.

INFORMATION ONLY.

9. ***EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Kelly proceeded with the formal Executive Session announcement.

The Board of Forestry entered into Executive Session for the purpose of considering information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law [ORS 192.660(2)(f)] and for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding the Board's legal rights and duties in regards to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed [ORS 192.6600(2)(h)].

No decisions were made during Executive Session. The Board exited the Executive Session at 5:13 p.m.

INFORMATION ONLY.

Board Chair Kelly adjourned the public meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Nancy Hirsch

Nancy Hirsch, Acting State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No: | B |
| Work Plan: | Administrative |
| Topic: | Financial Dashboard |
| Presentation Title: | Department Financial Report for January and February 2022 |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration (503) 945-7203, bill.herber@oregon.gov |

SUMMARY AND CONTEXT

An executive financial report and summary will be submitted monthly to ensure the Board of Forestry (Board) has up-to-date information for oversight of the Department's financial condition. This report will include the financial and budgetary status of the Department as well as other ancillary topics as appropriate.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

This consent item is transparent publishing of the Department's transmittal of monthly financial reports to the Board of Forestry. While executive-level in nature, the financial report provides information on various topics that are either germane, or direct impacts to the financial status of the agency, or other administrative functions of the organization during any given month.

This financial report will continue to evolve over time. As the Department's reporting ability matures and insights into its operational and administrative work improve, this financial report will reflect those improvements. These improvements could include operational or process improvements or the introduction of new systems and technologies that enhance the Department's administrative capabilities. In addition, Board input will be factored in as the report evolves.

NEXT STEPS

The Board will receive the Department's Financial Report the third week of every month, whether a Board meeting is occurring or not. This will allow the Department to report on the previous month while allowing for the fiscal month closing process to conclude.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Department of Forestry Financial Report for January 2022
- 2) Department of Forestry Financial Report for February 2022 (available before the meeting)



February 1, 2022

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

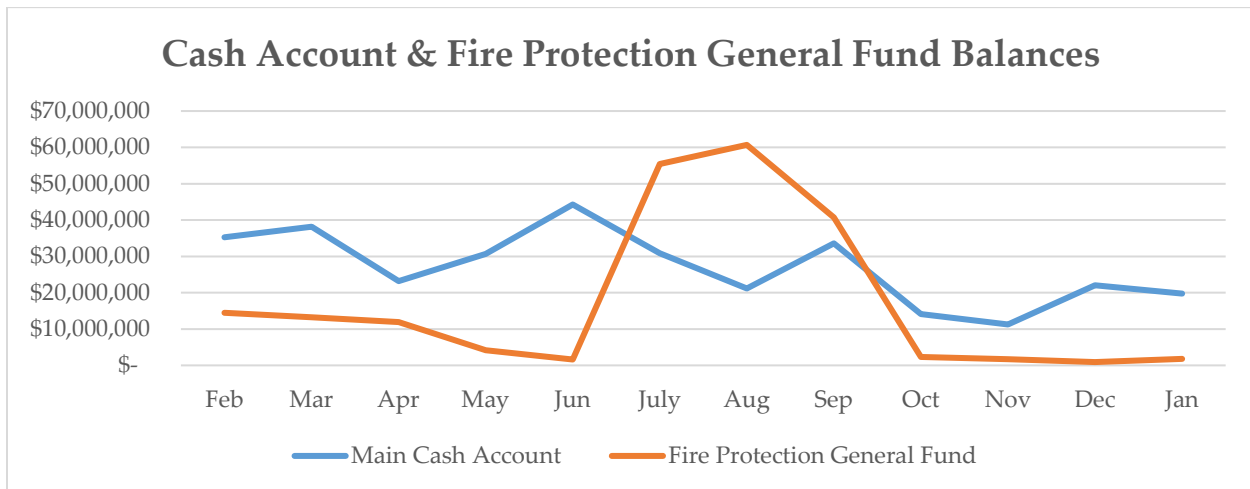
Re: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)—Monthly financial condition report

Dear Co-Chairs,

Cash and General Fund Balances

Continuing the trend of limited expenditures and revenues during the winter months, cash balances and Fire Protection Division's General Fund (GF) appropriation remained relatively stable (Figure 1). Fire Protection's GF balance did increase slightly as the department reallocated 2021 fire season costs reallocated costs to that appropriation.

Figure 1 - Cash Account and Fire Protection General Fund Balances as of January 24, 2022



The most notable financial activity during this last reporting period was approval to appropriate GF for the state's portion of 2021 emergency fire costs. In total, the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means approved \$46,298,469 GF to be appropriated to the department, \$6,146,267 for costs expended on severity resources and \$40,152,202 for the state's portion of the estimated \$69,091,984 in net emergency fire costs from the 2021 season. In addition, the

committee approved an increase of \$78,218,491 in Other Funds expenditure authority to allow the department to expend funding for costs incurred.

Despite the influx of these GF dollars, the department is still carrying significant debt from the 2020 and 2021 fire seasons, which impacts its various cash accounts, Fire Protection’s GF appropriation, and the fuels mitigation and landowners’ subsidy GF appropriations from Senate Bill 762. Once the GF appropriations approved by the committee have been allocated to the department, financial staff will be working on reallocating costs from these internal resources, but that will not make those accounts and appropriations whole. Costs from prior fire seasons that are still awaiting reimbursement from federal agencies, primarily FEMA, will continue to be carried by the department’s cash accounts and appropriations until repaid. Additionally, many of the costs of the upcoming fire season will be paid by those same sources. Even a moderate fire season in 2022 could have severe impacts on the financial situation of the department.

In order to mitigate the long-term effects of utilizing internal resources to fund the ever-increasing emergency fire costs, the department has convened the Emergency Fire Funding Task Force comprised of key stakeholders, both internal and external to state government. The charge of this group is to identify elements of a sustainable emergency fire funding system that does not rely upon the department’s fixed operational funds or other internal resources. The end goal is to develop proposals to bring forward to the Legislature for consideration during the 2023 session. The task force’s progress of this work will be included in future reports.

Financial Projections

Although the makeup of the projection for December had some variance to it, the resultant total of available resources to the department tracked well to actuals. The January and February projections continue the trend of lower expenditures and moderately increasing revenues, showing some recovery in the department’s financial resources. The large drop in revenue in January (Table 1) is due to the quarterly timber harvest revenue disbursement to the counties, currently estimated at about \$16 million. This transfer of funds posts as a reduction of revenue in the department’s financial system, hence the lower revenue for the month.

Table 1 - Financial Projections through February 2022

| | Dec-21 | | Jan-22 | Feb-22 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Projection | Actual | Projection | Projection |
| Total Revenue | \$29,882,766.88 | \$24,379,817.38 | \$12,535,073.84 | \$33,037,644.22 |
| Total Expenditures | -\$21,028,349.80 | -\$10,821,365.74 | -\$12,842,974.56 | -\$12,666,094.36 |
| Net Total Exp/Rev | \$8,854,417.08 | \$13,558,451.64 | -\$307,900.72 | \$20,371,549.86 |
| Beginning Cash Balance | \$11,232,738.83 | \$11,232,738.83 | \$24,791,190.47 | \$24,483,289.75 |
| End of Month Cash Balance | \$20,087,155.91 | \$24,791,190.47 | \$24,483,289.75 | \$44,854,839.61 |
| Available GF Appr | \$28,721,991.19 | \$34,879,405.14 | \$27,807,208.69 | \$21,151,023.80 |
| Available Resources | \$48,809,147.10 | \$47,268,756.68* | \$52,290,498.44 | \$66,005,863.41 |

* Includes 12.4M reduction adjustment for non-fungible cash funds

Of note in Table 1, within the “Available Resources” for the actuals listed for December, a reduction was noted for approximately \$12.4 million, resulting in the \$47.3 million of truly available financial resources to the department. The department maintains numerous cash accounts in support of all aspects of its operations. Many of these accounts have monies dedicated or obligated for a specific use and cannot be utilized for general financial needs (e.g., capital maintenance dollars). This reduction of non-fungible cash allows for an accurate picture of the financial resources the department has available when actuals are reported.

Accounts Receivables

Other than the large outstanding Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant revenues, the department’s accounts receivables (AR) have been modest and flowing smoothly. Payments received from outstanding FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) invoices and those from individual landowners paying their fire patrol assessments via direct billing have significantly reduced outstanding AR in the 31-to-120-day categories (Figure 2). Revenues due to the department from private vendors for timber harvests make up the bulk of non-federal AR. Total AR has been subsiding after the influx of forest patrol assessment revenue typically seen in November and December (Figure 3).

Figure 2 - Accounts Receivables Aging as of January 24, 2022

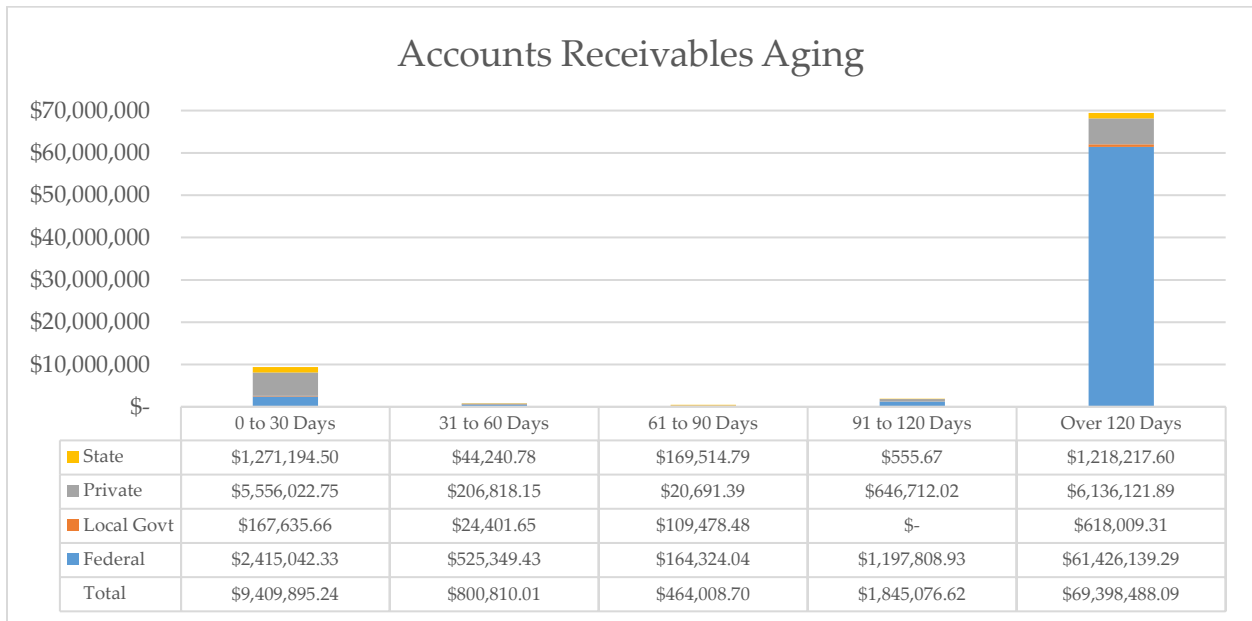
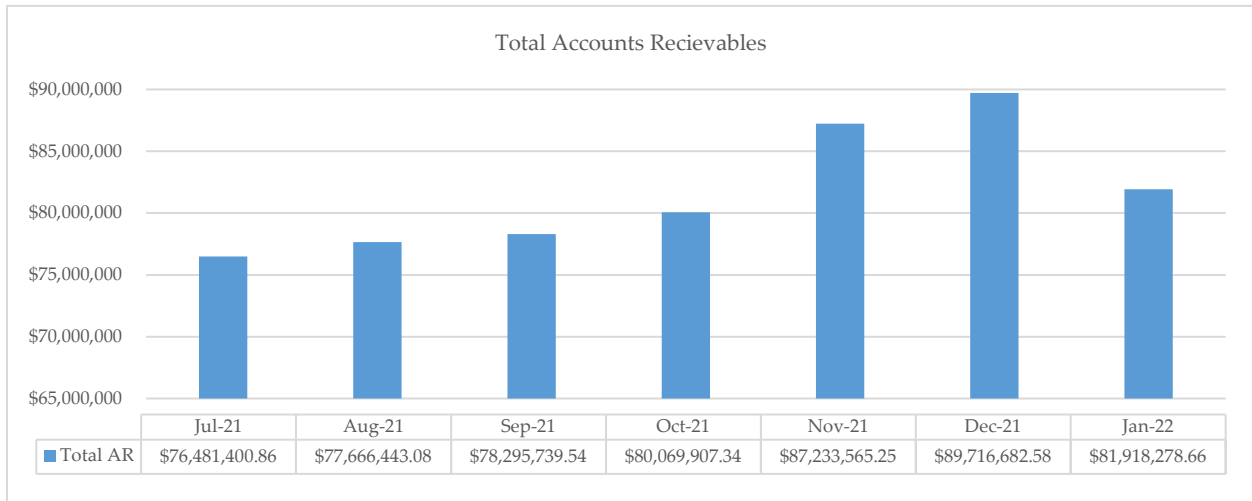


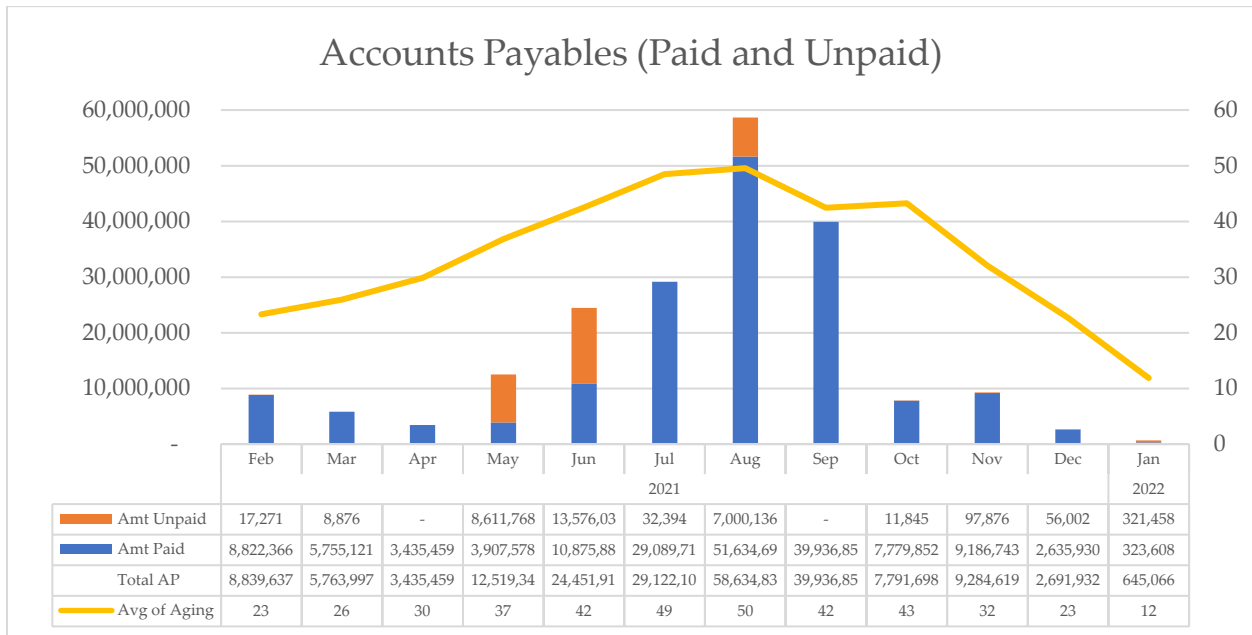
Figure 3 - Total Accounts Receivables as of January 24, 2022



Accounts Payables

With minimal expenditures through the winter months, the department is almost caught up on payments owed through its accounts payables (AP). The bulk of outstanding AP are payments continued to be put on hold that are owed to federal partners as the department awaits reimbursements from various sources, primarily FEMA (Figure 4).

Figure 4 - Accounts Payable as of January 24, 2022



Large Fire Costs

The department continues its work with the Office of Emergency Management and FEMA for processing the 2020 Public Assistance grants. Much of the work involves coordinating with FEMA to fully understand the criteria for reporting and consultation under their Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) process, a new requirement for federal reimbursement process and these fires specifically. The department has submitted all requested documentation on two of the 2020 fires, which FEMA is evaluating based on the new process. While awaiting FEMA’s determination on both the information submitted and the process overall, the department continues to work on compiling documentation for the remaining 2020 Public Assistance grant fires. The required mapping components have been submitted for all subject fires, and the financial records have been finalized for the higher cost fires. The department will be submitting full EHP documentation to FEMA for roughly half of the outstanding fires by the end of February and all remaining fires by the end of March.

Once this documentation is submitted, the department will be waiting on the FEMA approval process before funds can be disbursed. While the timeline for the approval process is unknown, once approved, funds can be expected within 45 days for fires with requested reimbursements of less than \$1 million once approved. Unfortunately, most of the department’s fires are well above this threshold, which extends the disbursement timeline.

Table 2 – Gross Large Fire Cost Summary (red indicates estimates – in millions) as of January 24, 2022

| Fire Season | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Costs | 76.48 | 20.74 | 60.98 | 109.34 | 34.26 | 139.80 | 441.60 |
| Currently Invoiced | (0.33) | (0.07) | (0.17) | (1.39) | (0.24) | (59.65) | (61.85) |
| Outstanding to Invoice | - | - | (0.07) | (0.38) | (0.48) | (14.72) | (15.65) |

MGO Update

Macias, Gini, and O’Connell (MGO) joined the department in providing an update to the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources during the January Legislative Days. In this presentation, the department shared its Implementation Management Plan (IMP), highlighted the architecture of the plan, and reported on progress and successes to date. MGO shared a positive assessment of the IMP deliverables as currently designed and described their plan to further assess our implementation of their recommendations and evaluate risks mitigated through current and ongoing implementation efforts. The department looks forward to providing continued updates on its progress throughout the biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cal Mukumoto", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cal Mukumoto
Oregon State Forester

c:
Legislative Fiscal Office
Chief Financial Office
Oregon State Treasury
Board of Forestry
Governor's Office



March 4, 2022

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)—Monthly financial condition report

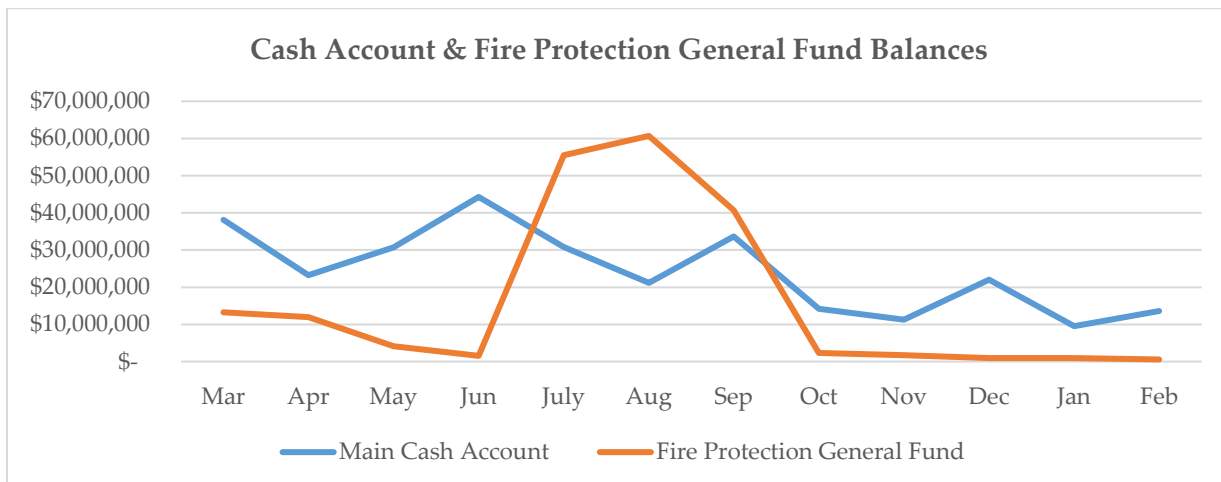
Dear Co-Chairs,

Cash and General Fund Balances

Revenues and expenditures for the month were unremarkable, with minimal material activity through this reporting period. Of most significance was the quarterly state forest harvest revenue disbursement to the counties for \$12.5 million that occurred in January, which briefly reduced the department's cash balances to under \$10 million (Figure 1). While reportable activity was low, there was significant movement of resources internally to ensure the Fire Protection General Fund (GF) appropriation had enough funds for the program to operate.

House Bill 5202, which is currently moving through the legislative process, will provide the department \$46,298,469 of GF for the state's portion of the net 2021 fire season costs. While some of these funds will go to replenishing the Fire Protection appropriation, most will be moved back to the appropriations supporting implementation of the legislative intent of Senate Bill 762 from which funds were drawn to cover gross 2021 fire season costs.

Figure 1 - Cash Account and Fire Protection General Fund Balances as of February 22, 2022



Financial Projections

The projection-to-actual performance for total available resources tracked close in the month of January (Table 1). While January’s revenue was projected to, and did indeed, dip due to the \$12.5 million county payment, most of the variance was due to the internal movement of funds. Many of these accounting transactions, including the county disbursement payment, post within the financial systems as reductions of revenue, thereby lowering the actual revenue for any given month. The opposite of these transactions will appear in other categories, for example, the increase in available GF appropriation balances for January.

Table 1 - Financial Projections through March 2022

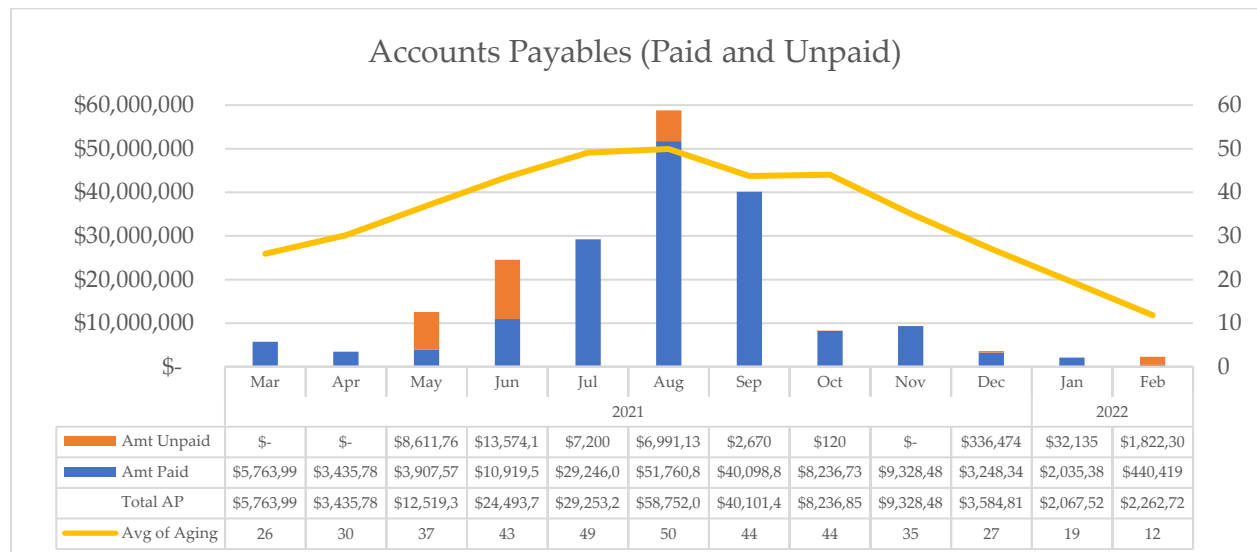
| | Jan-22 | | Feb-22 | Mar-22 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Projection | Actual | Projection | Projection |
| Total Revenue | \$12,535,073.84 | \$206,201.95 | \$33,217,197.81 | \$29,678,542.45 |
| Total Expenditures | -\$12,842,974.56 | -\$9,379,138.75 | -\$12,666,094.36 | -\$15,610,121.57 |
| Net Total Exp/Rev | -\$307,900.72 | -\$9,172,936.80 | \$20,551,103.44 | \$14,068,420.88 |
| Beginning Cash Balance | \$24,791,190.47 | \$24,791,190.47 | \$15,618,253.67 | \$36,169,357.11 |
| End of Month Cash Balance | \$24,483,289.75 | \$15,618,253.67 | \$36,169,357.11 | \$50,237,777.99 |
| Available GF Appr | \$27,807,208.69 | \$32,855,725.77 | \$25,595,268.81 | \$20,490,260.01 |
| Available Resources | \$39,888,659.51 | \$42,257,261.75* | \$55,547,908.23* | \$64,511,320.31* |

* Includes 6.2M reduction adjustment for non-fungible cash funds

Accounts Payables

Department-wide expenditures continue to be extremely light, maintaining the department’s typical winter season trend (Figure 4). Much of the department’s disbursements staff time has recently been spent reconciling and recoding payment transactions from holding accounts to their appropriate funding source. This strategy allows staff to make timely payments to vendors during periods of high-volume service needs but does result in duplicative and additional processing work.

Figure 4 - Accounts Payable as of February 22, 2022



Accounts Receivables

While revenue has been coming in, the overall amount of the department’s accounts receivables has held relatively steady. The largest source of revenue outside of federal dollars is primarily from private contractors related to timber sales from state forestlands. Much of the short-term receivables from federal partners is payment for timber sale prep work performed by the department on federal lands under the Good Neighbor Authority (Figures 2 & 3). Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grants continue to be the department’s largest category of outstanding receivables.

Figure 2 - Accounts Receivables Aging as of February 22, 2022

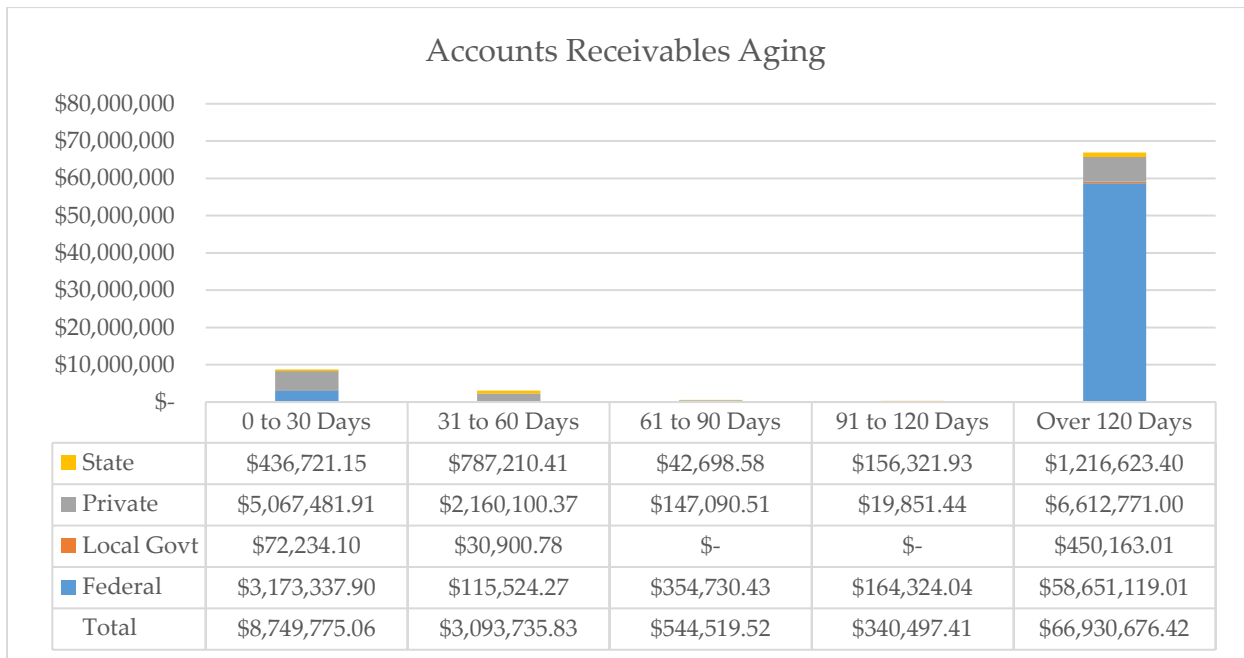
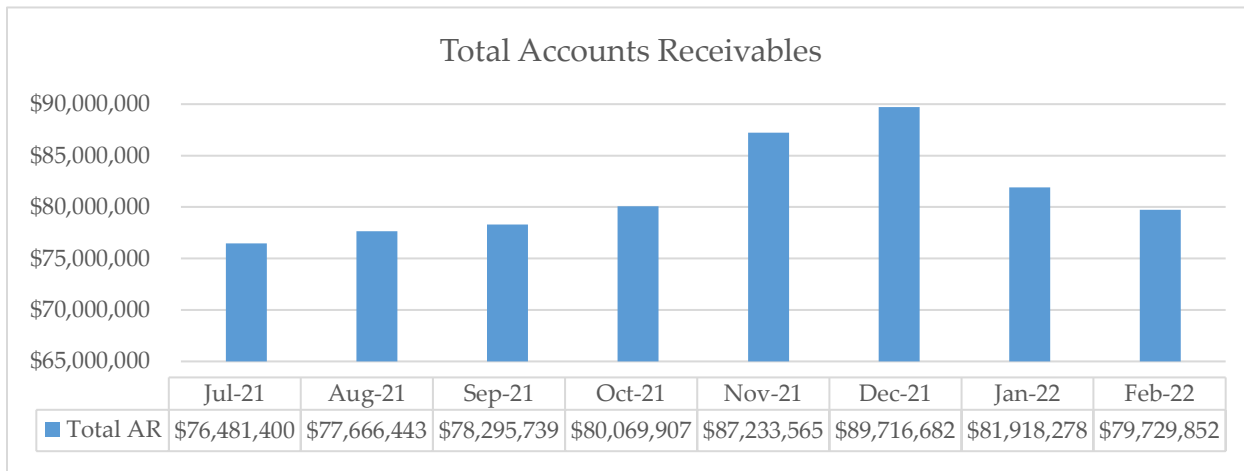


Figure 3 - Total Accounts Receivables as of February 22, 2022



Large Fire Costs

The department has made significant progress in moving its FEMA Public Assistance (PA) grant applications further along the process. In last month’s report, the department committed to having all the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) documentation for its interagency fires submitted by the end of February. This milestone was met, in addition to submission of documentation for a fire from the remaining ODF-only fires. The remainder of these fires will have their EHPs submitted in March.

Initial FEMA review is complete for two of the 2020 Labor Day fires, Lionshead and Riverside, and those will now move on to the regional review stage. While the timeframe for receipt of reimbursement is still uncertain, this has been the first significant update to these fires’ statuses since they were originally submitted. The department used these fires to understand what the changes to FEMA’s processes would require avoiding further extending the timeline for federal reimbursements to the state. There were questions and requests for further information from FEMA on these two fires prior to it moving to regional review, and that dialogue should help the department better navigate the process for the remaining fires.

These PA grants account for most of the currently invoiced amounts from the 2020 fire seasons as noted below (Table 2). The remaining work for the outstanding to invoice amount for 2020 is dependent on the receipt of these FEMA monies. Cost share settlements and audits for the 2021 season, both internally and with our partners, will be occurring through the next couple of months.

Table 2 – Gross Large Fire Cost Summary (red indicates estimates – in millions) as of February 9, 2022

| Fire Protection Large Fire Cost Summary | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fire Season | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Total |
| Fire Costs | 76.48 | 20.74 | 60.98 | 109.34 | 34.26 | 139.8 | 129.2 | 570.8 |
| Currently Invoiced | (0.33) | (0.07) | (0.17) | (1.39) | (0.24) | (59.65) | (1.83) | (63.68) |
| Outstanding to Invoice | - | - | (0.07) | (0.38) | (0.48) | (15.13) | (58.94) | (75.00) |

MGO Update

The month of February brought a new dynamic and increased capacity to the department’s project team. MGO continues to assess the department’s implementation efforts, and ODF’s project team is providing contextual supporting documentation to aid in MGO’s review of completed recommendations. Additionally, ODF has filled two limited duration positions that will provide dedicated business analysis and policy development support to the project team.

Sincerely,



Cal Mukumoto
 Oregon State Forester

Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
ODF—Monthly financial condition report
March 4, 2022
Page 5

c:
Legislative Fiscal Office
Chief Financial Office
Oregon State Treasury
Board of Forestry
Governor's Office

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | C |
| Work Plan: | Administrative Work Plan |
| Topic: | Administrative Processes |
| Presentation Title: | Approval of Agency Director Financial Transactions, Fiscal Year 2021 |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration (503) 945-7203 bill.herber@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to meet the requirements of statewide policy by having the Board review and approve transactions submitted by the former State Forester, Peter Daugherty, and former Acting State Forester, Nancy Hirsch, for Fiscal Year 2021.

CONTEXT

Oregon Department of Administrative Services policy 10.90.00 regarding internal controls requires the review and approval of certain financial transactions of the State Forester.

The financial transactions involved include:

- The director’s monthly time report (including use of leave time).
- Travel expense reimbursement claims.
- Purchase card use approvals.
- Requests for vacation leave payoff.

As provided in the policy, by previous action, the Board has delegated the day-to-day review and approvals of these transactions to the Deputy State Forester, with an annual review by the Board of Forestry.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry review and approve the travel expense transactions and the leave usage transactions submitted by the former State Forester, Peter Daugherty, and former Acting State Forester, Nancy Hirsch, for Fiscal Year 2021, as summarized in Attachment 1, State Forester's Travel Claims Summary, and Attachment 2, State Forester’s Leave Usage Summary.

There were no purchase card transactions or requests for vacation leave payoff in this time period. Both individuals will also have transactions reported in the following fiscal year.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) State Forester’s Travel Claims Summary, Fiscal Year 2021
- (2) State Forester’s Leave Usage Summary, Fiscal Year 2021

**State Forester's Travel Claims Summary Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021**

| Traveler | Destination | Claim Total (\$) | Depart Date | Return Date | Purpose of Trip |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| P. Daugherty | None | 0.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| N. Hirsch | None | 0.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | TOTAL | 0.00 | | | |

*These expenditures do not include direct payment to vendors by the Department of Forestry for travel and lodging.

State Forester's Leave Usage Summary, Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021
(Hours)

Peter Daugherty

| Period | Sick Leave | Vacation Leave | Governor's Leave | Personal Business Leave | Misc. Paid Leave | Donated/ Lost Leave | Total Leave by Month |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| July-20 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Aug-20 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Sept-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Oct-20 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Nov-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jan-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Feb-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mar-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Apr-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jun-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 96 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 104 |

Acting State Forester's Leave Usage Summary, Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021*
(Hours)

Nancy Hirsch

| Period | Sick Leave | Vacation Leave | Governor's Leave | Personal Business Leave | Misc. Paid Leave | Donated/ Lost Leave | Total Leave by Month |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| July-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sept-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oct-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nov-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jan-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Feb-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mar-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Apr-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jun-21 | 4 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Total | 4 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |

**Hours reported in table are limited to time serving as Acting State Forester in Fiscal Year 2021*

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No.: | D |
| Work Plan: | State Forests Work Plan |
| Topic: | Status of Elliott State Forest as Common School Forest Land |
| Presentation Title: | Elliott State Forest Decertification |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Michael Wilson, Deputy Chief - Policy, State Forests Division 503-945-7374; Michael.Wilson@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The Board of Forestry is requested to make findings to decertify the Elliott State Forest from being eligible Common School Forest Lands to complete the statutory requirements to return these lands to their original status and ensure all applicable procedures are addressed pursuant to ORS 530.470(2).

CONTEXT

Lands owned by the State of Oregon and under the jurisdiction of Department of State Lands (DSL) that are “primarily suited for the growing of timber and other forest products” are required to be designated and set apart as “Common School Forest Lands” (CSFL) by the Department of State Lands and the State Board of Forestry, and such lands are withdrawn from sale (ORS 530.460).

Designation of CSFL, including the Elliott State Forest, occurs through the adoption of separate board resolutions of the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry, describing the lands to be set aside as CSFL. A copy of each board resolution, certified by the Director of DSL and the State Forester, respectively, together with a description of the lands involved, are filed with the Secretary of State (ORS 530.480).

Periodically as necessary, DSL and the Board of Forestry are to designate and set aside CSFL “as rapidly as forestry data and information are obtained ... of the lands eligible for dedication under ORS 530.450 to ORS 530.520” (ORS 530.470(1)).

After such designations, the State Forester, under the supervision of the Board, is authorized to manage the CSFL lands and the ESF (ORS 530.490).

These designated lands “may, at any time, be returned to their original status *by similar actions of said agencies*, if said lands are to be used for higher and better use for the general public, including the sale of said lands where lawful” (ORS 530.470(2); emphasis added). This has consistently been done by separate complementary resolutions of the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry (*See* ORS 530.480).

The State Land Board directed DSL on August 13, 2015, to “take all requisite action” to return Elliott State Forest lands not previously decertified pursuant to ORS 530.460 and ORS 530.470 “to [their] original status ...” as part of the Elliott Opportunity and Protocol, effectively decertifying the lands as eligible Common School Forest Lands under ORS

530.470. Subsequently, in 2017 (Fiscal Year 2018), DSL removed the remaining 84,144.4 certified acres of Elliott State Forests Lands from those lands designated by the Interagency Agreement (“IAA”) to be managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Since the end of the Fiscal Year 2017, the Elliott State Forest has been managed directly by DSL.

The legislature is considering [SB1546 \(2022\)](#), which was introduced at the request of the State Land Board, to establish the Elliott State Forest as a research forest¹. The purpose of this bill is to decouple the Elliott lands from being designated Common School Forest Lands under ORS 530.470, create the Elliott State Research Forest to be managed under the supervision of the Elliott State Research Forest Authority, and to complete the actions commenced in 2015 by the State Land Board.

Previously, the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry have decertified lands through separate complementary resolutions adopted by the two Boards under ORS 530.480. The Board of Forestry has not completed a resolution to complement the decertification of the Elliott by the State Land Board in 2015 and DSL’s subsequent removal of the lands from the management agreement starting in Fiscal Year 2018.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Elliott State Forest (ESF) was created in 1930 to provide long-term funding for Oregon’s K-12 public schools. In 1957, the legislature set aside the ESF in a new construct by withdrawing the lands from the sale (ORS 530.450) and creating a statutory scheme for the management of Common School Forest Lands generally, and the ESF in particular, by the Board of Forestry (ORS 530.460 to 530.520). That same year, the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry adopted resolutions certifying 71,643.85 acres of the ESF and 32,849.45 acres of other Common School Forest Lands to be managed by the State Forester under supervision of the Board of Forestry. In subsequent years additions were made to the ESF, and later decertification of some lands occurred, resulting in approximately 84,144 certified acres remaining in the ESF as of July 1, 2017.

ODF and DSL have consistently, over several decades, asked both the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry to adopt separate complementary resolutions on certification and decertification of lands under ORS 530.460 to 530.480.

The ESF, as a special category of CSFL, was originally certified by resolutions from both boards in 1957, and then effectively decertified by the State Land Board on August 13, 2015, by the State Land Board’s sole action. Subsequently, these lands were removed as lands certified to be managed by ODF pursuant to the DSL-ODF IAA starting July 1, 2017. Since that time, DSL has managed the ESF lands previously certified to ODF management. However, the Board of Forestry never adopted a decertification Resolution and Order with respect to these ESF lands.

¹ At the time this staff report was written the bill was under consideration; however, the Legislature is expected to adjourn the 2022 Legislative session on March 8, 2022.

To ensure all appropriate actions are completed prior to any future legislative and State Land Board actions with respect to the transition of the ESF to a research forest, or other management decisions made with respect to such lands, and to reflect the current management posture regarding these lands as residing in the Department of State lands, ODF recommends the Board here adopt the proposed decertification Resolution and Order.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. Rely solely on the action of the State Land Board in 2015 and the actions of DSL pursuant thereto as the decertification of the ESF, with no action by this Board. This alternative is not recommended by ODF since it leaves some ambiguity whether all statutory requirements for decertification have been satisfied.
2. Await the adoption of SB1546 in the 2022 legislature prior to taking the decertification action. This alternative is not recommended because, whether SB1546 is adopted as drafted or as revised, the decertification is necessary to reflect clearly the current *de facto* management and certification posture over these lands that resulted from the 2015 decision of the State Land Board and the 2017 removal of these lands from the IAA by the Department of State Lands.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Board approve the decertification of the Elliott State Forest as designated Common School Forest Lands, pursuant to the Resolution and Order (Attachment 1).

NEXT STEPS

Upon decertification, no further action is required of the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Certification by State Forester Regarding Resolution and Order of Board of Forestry on Decertification, and Resolution and Order of Board Reclassifying Common School Forest Lands

CERTIFICATION

I, Cal Mukumoto, State Forester of the Oregon State Department of Forestry and Secretary of the Oregon State Board of Forestry, do certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the Resolution and Order of the Oregon State Board of Forestry made at its regular meeting held on _____, which pertains to the decertification of certain state-owned forest lands under provisions of ORS 530.470.

Cal Mukumoto, Secretary

STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
County of Marion)

Signed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20__ by Cal Mukumoto.

Notary Public for Oregon
My Commission expires: _____

**BEFORE THE OREGON
BOARD OF FORESTRY**

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| In the Matter of the Decertification |) | ORDER |
| of the Elliott State Forest Lands as |) | RECLASSIFYING |
| Common School Forest Lands |) | COMMON SCHOOL |
| |) | FOREST LANDS |

WHEREAS, ORS 530.460, 530.470 and 530.480 provide a process for identifying, certifying and decertifying Common School Forest Lands, which are primarily suited for growing timber and other forest products, provided the lands are defined by ORS 530.460; and

WHEREAS, by separate resolution each board is required to so designate and set aside such lands;

WHEREAS, ORS 530.470(2) states that any lands so designated and set aside may, at any time, be returned to their original status by similar actions of said agencies, if said lands are to be used for higher and better use for the general public, including the sale of said lands where lawful;

WHEREAS, in 2013, the State Land Board conditionally decertified certain parcels of land in the Elliott State Forest and subsequently sold the parcels, thereby removing them from Department of Forestry management;

WHEREAS, in 2015 the State Land Board directed that the Department of State Lands should return the remaining Elliott State Forest Lands held in State Ownership to their original status;

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Department of State Lands removed certification of remaining lands in the Elliott State Forest from its Interagency Agreement for management of Common School Forest Lands with the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Department of State Lands has managed these lands since this time;

WHEREAS, the Board of Forestry had not adopted a decertification order to date with respect to these remaining lands;

WHEREAS, the Department of State Lands is currently considering proposed LC54 for the 2022 session which would establish an Elliott State Research Forest and create an Elliott State Research Forest Authority to administer these lands;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure all necessary actions have been completed prior to future management of the Elliott, the Board finds it proper to adopt a resolution and order to the State Land Board's 2015 action, decertifying the remaining Elliott State Forest lands in State Ownership as Common School Forest Lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Forestry that the remaining forestland parcels comprising the Elliott State Forest not previously decertified by this Board and in State Ownership, totaling approximately 84,144 certified acres (more or less), previously decertified by the State Land Board and Department of State Lands, be decertified by this Board pursuant to ORS 530.470(2) and returned to their original status. A map of the Elliott State Forest Lands held by the Department of State Lands, previously managed Oregon Department of Forestry prior to 2017, is attached as Exhibit A.

The State Forester, as Secretary of this board, is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution and Order to the Director of the Department of State Lands and the Secretary of State.

Adopted by the Board of Forestry at its meeting on _____.

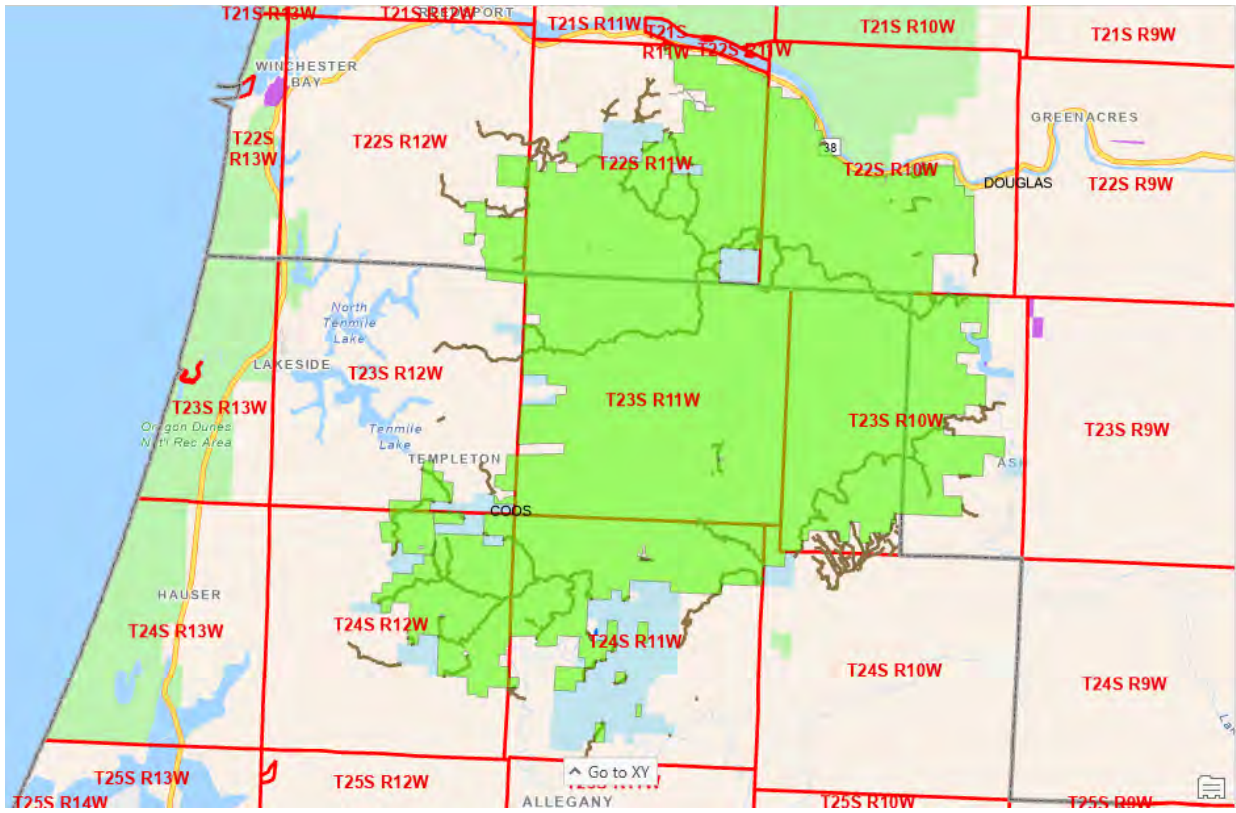
State Board of Forestry

Cal Mukumoto, Secretary

Date

EXHIBIT A

Elliott State Forest Common School Forest Land Parcels: Decertification



Elliott State Forest Historic ODF Management Lands

- Legend:
- = Elliott State Forest DSL Lands (managed by ODF until 2017)
 - = ODF Board of Forestry Lands (not affected by decertification)
 - = Common School Lands continued under ODF management (not affected)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | E |
| Work Plan Title & #: | Fire Protection Work Plan |
| Topic Title: | Annual Smoke Management Plan Update |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Tim Holschbach, Deputy Chief – Policy & Planning 503-945-7434, tim.j.holschbach@odf.Oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Board of Forestry (Board) on the progress of rule implementation for the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (SMP).

CONTEXT

The Smoke Management Plan is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to manage prescribed burning on private, federal, and other public lands to protect air quality and maintain forest productivity and health. ORS 477.013 requires the State Forester and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to approve a plan. The plan is to be developed by ODF in cooperation with federal and state agencies, landowners and organizations that will be affected by the plan.

The purpose of the Smoke Management Plan is to ensure the smoke management policy and program implementation is balanced in achieving the following two goals outlined in ORS 477.552:

- (1) *“To improve the management of prescribed burning as a forest management and protection practice; and*

- (2) *To minimize emissions from prescribed burning consistent with the air quality objectives of the federal Clean Air Act and the state of Oregon Clean Air Act Implementation Plan developed by the Department of Environmental Quality.”*

BACKGROUND

Both the Board and Environmental Quality Commission approved these recommended administrative rule changes in January of 2019 and requested a progress report on the new rules approximately a year later. The Department has provided updates to the Board annually on the progress of implementation of the administrative rules.

DEQ incorporated the revised administrative rules into the federally approved Oregon Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan, which has been approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For reference, key revisions include:

- Updating the definitions of “smoke intrusion” and “smoke incident,”
- Changing how smoke incidents and smoke intrusions are characterized,
- Allowing an increased size and thickness of polyethylene sheeting to be burned along with piled forest fuels,
- Promoting non burning alternatives,

- Adding a section on the necessity of safeguarding public health,
- Adding a statewide communication plan, and
- Adding community response plans and exemption guidelines for smoke vulnerable and smoke sensitive receptor areas (SSRAs).

These new strategies are intended to improve the integration of DEQ, ODF, and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) agency objectives to both minimize smoke and emissions from prescribed burns while also providing maximum opportunity for prescribed burning as a responsible forest management and protection practice.

ANALYSIS

Due to the impacts of Covid-19, the fall burning season of 2021 was the first opportunity for full implementation of the new SMP forecasting models.

| Year | Acres Burned | Acres Burned 10 Yr Average | Smoke Incidents** | Smoke Intrusion*** | Smoke Intrusion 10 Yr. Average |
|------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2019 | 200,629 | 175,942 | 39 | 6 | 9 |
| 2020 | 129,427 | 173,162 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| 2021 | 143,653 | 165,837 | 43* | 2 | 7 |

*37 Spring 2021, 6 Fall 2021

** “Smoke incident” means the verified entrance of smoke from prescribed burning into an SSRA at levels below a smoke intrusion (see “smoke intrusion” definition), other areas sensitive to smoke, or a community other than an SSRA.

*** “Smoke intrusion” means the verified entrance of smoke from prescribed burning into an SSRA at ground level that averages at or above 70 micrograms per cubic meter of particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM2.5) for any one-hour period and/or averages at or above 26 micrograms per cubic meter for a 24-hour period, measured from midnight to midnight.

Under OAR 629-048-0180, the SMP allowed for local governments to develop Community Response Plans. These plans facilitate for exemptions to the 1-hour intrusion threshold due to increased community communication, planning, and mitigation measures.

Community Response Plans that allow exemptions to the 1-hour intrusion level include Wallowa County, Deschutes County, and the City of Ashland.

Lake County and the City of Oakridge have developed Community Response Plans without a 1-hour exemption.

Wasco and Hood River Counties, Union County, Klamath County, and Jackson County have Community Response Plans in development.

Each federally recognized tribe in Oregon is also conducting smoke preparedness projects on tribal lands.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.

STAFF REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | F |
| Work Plan: | Fire Protection Work Plan |
| Topic: | Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation |
| Presentation Title: | Hearing request to Expand Frenchglen RFPA Boundary |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Levi Hopkins, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager 503-949-3572, Levi.A.Hopkins@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of expanding the current boundary for Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) to include additional rangeland not currently protected.

CONTEXT

This is part of the Department's ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

Rangeland owners in Harney County have provided a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the Board to hold a public hearing about providing protection from fire for rangelands by expanding the current boundary of the Frenchglen Rangeland Protection Association (Attachments 2 and 3).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Rangelands in eastern Oregon present a concern to Forest Protection Districts because of the lack of fire protection. Fires starting on these lands, left uncontrolled, have frequently threatened, or spread to forestlands protected by the Department. This creates a dilemma for the district and potential use of district resources on unprotected lands that do not financially support the protection district.

The 2004 Fire Program Review identified assisting local communities in developing fire protection on unprotected lands as a high priority. Rangeland Protective Associations have been formed in Ash Butte, Blue Mt., Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Greater Pine Valley, Lookout Glasgow, Lone Pine, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Warner Valley, Wagontire, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County.

The area the private landowners are considering for fire protection is interspersed with other land management agencies.

Although the emphasis is protection of private lands, opportunities will exist for partnerships and mutual aid agreements with other entities to strengthen wildland fire protection throughout the area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the landowners' request to hold a public hearing about providing protection from fire for rangelands in Harney County, Oregon.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will hold a public hearing and determine the support for providing fire protection in Harney County, Oregon. If there is sufficient support, a request will be made from the landowners to the Board to determine whether the rangeland should be included within a protection system.

If the Board determines that the rangeland should be included in a rangeland protection system, the Board, in cooperation with interested persons, will establish the extent and type of protection to be provided. Such protection shall be commensurate with the values and uses of the rangeland to be protected.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Letter from Frenchglen Rangeland Protection Association
- (2) Map of current and proposed expansion to Frenchglen Rangeland Protection Association
- (3) Wide view map of current and proposed boundary of Frenchglen Rangeland Protection Association.

PETITION TO EXPAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF FRENCHGLEN RFPA
RECITALS

1. Ranchers in the Diamond Valley, which currently is within the Area of Responsibility of the Crane RFPA, have brought to the attention of the Frenchglen RFPA that there exists an area of unprotected rangelands, of which some are owners, permittees, or lessees, south of Diamond Valley and east of a portion of the Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen RFPA, as shown on the attached map. This area of unprotected rangelands is described as the Donut Hole, most of which is west of the Steens Mountain summit ridge. Furthermore, these Diamond Valley ranchers informed the Frenchglen RFPA they believed their interests would be better served by having the Diamond Valley area incorporated into the Frenchglen RFPA.

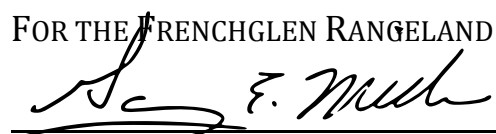
2. The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Frenchglen RFPA conducted October 22, 2019, was presented a petition signed by various Diamond Valley ranchers Buck Taylor (VE Ranches), Bill Otley (Diamond Valley Ranch), Todd Carson (Kiger Ranch), Seth and Tim O’Crowley (Tree Top Ranches), Bryan Dunn, Larry Otley, Fred Otley, and John Thissell (Roaring Springs Ranch) asking, among other things, that the Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen RFPA be expanded to include the Donut Hole and thereby their owned, permitted, or leased lands therein so that no unprotected rangeland remains, and furthermore that the Diamond Valley area be incorporated into the Frenchglen RFPA. A copy of the ranchers’ petition is attached. The Association by unanimous vote at that meeting resolved to present such a petition to the Oregon Board of Forestry.

PETITION

Now, therefore, the Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association PETITIONS the Oregon Board of Forestry to bring so much of the above described Donut Hole west of the Steens Mountain Summit Ridge and the Diamond Valley into the Frenchglen RFPA Area of Responsibility.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of May, 2020.

FOR THE FRENCHGLEN RANGELAND FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



GARY MILLER, PRESIDENT

Date:
To:

Board of Directors, Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association
and
Oregon Department of Forestry

Petition to Expand Area of Responsibility of Frenchglen RFPA

We, the undersigned, are owners or lessees/permittees of rangeland within the Area of Responsibility of the Crane Rangeland Fire Protection Association and/or are lessees/permittees of rangeland within or unprotected rangeland adjacent to the current Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

We ask that the Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association be expanded to include our properties, that the Diamond Valley area be included in the Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen RFPA and removed from the Crane RFPA, and that such expansion result in an Area of Responsibility that borders on adjacent Rangeland Fire Protection Associations so that no unprotected rangeland remains.

Signed,

Kiger Ranch
Name: Todd Carson ✓
Address: 49770 Kiger Rd
Diamond Or. 97722

DIAMOND VALLEY RANCH, INC.
Name: Bill Otley
Address: 38629 S. DIAMOND LN ✓
DIAMOND, OR 97722

Name: Larry Otley ✓
Address: 40710 Pigeon Ln,
Diamond, OR.

ROBERTS SPRING
Name: John Thissell
Address: 49360 Roberts Ranch Rd
Diamond or

Name: Fred Otley
Address: 40926 S Diamond Ln
Diamond OR 97722

Name: Tom O'Conley
Address: 10000 Hwy Brown Ln.
Diamond OR 97722

Petition to Expand Area of Responsibility of Frenchglen RFPA

Name: Bryan Duma
Address: 37975
S. Diamond Ln.
Diamond, Or 97722

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Date:
To:

Board of Directors, Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association
and
Oregon Department of Forestry

Petition to Expand Area of Responsibility of Frenchglen RFPA

We, the undersigned, are owners of ~~unprotected~~ rangeland or are lessees/permittees of ~~unprotected~~ rangeland adjacent to the current Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

We ask that the Area of Responsibility of the Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association be expanded to include our properties, and that such expansion result in an Area of Responsibility that borders on adjacent Rangeland Fire Protection Associations so that no unprotected rangeland remains.

Signed,

Name: Buck Taylor ^{Kiger Ranch}
Address: 49048 W. Ln
Diamond 97722

Name: Lisa P. Crowley
Address: 49150 Ham Brook Ln,
Diamond OR 97722

DIAMOND VALLEY RANCH
Name: Bill O'Leary
Address: 38629 S DIAMOND LN
DIAMOND OR

Name: Bryan Dunn
Address: 37975
S. Diamond Ln
Diamond, Or 97722

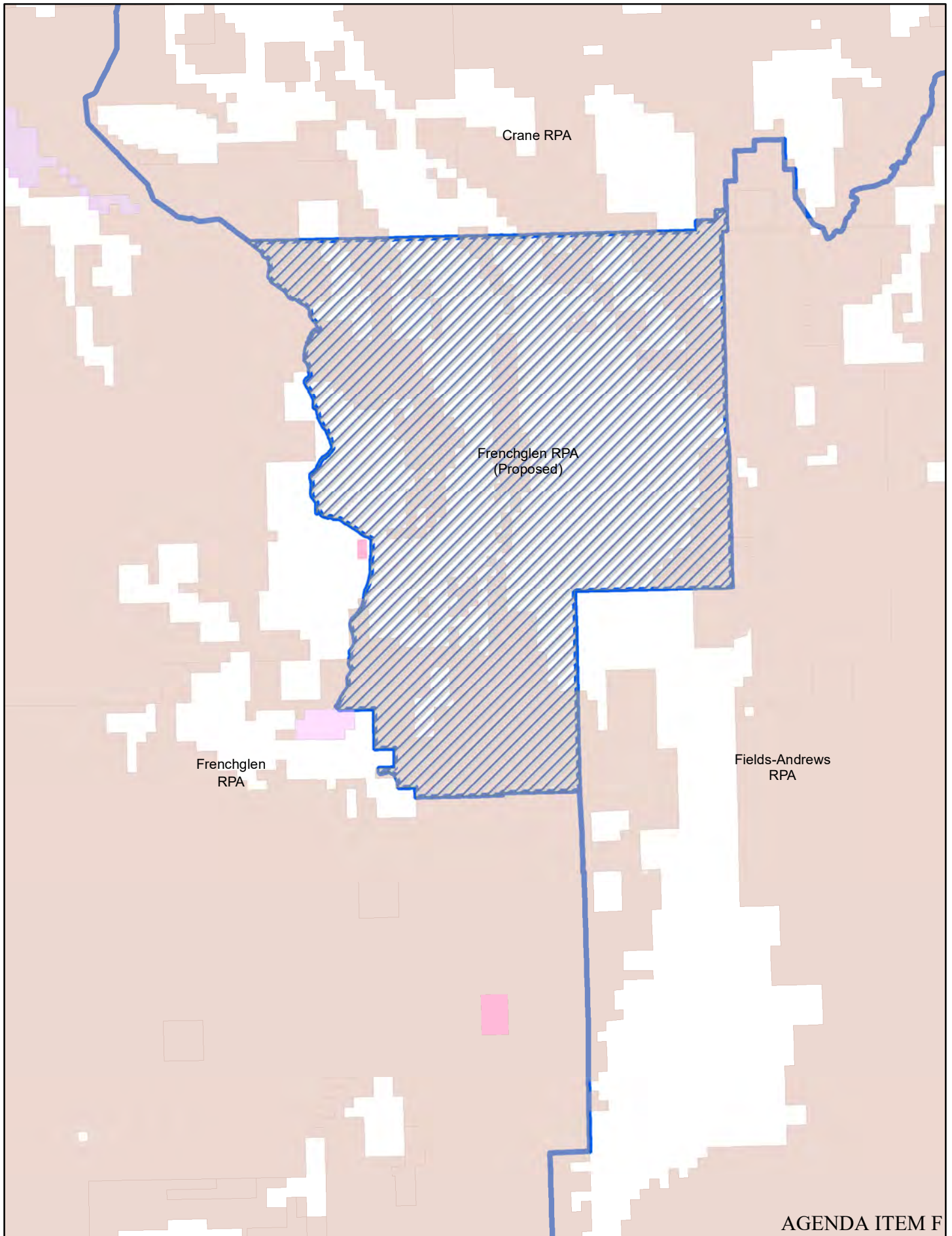
Kiger Ranch
Name: Todd Carson
Address: 49770 Kiger Rd
Diamond Or. 97722

Name: _____
Address: _____

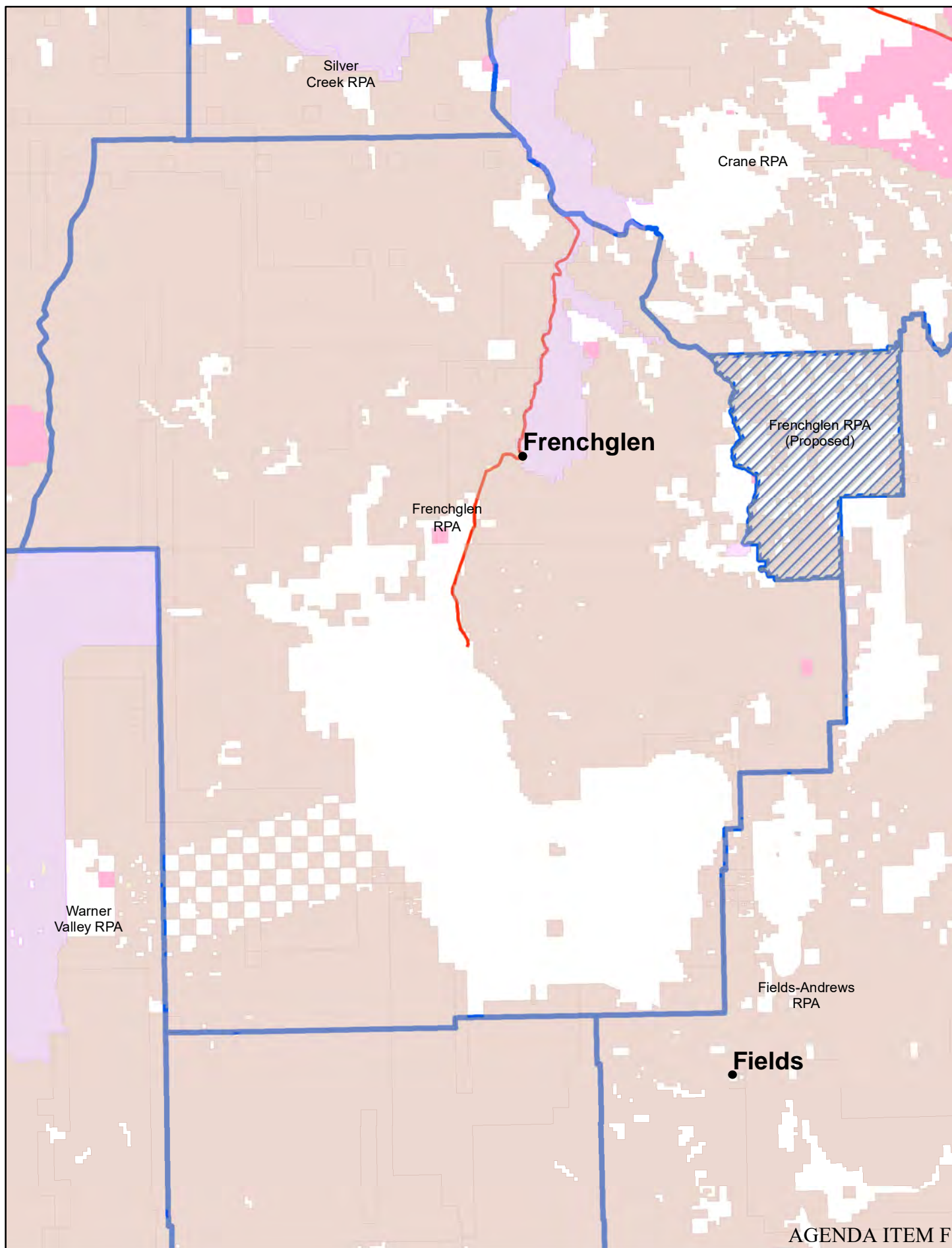
TREE TOP RANCHES
Name: Seth O'Crowley
Address: 39168
S. Diamond Ln 97722

Name: _____
Address: _____

Frenchglen Proposed Expansion Boundary



Frenchglen Proposed Expansion Boundary



MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL INTERAGENCY FOREST PRACTICE RULE REVIEW
MEETING REPORT**

TO: Members of the Board of Forestry

FROM: Cal Mukumoto, State Forester

DATE: March 9, 2022

This memorandum and attachment summarizes the 2021 annual meetings held with other state agencies regarding the sufficiency of the Forest Practice Rules and proper coordination with other agencies with an interest in the forest environment. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 629-605-0110 states “The State Forester shall, at least once each year, meet with other state agencies concerned with the forest environment to review the Forest Practice Rules relative to sufficiency. The State Forester shall then report to the Board of Forestry a summary of such meeting or meetings together with recommendations for amendments to rules, new rules, or repeal of rules.”

The report (attachment 1) relates to the 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon vision of ensuring statewide forest resource policies are coordinated among Oregon’s natural resource agencies. The report directly relates to the following goals:

Goal A.2. Support an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act and a strong, but flexible, Land Use Planning Program as the cornerstones of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon. The Board will use non-regulatory methods as much as feasible to achieve public-policy goals on private forestlands, and consider the use of additional regulatory methods only when non-regulatory methods are either not feasible or are not likely to achieve the desired outcome.

Goal B.1. Continue to assess the unique challenges and opportunities facing federal, state, local government, tribal, industrial, investment, and family forest landowners and promote policies that result in economic conditions sufficient to encourage continued retention of, and investment in, forestlands in each of these ownership groups.

Goal C.4. Promote and use a variety of tools for retaining Oregon’s forestland base, including public acquisition of forests.

Goal C.5. Promote policy frameworks and land management assistance programs that recognize and encourage the diverse management objectives of Oregon’s public and private forestland owners. Diverse forest management objectives provide a suite of benefits, which collectively, in appropriate proportions and locations, will meet Oregon's environmental, economic, and social needs.

Goal D.1. Use education, engineering, incentives, and enforcement of the Forest Practices Act to protect soil productivity and water quality on non-federal forestlands.

Goal D.2. Promote understanding, acceptance, and support across all land uses for relevant evaluations of water quality conditions based on beneficial uses, and the use of these evaluations to develop stream protection policies across land uses that result in consistent application of state water quality standards.

Goal D.4. Promote the maintenance of forestland in forest uses and promote the establishment of new forests as key elements in promoting high quality water and protection of soil productivity.

Goal D.5. Promote forest management that perpetuates the ecological processes— including disturbance dynamics—that contribute to desired aquatic habitat and water quality using a landscape level approach.

Goal D.6. Support and contribute to continuing statewide efforts under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to enhance, restore and protect Oregon’s native salmonid populations, watersheds, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat, while sustaining a healthy economy.

Goal D.7. Recognize that private forest landowners’ contribution to providing Oregonians with high quality drinking water is achieved through compliance with state water quality standards.

Goal D.8. Promote management practices that protect forest soil productivity from losses due to human-induced landslides, soil erosion, and soil compaction.

Annual meetings are offered individually to natural resource agencies. In addition to discussing forest practice issues, meetings are used to discuss a range of Department programs and state agency coordination issues. A decision to hold a formal meeting is based upon the relative importance of the issues identified during pre-meeting discussions, the adequacy of ongoing coordination, and the preference of the invited agency.

There were no specific recommendations for Forest Practice rule changes.

Attachment 1: Annual Rule Review Meeting Report 2021

FOREST RESOURCES DIVISION

ANNUAL RULE REVIEW MEETING REPORT 2021

Introduction

This report describes the annual meetings the State Forester conducted during 2021, to ensure proper coordination among state agencies with an interest in the forest environment and forest practice rule sufficiency. OAR 629-605-0110 states, “The State Forester shall, at least once each year, meet with other state agencies concerned with the forest environment to review the Forest Practice Rules relative to sufficiency. The State Forester shall then report to the Board of Forestry a summary of such meeting or meetings together with recommendations for amendments to rules, new rules, or repeal of rules.”

All state natural resource agencies were invited to meetings, as were several additional agencies that often collaborate or coordinate with the Department on forest resource issues. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) field and program staff contributed input regarding issues of interagency coordination. Oregon Department of Forestry staff asked the other agencies for items to discuss at the annual meeting. A decision to hold a formal meeting is based upon the relative importance of the issues identified during pre-meeting discussions, the adequacy of ongoing coordination, and the preference of the invited agency.

Summary of Meeting Results

There were no specific recommendations for rule changes. Topics discussed, potential action items identified, and follow-up actions occurring as a result at the meetings are described on these pages.

Meetings held in 2021:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 04/26/21 | Oregon Department of Agriculture |
| 06/24/21 | Oregon Water Resources Department |
| 06/25/21 | Oregon State University Forestry Department |
| 07/08/21 | Department of Environmental Quality |
| 10/29/21 | Oregon Parks and Recreation Department |
| 11/19/21 | Oregon Health Authority |
| 11/30/21 | Columbia River Gorge Commission |

No Response: Department of State Lands
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon State University Extension
Oregon Forest Resources Institute
Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Department of Transportation
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon Water Enhancement Board

Office of Emergency Management

Declined: Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Oregon Department of Agriculture

April 26, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Lisa Hanson, Deputy Director
Stephanie Page, Director of Natural Resources
Marganne Allen, Water Quality Program Manager
Toby Primbs, Pesticide Program Manager
Rose Kachadoorian, Program Manager and PARC Administrator
Helmuth Rogg, Director of Plant Protection and Conservation
Elizabeth Savory, Plant Health Program Manager
Chris Benemann, Nursery Program Manager

Oregon Department of Forestry

Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief
Josh Barnard, SB 1602 Project Manager
Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager
Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

- SB1602
 - Brief overview, conversation about the response from applicators and operators, sharing of outreach materials.
- Sudden Oak Death
 - Update on current conditions of SOD in Southern Oregon, upcoming meeting with Rep Brock Smith, upcoming changes or needs for quarantine borders and next steps.
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnership
 - General update on current research of found pesticides in streams, the impact of upcoming legislative budget, and coordination of regulatory measures between ODF/ODA.
- Land Use Conversions
 - General communication across agencies for land use conversion, training could be necessary, provide a GIS layer to share information on conversions across agencies.
- Water Quality, TMDL Reporting, Ag Water Quality
 - Mercury TMDLs and coordination with ODF/ODA/DEQ.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Set up ODA/ODF conversation on SOD after meeting with Rep Brock Smith.
- Josh and Kyle to work with Rose to provide information regarding SB1602; this information will be used as supplemental study material for individuals taking ODA pesticide applicator exams.
- ODF to share Land Use Conversion training and information with ODA Kevin Fenn or Marganne.
- ODF to work with ODA to provide layer for land use conversion information.
- ODF and ODA to collaborate on mercury TMDLs reporting.
- ODA (Marganne) to contact ODF (Thomas) to connect about DEQ water quality for catastrophic events.
- Kyle to connect with District Forester to gain sense of drought conditions in the Klamath region and general public concern.

Water Resources Department

June 24, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Oregon Water Resources Department

Doug Woodcock, Deputy Director
Mike McCord, Northwest Region Manager
Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator
Racquel Rancier, Policy Manager

Oregon Department of Forestry

Nancy Hirsch, Acting State Forester
Lena Tucker, Deputy State Forester
Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief
Josh Barnard, SB 1602 Project Manager
Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager
Brooke Burgess, Admin Specialist
Michael Lathrop, GIS Specialist
Jay Walters, Forest Practices Field Coordinator
Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

SB 1602

- Drafting of final report to legislature 2022
Ponds/Fire – Water Tanks vs Ponds – Pond Enforcement
- Communication Coordination
Fire Recovery/Restoration
- SRF7 group and tasks moving forward.
- Well Water Concerns
Drought Concerns and Communication

ACTION ITEMS:

- WRD will take the lead in drafting up the report for SB1602 (Bryn), and will provide at the next SB 1602 meeting (July 1st) to go over the draft. Potential to develop interagency memorandum of agreement.
- Lena asked to keep in contact on ponds and WRD regulations, and will inform the fire aviation team of the work that WRD will be doing.
- ODF and WRD to put together talking points on ponds and their use in wildfire suppression.

Oregon State University College of Forestry

June 25, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Oregon State University College of Forestry

Tom DeLuca, Dean of Forestry
Meg Krawchuk, Associate Professor
Catalina Segura, Associate Professor
Matthew Powers, Assistant Professor
Francisca Belart, Assistant Professor
Mindy Crandall, Assistant Professor

Oregon Department of Forestry

Lena Tucker, Deputy State Forester
Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief
Josh Barnard, SB 1602 Project Manager
Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

Introductions
Program Overview
SB1602
Collaboration Opportunities
Post Fire Logging/Recovery
Climate Change and Resiliency

ACTION ITEMS:

- Collaborate on processes, applications, etc. to FPA.
- Mindy to contact Josh for potential student teaching support.
- Josh to share invitation for the SB1602 meetings for interest.
- Share Department of Justice memo on climate change

Department of Environmental Quality

July 8, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Department of Environmental Quality

Jennifer Wigal, Deputy WQ Administrator
Justin Green, WQ Division Administrator
Zach Loboy, WQ Manager
Deb Mailander, Western Region 401 Manager
Steve Mrazik, NWR WQ Manager
Christine Svetkovich, WQ Erosion & Sediment Control Manager
Jeff Brittain, Project Manager, Interim Program Coordinator for 401 Program

Oregon Department of Forestry

Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief
Josh Barnard, Private Forests Deputy Chief
Keith Baldwin, FPA Field Coordinator
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

Land Conversions

- Tracking of Land Conversions
- Training for Land Conversion Process
- Application Process and Interagency Communication

Clean Water Act 404 and DEQ's 401 Certification and Forest Operations

- Overview of Certification
- CWA and 401 Certifications
- ODF Interface with 401 Certification

SB1602

- Overview of SB1602
- Collection of Data

DEQ General Pesticide Permit Update

ACTION ITEMS:

- Kyle to share subscriber background 1-pager for use at DEQ field offices..
- Keith will send out land conversion agreement.
- Scott and Josh to connect with Zach to start putting together outline of training program for land use conversions.
- Steve to provide more background info on 401 certifications with ODF.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

October 29, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Lisa Sumption, Director

Trevor Taylor, Stewardship Manager

Oregon Department of Forestry

Josh Barnard, Acting Private Forests Division Chief

Mike Kroon, Seed Orchard Manager

Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist

Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

In Stream Tree Placement/Removal in Scenic Waterways

Resource Protection during Fires and Fire Communication

Post-Fire Recovery Tree Planting

OPRD Organizational Updates

Project Implementation Cooperation and Collaboration, Price Agreements

Legislative Concepts

ACTION ITEMS:

- Thomas and Trevor connect to ensure that the proper contacts are in place for FERNS notifications.
- ODF to connect the protection division with OPRD to discuss the best way to convey cultural resource information to fire teams during an incident.

Oregon Health Authority

November 19, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Oregon Health Authority

Andre Oruso, Center for Health Protection Administrator
Gabiella Goldfarb, Environmental Public Health Section Manager
Kari Salis, Technical Manager, Drinking Water Program

Oregon Department of Forestry

Cal Mukumoto, State Forester
Josh Barnard, Acting Forest Resources Division Chief
Keith Baldwin, FPA Field Coordinator
Ron Graham, Deputy Chief Fire Protection
Tim Holschbach, Fire Prevention and Policy Manager
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

Organizational Updates
OHA/DEQ PFAS drinking water sampling project updates
Rep Reynolds Source Water Protection Workgroup
Upcoming ICS Trainings and communicating training opportunities to ODF
ODF/DEQ/OHA Partnership in Support of Smoke Management/Prescribed Burning and success of this collaboration
SB1602 update, implications, and the finalization of mediation
Private Forest Accord

ACTION ITEMS:

- OHA to share communication on offering ICS classes.
- ODF to provide a link to online information regarding signing up for pesticide notifications to OHA.
- ODF and OHA to connect Gabriela and Kristin Ramstad about Urban Forestry.
- ODF to send copy of the Private Forest Accord documents to OHA for awareness.

Columbia River Gorge Commission

November 30, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director
Aiden Forsi, Land Use Planner
Jessica Olson, Natural Resources Planner
Lisa Naas Cook, Vital Sign Indicators Planner

Oregon Department of Forestry

Josh Barnard, Acting Forest Resources Division Chief
Mike Kroon, Interim Deputy Chief All Lands
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager
Keith Baldwin, FPA Field Coordinator
Adam Coble, Forest Health and Monitoring Manager
Amy Singh, Forest Legacy Program Manager
Danny Norlander, Climate Change Carbon Plan
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

TOPICS:

Organizational Updates
SB1602
Private Forest Accord and the recently finalized MOU
Forest Legacy Program and Hood River project
Climate Change Carbon Plan Presentation and Questions

- Carbon Storage strategy
- Tribal and community relations and feedback

Vital Signs Indicators Program

- Fuels reduction indicators
- Carbon sequestration
- Data tracking of fuels reduction

ACTION ITEMS:

- ODF to share the documents from Private Forest Accord with CRGC.
- ODF to provide the powerpoint that Danny Norlander shared on the Climate Change and Carbon Plan to CRGC.

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|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No: | H |
| Work Plan Title: | Administrative |
| Presentation Title: | 2022-2024 Draft Board Work Plans |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director 503-779-5278, ryan.p.gordon@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) executive leadership will present the final 2022-2024 work plans for Board consideration and approval.

CONTEXT

The development of Board work plans is 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.

At the October Planning Retreat, Department staff discussed potential work plan items for 2022-2024 with the Board. Specific deliverables, processes, and timelines for each item or issue will be detailed in individual work plans (see attachments).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

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.

The process of developing work plans provides a number of advantages including:

- Allowing staff to more efficiently allocate time among multiple demands,
- Providing the public with a better idea about when to provide input, and
- Organizing the Board's work so that it leads to specific decisions.

The steps of the work plan development process include:

September – Staff presents information to help the Board take stock of the current situation surrounding forest issues. *Note: these items were heard on the November 2021 agenda*

October – Planning Retreat – Board and Department discuss work plan priorities

January – Department staff provides an overview of draft work plans

March – Board approves two-year work plans

RECOMMENDATION

To approve the 2022-2024 Board work plans as presented in attachments one through six.

NEXT STEPS

The approved work plans will be posted online for the public. The Board will review the work plans with the Department at the October planning retreat to discuss any modifications to the 2022-2024 work plans.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Emerging and Overarching Issues Work Plan
- 2) Climate Change and Carbon Work Plan
- 3) Senate Bill 762 Implementation Work Plan
- 4) Fire Protection Work Plan
- 5) State Forests Work Plan
- 6) Administrative Work Plan

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Work Plan: | Emerging & Overarching Issues |
| Version: | 2022-2024 Final |
| Primary Contacts: | Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director |
| Date Presented: | March 9, 2022 |

OVERVIEW

The Planning Branch serves the Board of Forestry, ODF Divisions, coordinates policy analysis and input to the Governor’s Office and other state agencies, and partners with federal land management agencies to achieve cross-boundary restoration work. As it relates to policy development, the Planning Branch houses agency expertise in forest ecology, forest economics, and economic development.

The Emerging & Overarching Issues work plan cover the following topics:

- Elements pertaining to the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO). The Forestry Program for Oregon describes the Board’s mission, values, vision, goals, objectives, and indicators of sustainable forest management and is a central element for informing and directing the Board of Forestry’s framework for strategic planning.
- Emerging topics not yet ready for decision making or inclusion in one of the Division work plans. Planning Branch staff will conduct background research on topics of interest to the Board, identify timelines for discussion, and provide the foundation for division work plan items or allow items to sunset if action will not be taken on the topic.

WORK PLAN ITEMS

TOPIC: Revise the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO)

The *Forestry Program for Oregon* (FPFO) serves as the strategic plan for the Board of Forestry. The purpose of the Board’s Strategic Plan is to institute a comprehensive sustainable forest management policy vision and framework for guiding the agency, informing actions, and discussing and measuring performance on all Oregon public and private forest ownerships. The Board’s Strategic Plan was last updated in 2011 and is due for review and consideration for revision by the Board. In addition, the revision will permit further clarity on board policy interests, direction, and alignment between the board and agency values.

The 2011 version relied heavily on the 2003 edition for its foundation. The Board updated its mission, vision, and value statements in 2011, though the seven strategies identified in the 2003 document were relabeled as goals and largely remained unchanged. The Board’s Strategic Plan adopted in 2011 is a highly layered document with five vision statements, eleven values, and seven goals, each with no less than seven objectives.

The most significant change was the inclusion of rating information for the 19 Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management, based on the Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forest's input. These indicators were intended as a metric to inform the Board on pertinent issues, to measure performance, and inform policy, regulatory, and management decisions. To ensure that Board members had up-to-date information in a timely fashion, the indicators were intended to be updated and reported on a regular basis. In 2015, the Board de-emphasized this set of indicators acknowledging that the indicators framework when reported on in lump sum had multiple missing pieces and multiple points of redundancy. In November 2014, the Board moved away from the indicators as a single framework. The Board recognized the importance of maintaining these data sets and in building relationships with partners to help maintain and provide data. Instead of annual Indicator reports, the Board asked that Department staff bring forward similar information on pertinent issues as they arise.

At present, an initial FPFO revision discussion with the Board in October 2019 indicated an interest in revising the current Board Strategic Plan and in January 2020 the Board confirmed this interest. Emergence and prioritization of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan along with capacity challenges and changes in Board membership and leadership have slowed the initiation of the FPFO revision process. With the completion of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan, explicit deliberation of an FPFO revision will be able to proceed. Within this determination, the Board must decide the nature and extent of the FPFO revision and determine a process. This effort along with a revision of the Board's Strategic Plan will require significant time and potentially extend beyond a two-year timeframe to fully develop. These aspects were further acknowledged and agreed to at the October 2021 Board Retreat.

There are three primary deliverables in this work plan. The work plan matrix includes more specific steps for each of the deliverables summarized here.

1. Determine scope and process of the Forestry Program for Oregon Revision
2. Revision of the Forestry Program for Oregon consistent with scope and process
3. Development of Indicators for the Forestry Program for Oregon

Specific elements for the Board timeline will be determined once the scope and process have been decided. The Board will also need to determine a process for including a public comment in its revision to the FPFO.

TOPIC: Senate Bill 762 Implementation

Provisions in the bill will be implemented by the Protection Division, Forest Resources Division, and the Planning Branch, which are outlined in the issue-based Senate Bill (SB) 762 Implementation Board work plan. The Planning Branch specifically has been tasked with developing a 20-year strategic plan, and the milestones as it relates to the Board are noted in the SB 762 Implementation work plan matrix.

| Emerging & Overarching Issues | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | July | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Revise the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revise FPFO – Scope and Process | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Adopt a plan for revision scope and process | | i | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revise FPFO – To be determined (TBD) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Full revision TBD based on Scope and Process decision | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revise FPFO Indicators | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Review past indicators | | TBD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Develop current indicators | | TBD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Matrix Key:

TBD – **To be decided**

i – **Informational item**

d – **Preceding Decision item**

D – **Final Decision item**

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Work Plan: | Climate Change and Forest Carbon |
| Version: | 2022-2024 Final |
| Primary Contacts: | Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director |
| Date Presented: | March 9, 2022 |

OVERVIEW

The Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) directed the Department to pursue a wide array of issues relative to climate change and forest carbon. The issue-based work plan is coordinated by the Resources Planning Unit in the Planning Branch, and milestones outline the goals expressed by the Board.

Current Context:

Oregon's forests encompass 30 million acres, 47 percent of the total land area of the state. A variety of statutes and management objectives direct the management of our public and private forests. However, across these different mandates, one commonality exists: Oregon's forests are both an asset and at risk to a changing climate. The state's forests have faced other challenges. Policymakers passed the nation's first Forest Practices Act (1971) and land use protections (1974) to maintain Oregon's forests. Due to these actions, over 97% of Oregon's wildland forests present in 1974 remain forests today.

A changing climate in the state represents a new and different threat to the state's forest ecosystems and communities. We are already seeing examples of forecasted impacts of a warmer climate. In the past decade, large wildfires have shown to be more resistant to suppression actions and tree mortality and susceptibility to disease and insects have increased because of drought stress and extreme heat events. Oregon's economy and communities have been impacted as significant areas of the state have been inundated with unhealthy levels of smoke. These impacts increase the risks and costs to state agencies, communities, industries, and homeowners.

- Fire managers use the energy release component (ERC) as a strong predictor of heightened fire risk and severity. Since 1995, the percentage of the fire season above a critical threshold has risen from 3% to 33% of the season, staying above the critical ERC for 60 days in 2018.
- A direct result of increased wildfire, smoke intrusions into communities have caused health impacts to residents and economic harm to local businesses forced to alter work, cancel events, or evacuate the active fire areas.
- A "bathtub ring" of drought-induced mortality in Douglas-fir and true firs surrounds the Willamette Valley. These native species are on the fringe of their native ranges and exhibiting signs that they are maladapted to changing climate on a local level.

- Extreme heat events have resulted in damage to foliage across landscapes and many different ecotypes, from the coast to the mountains to the urban setting. The full impact of these heat events is still unclear but has a high damage potential.

While the most visible result of climate change at this time is an altered fire environment, there are many other impacts less well understood and studied. Many of these impacts are currently subject to research and monitoring, including species susceptibility to drought and the movement of tree species based on adaptive traits and environmental conditions.

Summary of Work to Date

Climate Change and Carbon Plan (2020-2021)

The Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP) was initiated following a request by the Governor's Office that the department create a plan that would place it as a leader in climate-smart forestry in the region. Department staff initiated this work with the Board, the state forester, and the executive team with that direction. Throughout the waning months of 2020 and throughout 2021, staff have developed drafts of the CCCP and conducted public and stakeholder outreach efforts. Following a late summer Board workshop with the executive staff, the final edits were incorporated, and the plan was approved by the Board at the November 2021 meeting.

The plan intends to act as a visioning document, a road map, for the department as it implements the tenets of climate-smart forestry. This document will be utilized throughout the implementation and planning processes across all areas of the department. Being a living document, it will go through assessment and future revision (likely target of 2026 for revision approval). Incorporation of the CCCP will take place in processes like the Forest Management Plan, Implementation Plans, and also provide a guiding path for the Forestry Program for Oregon revision (in the Overarching Issues workplan).

Department of Justice Carbon and climate Statutory Authority Analysis (2020)

A request to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for legal analysis to inform the board of its statutory authority relative to forest carbon and climate interests, provided awareness and context for the extent to which board climate and carbon policy considerations can be made.

Oregon Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report (2019-2020)

The development of a forest carbon accounting framework for Oregon began with the first iteration of the Oregon Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report (FECR) in 2018. This work was developed in collaboration with the US Forest Service Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA), provided estimates of the stocks and flux of carbon in Oregon's forests, and is compatible with California and Washington for regional analyses. This work will be updated regularly with the continuous remeasurement of FIA field plots and provides a mechanism for monitoring the rate of carbon sequestration in Oregon's forests that is fundamental to evaluating forest conditions and trends, the effect of current forest practices, and potential policy options for forest carbon mitigation.

Oregon Harvested Wood Products Carbon and Oregon Sawmill Energy Report (2020-2021)

The analysis in the Oregon Harvested Wood Products Report which is called for in the work plan along with the Sawmill Energy Report provides the carbon-in-wood-products dimension of Oregon's forest carbon accounting framework. A significant portion of the flux in forest carbon occurs through the removal and production of forest products, which can retain carbon for long periods of time. This report provides an evaluation of how much carbon is stored in wood products, in landfills, or has been emitted back to the atmosphere and will be updated regularly. The Sawmill Energy Report (2021) is based on a survey of Oregon's sawmills and provides estimates of the energy use and production at those mills along with the amount of associated emissions. Like the Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report, this report will continue iteratively as it was designed to utilize fixed data collection conducted by the USDA every three to four years and will be updated on a four-to-five-year basis to reflect new data and improved methodologies. Together with the Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report these reports provide:

1. A framework for evaluating how Oregon's forests and wood products are contributing to carbon sequestration; and
2. A foundation of information for understanding the dynamics of the forest carbon, and baseline to compare the effect of management practices or potential carbon mitigation policies.

Temperate Forest Climate and Carbon Memorandum of Understanding and Regional Collaboration (2019-2020)

Forest Carbon and Climate Change are shared interests not limited by borders. Neighboring states initiated an evaluation of forest carbon and flux and became aware of complementary interests and needs. States formalized a working and knowledge-sharing relationship with the Temperate Forest Climate and Carbon Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU and regional collaboration allow broader and more robust coordination and accountability relative to the evaluation of forest carbon, flux, accounting, and mitigation interests, opportunities, and challenges.

WORK PLAN ITEMS

Topic A: Climate Change and Carbon Plan Tracking

With the approval of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan at the November 2021 Board meeting, various divisions, and programs have begun working on the implementation of the goals and supporting actions. The Planning Branch intends to bring an informational item to the Board with an update on the progress made on that implementation and two years following the plan approval. This will help the board to know how the Department is doing in relation to its goals and what adjustments should be made to work plans and policy direction moving forward.

TOPIC B: Framework for Climate Change Assessment

1. ***Develop a framework the Department can utilize to conduct analysis of policy changes, rule development, or rule revisions and their interaction with climate change related variables.*** This work plan item includes the creation of a policy analysis tool to look at proposed or current statutes and rules to assess the impacts of climate change relative to achieving desired outcomes of those policies. Ideally, this would allow any facet of the Department to utilize the framework to identify the costs, benefits, and trade offs of the proposed actions as well as the potential
2. ***Identify social interactions with climate change assessments.*** This work plan item follows part 1 (above) and would be sequenced with that analysis. The goal is to identify how climate-impacted communities are specifically affected by a policy or rule development or revision with future projections.

TOPIC C: American Forests – Carbon & Climate Change Modelling

1. ***In July of 2021, ODF entered into a partnership with American Forests to use the Carbon Budget Model (CBM) to simulate baseline and alternative forest management scenarios for carbon mitigation in Oregon.*** Results will be consistent across the Pacific Coast states because this research project will be conducted simultaneously with California in a partnership with CalFire and American Forests. The project will include technical collaboration with the Forest Inventory and Analysis program and British Columbia Forest Service and continue the stakeholder engagement process used to produce the Forest Ecosystem Carbon Inventory 2001-2016 and the Harvested Wood Products Carbon Inventory 1906-2018.

Research to simulate the carbon consequences of forest management scenarios is complex and requires numerous decisions at each phase of the process which includes: 1) development of region-specific forest growth and yield data, 2) identifying baseline and alternative scenarios of forest management, 3) parameterizing the model, 4) running the scenarios with the CBM forest simulator, 5) interpretation of results and 6) producing a final report. Results of the modeling will track carbon from the atmosphere through harvested wood products and will be followed by an economic analysis. Updates on significant progress will be provided on a regular basis to the Board of Forestry and stakeholders. Final results and a presentation to the Board of Forestry are expected by June 2023.

Topic D: Participation in the Temperate Forest MOU and Work with the USFS PNW Research Station on Forest Carbon Co-Production efforts

1. ***The Department has been working with the other Pacific states and British Columbia on the Temperate Forest MOU.*** This work plan item continues this focus and highlights the important role that cross-agency/cross-border work is for fully understanding the

impacts of climate change and its influence on the forest environment, harvested wood products, and the flow of wood fiber across the region.

2. ***Additional work has been taking place with the Research Station to assess research and models related to carbon flux in forests.*** This will continue and will include work on social dimensions as well as the influence of fire regime shifts (particularly west slope Cascades fires).
3. ***Enhanced forest change awareness, Changes in Forest Composition, and model improvement stemming from ongoing work related to the carbon accounting framework (2020-2021).*** Stemming from ongoing work related to developing the carbon framework, climate change is predicted to cause changes in the current geographic distribution of trees and other forest plants. We are currently collaborating with the US Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) and Groom Analytics to use the remeasured FIA plots to evaluate how the distribution of forest species may be affected by changes in climate or other controlling factors. This project is expected to be completed before June 2023 and will result in a peer-reviewed article published in a leading scientific journal. This research will represent the first statistical analysis of the FIA remeasurement data to understand the effect of climate change on forest species geography.

Topic E: Estimation of the Department Greenhouse Gas footprint

1. ***The Resource Planning Program of the Planning Branch will undertake a third-party assessment of the agency's greenhouse gas footprint.*** This effort will include a holistic look at the department's operations and include emissions attributable to energy use, fossil fuel usage for daily operations, emissions from forest management activities as best can be captured, among other sources of emissions. While there is a statewide effort being led through a centralized process, the operations that the Department is engaged with are beyond the scope of that effort and warrant a deeper dive. Work to establish this baseline of emissions and footprint were identified as needs in the Climate Change and Carbon Plan for the agency.

| Climate Change Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Topic A: Climate Change and Carbon Plan Tracking | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Tracking of CCCP adoption and progress | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | i | |
| TOPIC B: Framework for Climate Change Assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Develop a framework the Department can utilize to conduct analysis of policy changes, rule development, or rule revisions | | | i | | d | | | | D | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Climate change assessment of rule development or revision following the above framework | | | | | | | | | | | TBD → | | | | | |
| TOPIC C: American Forests – Carbon & Climate Change Modelling | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Complete scenario modeling and project work | | | | | | | | | | | i | | | | | |
| Topic D: Participation in the Temperate Forest MOU and Work with the USFS PNW Research Station on Forest Carbon Co-Production efforts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Work with other Pacific states and British Columbia on the Temperate Forest MOU | | TBD → | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Carbon flux in forests | | TBD → | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Enhanced forest change awareness | | | | | | | | | | | i | | | | | |
| Topic E: Estimation of the Department Greenhouse Gas footprint | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Estimation of the Departments GHG footprint | | | | | | | | | | | i | | | | | |

Matrix Key:

TBD – To be decided

i– Informational item

d – Preceding Decision item

D – Final Decision item

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Work Plan: | Senate Bill 762 Implementation |
| Version: | 2022 – 2024 Final |
| Primary Contact(s): | Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director Derek Gasperini, Public Affairs/Project Management |
| Date Presented: | March 9, 2022 |

OVERVIEW

Purpose and Objective

The Oregon Board of Forestry directed the department to prepare a work plan focused on the implementation of Senate Bill 762. The bill brings new responsibilities to both the board and the department. Ongoing reporting will be crucial to ensuring the successful implementation of bill requirements for the board and across department divisions. Primary responsibility lies with department divisions and their division work plans acknowledge work brought by Senate Bill 762. Detailed work items for the board and department are collected here in this central work plan for implementation of Senate Bill 762.

Current Issues

In January 2019, the Governor issued Executive Order 19–01 creating the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response. The council completed its work during the fall of 2019 and offered 37 recommendations to advance fire protection in Oregon. These recommendations were carried to preceding legislative assemblies and culminated in the passage of Senate Bill 762 by the 2021 Legislature.

Senate Bill 762, referred to as the “Omnibus wildfire bill,” is comprehensive legislation passed with bipartisan support that will provide more than \$220 million to help Oregon modernize and improve wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities, developing safe and effective responses, and increasing the resiliency of Oregon’s landscapes. The bill is the product of years of hard work by the Governor’s Wildfire Council, the Legislature, and state agencies.

The legislation provides direction and investment to many state agencies. For the Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry the bill, among other things, provides legislative direction regarding the wildland-urban interface; statewide fire risk mapping; prescribed fire; directed the department to review and clarify the enforcement of rules pertaining to forestland; baseline standards for unprotected and under-protected lands in Oregon; and establishes grant programs to improve forestland and rangeland restoration and resiliency.

Implementation of Senate Bill 762 requires numerous board actions for 2022–24, including defining wildland-urban interface boundary criteria, statewide wildfire risk classes, creating the state’s wildfire risk map, establishing a certified burn manager program, and establishing baseline standards of wildfire protection.

The department is committed to informing the board of the department’s work. This plan outlines the work of the board and informational items for the department to keep the board apprised of the department’s actions related to the implementation of Senate Bill 762.

TOPICS FOR THE BOARD OF FORESTRY 2022-2024

1. Senate Bill 762 Implementation—Fire Protection (sections 3,7, 25, 27, 28, 30, 30a)
2. Senate Bill 762 Implementation—Forest Resources (sections 18–20, 24)
3. Senate Bill 762 Implementation—Planning Branch (section 18)

Senate Bill 762 Implementation—Fire Protection

Overview

Senate Bill 762 requires the board to pass a series of administrative rules to provide the public and other state agencies guidance on the regulatory framework provided for reducing wildfire risk and increasing fire protection on public and private forestland and rangelands. The guidance provided through these rules have downstream affects for regulations that must be passed by other agencies such as defensible space requirements and building code changes.

The rules required to be passed by the board and the deadlines for their completion are prescribed by Senate Bill 762.

Purpose

The work plan’s purpose is to establish the process and timelines to promulgate administrative rules according to the Administrative Procedures Act, the Secretary of State’s guidance on public involvement in writing administrative rules, and meeting the statutory deadlines required in Senate Bill 762.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Explicit deliverables and timelines established in Senate Bill 762 for Protection Division include:

- Wildland-urban interface identification and criteria—Sections 31–33, deadline June 30, 2022.
- Establish risk classifications and statewide map including wildland-urban interface boundaries—Section 7, deadline June 30, 2022.
- Enforcement rule clarification regarding conducting joint prescribed burns—Section 25, deadline November 30, 2022.
- Establish Certified Burn Manager Program—Section 26.
- Base-line protection standards—Section 28, deadline January 2026.

Awareness Item Only: In addition to the Board deliverables and timelines above, Senate Bill 762 directs the department (Protection Division) to take the following actions:

- Electric Systems Plans—Section 6: Evaluate consumer-owned utility risk-based wildfire protection plans starting June 30, 2022.
- Wildfire Response Capacity—Section 30: Establish and maintain an expanded smoke detection system necessary to detect, locate and extinguish fires at the smallest size possible.
- Wildfire Response Capacity—Section 30a: Maintain Oregon’s complete and coordinated fire protection system to ensure an adequate level of protection as described in ORS 477.062.

Outreach and Public Involvement

Each of the board deliverables for rulemaking in the Protection division involves using a rulemaking advisory committee that includes a diverse group representing Oregonians. All meetings receive adequate public notice, are accessible to the public, and have dedicated public comment periods. Promulgation of Oregon Administrative Rules adheres to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) outlined in Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 183. With the department engaging in a multifaceted rulemaking effort, timelines may change to ensure the Legislative outlined deadlines are met.

Senate Bill 762 Implementation—Forest Resources

Overview

Provisions of Senate Bill 762 require the Forest Resources Division to implement two programs to restore resiliency of public and private forestlands and rangelands by implementing the following programmatic elements:

- *The State Forestry Department shall design and implement a program to reduce wildfire risk through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuel on public or private forestlands and rangelands and in communities near homes and critical infrastructure. (\$20 million investment)*
- *The State Forestry Department shall establish a small forestland grant program for the purpose of providing grants, on a competitive basis, to support small forestland owners in reducing wildfire risk through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels on the owners' property. (\$5 million investment)*

At present, there are no decision points planned for the Board, but staff will provide informational updates—especially around the design and implementation of the program to reduce wildfire risk and small forestland grant program—and seek feedback.

Purpose

The purpose of this work plan is to establish the frequency and substance of updates provided to the Board on the department's progress in implementing the program elements required of the Forest Resources Division in Senate Bill 762.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

There are no specific Board deliverables or actions necessary for the Forest Resources Division to complete its required work under Senate Bill 762. However, with other department divisions' work requiring board actions, and the high visibility of the bill's implementation work, the Forest Resources Division will provide information updates on progress in implementing programmatic elements of Senate Bill 762.

Outreach and Public Involvement

Development of the Landscape Resiliency Program will include convening a workgroup of diverse stakeholders including state and federal agencies, counties, cities, and other units of local government, federally recognized tribes in Oregon, public and private forestland and rangeland owners and collaboratives, and other community organizations. Meetings of the workgroup will be accessible to the public, adequate public notice will be provided, and public input will be sought when selecting strategic landscapes for treatment.

Development of the small forestland program will solicit public input and direct outreach towards small forestland owners, community groups, and Firewise USA communities.

Senate Bill 762 Implementation—Planning Branch

Overview

Senate Bill 762 requires the Planning Branch to implement a 20-year strategic plan:

The department shall develop a 20-year strategic plan, as described in the Shared Stewardship Agreement signed on August 13, 2019, that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction. The plan must be able to be used to direct federal, state and private investments in a tangible way.

At present, there are no decision points planned for the Board, but staff will provide informational updates and seek feedback on development of the 20-year strategic plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this work plan is to establish the frequency and substance of updates provided to the board on the department’s progress in implementing the program elements required of the Planning Branch in Senate Bill 762.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

There are no specific Board deliverables or actions necessary for the Planning Branch to complete its required work under Senate Bill 762. However, with other department divisions’ work requiring Board actions, and the high visibility of the bill’s implementation work, the Planning Branch will provide information updates on progress in developing the 20-year strategic plan.

Outreach and Public Involvement

Development of the 20-year strategic plan will be a highly collaborative process convening a variety of stakeholders and seeking input from ODF staff. Further updates on public outreach will be provided in the first update to the Board.

Board of Forestry Work Plan || 2022–2024 || Senate Bill 762 Implementation

| Senate Bill 762 Implementation Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| SB 762—Fire Protection (sections 3, 7, 25, 27, 28, 30, 30a) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ WUI definition and boundary criteria | | d | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Wildfire risk classification | | d | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Enforcement rule clarification | d | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Certified Burn Manager/Prescribed Fire program | | | | | d | | D | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Base-line fire protection standards | | | | | d | | | | | | | | | | | D |
| SB 762—Forest Resources updates (sections 18–20, 24) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Landscape Resiliency | i | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Small Forestland Grants | i | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | |
| SB 762—Planning Branch (section 18) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ 20-year strategic plan | | | | i | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Matrix Key:
TBD – To be determined
i – Informational item
d – Preceding Decision item
D – Final Decision item

Work Plan: ODF Fire Protection

Version: 2022-2024 Final

Primary Contact: Mike Shaw, Interim Fire Protection Division Chief

Date Presented: March 9, 2022

DIVISION OVERVIEW

Purpose & Objective

The authorizing statute for the Protection Division is ORS 477.005 stating, “The preservation of the forests and the conservation of the forest resources through the prevention and suppression of forest fires hereby are declared to be the public policy of the State of Oregon.” The program’s mission is to protect Oregon forestlands from fire, through a complete and coordinated system with our cooperators, including fire prevention, suppression, investigation, and cost collection. The overarching programmatic goal is to minimize acres burned, the cost of suppression, and the loss to resources through aggressive wildland fire initial attack, secondary only to the protection of human life.

Current Issues and Focus

There are several policy issues affecting the Protection Division that warrants the Board’s attention over the next several years. Maintaining a complete and coordinated protection system requires periodic program review and revisions of policy ensuring a dynamic and sustainable program that encourages participation by stakeholders and cooperators. These reviews have culminated in the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response recommendations and ultimately in the passage of Senate Bill 762, which advances fire protection in Oregon.

This plan outlines ongoing wildfire leadership and policy work of the Board, including the implementation of SB 762 which requires Board action through 2024. The full requirements of Senate Bill 762 can be found in the SB 762 workplan.

DIVISION TOPICS FOR THE BOARD OF FORESTRY 2022-2024

Annual & Ongoing Topics: Intermittently presented to the Board

Overview / Purpose

Approve Protection Budgets: As directed by statute, at the June Board of Forestry meeting, “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.”

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) ...” (State Forester letters). This can be delivered as a consent agenda item.

Fire Season Reports: Protection staff will provide fire season reports monthly, during the fire season.

Smoke Management Annual Report: Since the latest significant revision to the smoke management rules in 2018, Protection staff has been providing an update on prescribed burning on forestland across Oregon. This can be delivered as a consent agenda item.

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 Protection Association formation: Periodically, a request for a public hearing on the possible formation of a Rangeland Protection Association (RPA) 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 RPA. 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 Deliverables with Timelines

At each June Board meeting, the budgets for the forest protection districts and rangeland protection associations, and copies of the FPA letters will be presented to the Board for consideration as directed in statute and the association agreements. Fire season reports will be presented to the Board monthly from June through November and as requested. All other ongoing topics will be presented to the Board on an as-needed basis, often in a consent agenda format.

Outreach and Public Involvement

- Prior to the June Board meeting, the forest protection district budgets are developed through local budget committees made up of landowners, reviewed and discussed at the forest protective association meetings, and required to go through a public hearing at district and unit offices.
- Public comments may be accepted on all annual and ongoing topics at Board meetings.
- FLCC/Forest Patrol.... Forestland classification, the county led precursor to the application of the forest patrol assessment, is conducted following the outreach process outlined in OAR 629-045-0045.

New Opportunities This Biennium: SB 762 Implementation, 2021-2023 Budget Implementation, Prevention Program Advancements and Bureau of Land Management – West Oregon Operating Plan Updates

Topic: SB 762 Implementation and 2021-2023 Budget Implementation

SB 762 Implementation is a priority for the Protection Division and all the elements within SB 762 are covered under a Board Work Plan unique to that effort.

Topic: Prevention Program Advancements

Overview/Purpose

The Department intends to initiate a comprehensive prevention program review, with an intent to advance prevention programs to mitigate the catastrophic risk of wildfire. Given that over 2/3 of fires starting on ODF protected lands are human-caused, the Division expects a prevention program review to result in recommendations for OAR and ORS changes, to be considered through the Board.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

The Division intends to complete the following program review to inform decisions on any ORS or OAR revisions from the Board:

- Prevention Program Review – **June 2023**

Outreach and Public Involvement

Initial review will be focused internally, identifying policy topics to present for Board consideration. Any proposed Oregon Administrative Rule changes will adhere to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) outlined in Chapter 183.

Topic: Bureau of Land Management – West Oregon Operating Plan

Overview/Purpose

The Division anticipates potential changes to the protection system with BLM's interest to adjust fire protection under the West Oregon Operating Plan. Depending on these outcomes, the Division may be seeking a POP for the 23-25 ARB to address the adequate level of protection needs of Oregon's protection system.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

The Division anticipates potential changes to the BLM -Western Oregon Operating Plan:

- BLM, Western Oregon Operating Plan Status Update – **March 2022**

Outreach and Public Involvement

There has been and continues to be, outreach and work revolving around this topic with the BLM, Governor's Office, congressional delegation, LFO, OFIC, EFCC, and others.

| Fire Protection Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | July | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| WORK IN PROGRESS OR EXPECTED ITEMS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Issue: Agency Budget & Senate Bill 762 Implementation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • WUI Definition & Criteria | | d | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Wildfire Risk Classification | | d | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Certified Burn Manager/Prescribed Fire Program | | | | | d | | D | | | | | | | | | |
| • Baseline Fire Protection Standards | | | | | d | | | | | | | | | | | D |
| • Prevention Program Advancement | | | | | i | | | | d | | D | | | | | |
| • BLM West Oregon Operating Plan (i) | | TBD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Issue: Annual and Ongoing Topics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Approve Forest Protection District and Rangeland Protection Association Annual Budgets | | | | D | | | | | | | D | | | | | |
| • Review Letters from FPA’s to State Forester | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | |
| • Fire Season Reports | | | | i | i | i | | | | | i | i | i | | | |
| • Smoke Management Annual Update | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | |
| • Approve Forest Protection Association Agreements (As Needed) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Rangeland Protection Association Formation (As Needed) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Matrix Key:

- TBD – To be decided
- i – Informational item
- d – Preceding Decision item
- D – Final Decision item

Work Plan: ODF State Forests

Version: 2022-2024 Final

Primary Contact: Kate Skinner, Interim State Forests Division Chief

Date Presented: March 9, 2022

DIVISION OVERVIEW

Purpose & Objective

The Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests Division, manages approximately 730,000 acres of forestlands across Oregon under a legal mandate to secure the “greatest permanent value to the people of Oregon” (ORS 530.050 and OAR 629-035-0020). To secure the greatest permanent value (GPV), these state forestlands are actively managed to create and maintain healthy productive forests that provide social, economic, and environmental benefits to Oregonians. Timber sales on these forests create jobs and generate revenue to support our county partners and provide funds for local districts and schools throughout the state. These forests offer recreation and educational opportunities and provide essential wildlife habitat and clean water. Costs associated with managing these public forests are funded primarily through the sale of timber from these lands.

The Division’s core businesses include financial accounting and log tracking, timber sale contracting and administration, fish and wildlife surveys, and implementation of conservation measures. We collect, manage, and analyze data and report outcomes. Field and Salem staff conduct and coordinate reforestation activities, road construction, and maintenance collaborate with local communities and other organizations on habitat improvement projects, maintain recreation facilities and opportunities, and provide educational programs to schools and the public.

Current Issues

Climate change is an existential problem that poses a threat to the health and resiliency of Oregon’s State Forests through increased severity and incidence of wildfire, drought, and greater susceptibility to insects and disease. The impacts of climate change differentially affect vulnerable populations, including people of color and lower income Oregonians. Most of the revenue from State Forest timber sales is distributed to 15 rural counties and then to local taxing districts, which can further exacerbate the impacts of climate change to communities that are dependent on natural-resource economies.

The costs associated with forest management and conservation are covered by a portion of the revenue generated from timber sales from these lands. Reliance on one source of revenue makes the Division vulnerable to the volatility of the timber market. We are addressing this issue on multiple fronts. We continue to make improvements in our business processes. We modernized our organizational structure to efficiently meet the expectations for managing public forests. We

continue to explore ways to diversify funding streams and build partnerships so we can sustainably manage state forests to deliver the greatest permanent value to Oregonians now and into the future.

The Board of Forestry establishes overarching policies that govern the management of State Forests in Forest Management Plans (FMPs). FMPs address a full range of forest and social resources such as timber management, protection of fish and wildlife, and providing for clean water and recreation. Among the many benefits provided from state forests is the protection of threatened and endangered species. As is the case with any forest manager, State Forests must comply with state and federal laws such as the state and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA). Efficient and effective conservation and protection of ESA-listed species will support long-term management objectives.

Focus Areas

The Division policy work is focused on revising Forest Management Plans and pursuing a Habitat Conservation Plan, both of which are intended to manage State Forests equitably and sustainably through a lens of climate change.

TOPICS FOR THE BOARD OF FORESTRY 2022-2024

Following the Board's direction at the October 2020 meeting, the Division has been pursuing forest management policy with a focus on obtaining an Incidental Take Permit, by developing a Draft Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and drafting a Western Oregon Forest Management Plan (Draft FMP) to accompany the HCP. Development of these two policy documents is occurring simultaneously to ensure a complete and comprehensive policy package is prepared for Board consideration.

In June of 2021, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission determined that the marbled murrelet should be uplisted from a threatened status to endangered status under the State Endangered Species Act. This decision requires the Oregon Department of Forestry to write an Endangered Species Management Plan.

1. *Habitat Conservation Plan for Western Oregon State Forests*
2. *Forest Management Plan for Western Oregon State Forests*
3. *Endangered Species Management Plan*

ISSUE: Habitat Conservation Plan for Western Oregon State Forestlands

Overview

The Board of Forestry directed the Division to continue exploring options for enhancing GPV outcomes, including the pursuit of an HCP which is a programmatic Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance tool.

Purpose

The purpose of this work is to develop a Western Oregon State Forests HCP to achieve programmatic ESA compliance. The State Forests Division is taking the following 3-phased approach to evaluate the possibility of an HCP to cover state forestland west of the Cascade Mountains:

- ✓ Phase 1: HCP Initiation/Scoping: (*Completed*)
- ✓ Phase 2: HCP Draft Development (*Completed*): Development of an administrative draft HCP that includes conservation measures and mechanisms to provide operational certainty into the future.
- ✓ Phase 3: National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and Draft FMP development (*In Progress*).
 - Submit the draft HCP into the Federal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process.
 - An HCP must be coupled with an FMP. Develop a Draft FMP (see Issue below).

Board Deliverables with Timelines

- ✓ November 2021: Information Item
 - Provide project update, including an update on the NEPA process.
- ✓ May 2022 (special session): Information Item
 - Present Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- ✓ June 2022: Decision Item
 - Summary of the Western Oregon HCP from the NEPA Process.
 - Board direction to move the proposed action forward.
- ✓ April 2023: Decision Item
 - Board direction to State Forester to implement HCP.

ISSUE: Draft Western Oregon Forest Management Plan

Overview

The dominant management plan for State Forests is the NW Forest Management Plan (Northwest FMP) which includes 650,000 acres, about 75% of the total state forest land base, and generates over 90% of the revenue from the Board of Forestry lands. The Board of Forestry approved the original Northwest FMP in January 2001 as the first integrated resource management plan for the state and approved a plan revision in 2010 to improve financial outcomes. The foundation of the plan is an approach called “structure-based management” under which the forest is managed to produce a range of forest conditions across the landscape. The original (2001) plan was intended to be coupled with an HCP. However, the state was not able to acquire an HCP. The lack of an HCP combined with costs associated with take avoidance and some challenges with implementing structure-based management are impacting the State Forests Division’s financial viability.

Purpose

The purpose of this work is to develop a Western Oregon Forest Management Plan to guide the management of all State Forests west of the Cascades, in conjunction with the Habitat Conservation Plan. The goal of the Draft FMP is to enhance GPV outcomes and equitably and sustainably manage State Forests through a lens of climate change. The BOF has also directed the Division to pursue an HCP, and these two efforts are now merged.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

- ✓ November 2021: Information Item
 - Board direction on Guiding Principles and draft Goals.
- ✓ January 2022: Decision Item
 - Board review of the Management Focus of State Forest Lands.
- ✓ March 2022: Information Item
 - Board direction on draft Strategies.
 - Provide reports on Stakeholder Engagement.
- ✓ November 2022: Information Item
 - Presentation of draft FMP.
- ✓ January 2023: Information Item
 - Board direction on FMP modeled outcomes.
- ✓ May 2023: Decision Item
 - Board approval of final draft FMP.
 - Board approval to initiate formal rulemaking on the final draft FMP.

ISSUE: Endangered Species Management Plan

Overview

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) directed the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to conduct a status review of the marbled murrelet in December 2019 to determine if its status should be changed from threatened to endangered under the state Endangered Species Act (ORS 496.171 to 496.192). The Commission voted to uplist the marbled murrelet to endangered at its June 2021 meeting. The decision to uplist triggers a statutory requirement for state landowners and land managers to develop an Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP) for the listed species. Landowners have 18 months to develop and submit their ESMP to the ODFW Commission, who then has 6 months to approve it.

The process of development and final approval of the ESMP by the Commission is required to be completed within 2 years (ORS 496.182).

Purpose

The purpose of this work is to draft an ESMP for the marbled murrelet. The State ESA establishes a process of plan development and approval, and plan content requirements have been established in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 635-100-0140).

Board Deliverables with Timelines

- ✓ November 2021: Information Item
 - Present the statutory requirements and process to complete the ESMP.
- ✓ March 2022: Decision Item
 - Board approval of Agency role and ESMP content framework.
- ✓ July 2022: Information Item
 - Status update.
- ✓ November 2022: Decision Item
 - Board approval of the Endangered Species Management Plan.

Outreach and Public Involvement

Developing sufficient understanding, acceptance, and support from stakeholder groups will be important to completing these policy projects in the planned timeframes. Providing accurate and timely information to stakeholders will be of critical importance, and the Division is committed to an open, equitable, and transparent stakeholder engagement process. Additionally, counties within which we manage Board of Forestry lands have a statutorily established relationship with the Board through the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC).

The Division will provide accurate and timely information to ensure FTLAC has the information they need to advise the Board of Forestry and the State Forester. The Division will continue to seek public engagement and convene informational meetings for all interested stakeholders with the purpose of providing the information in a clear and transparent manner and allowing sufficient time for the stakeholders to prepare their input for the Board of Forestry meeting.

Our county partners represented by the FTLAC, all standing stakeholder committees (State Forests Advisory Committee, Oregon Forest Conservation Coalition, Conservation Ad Hoc, Industry Ad Hoc), multiple conservation non-governmental organizations, and Oregon Forest & Industries Council have been invited to engage and participate in the HCP and FMP projects, including multiple meetings open to the public, focus group meetings, and stakeholder meetings. The FTLAC has expressed concerns about an HCP on state forestlands. Despite these reservations, no committee or stakeholders have actively declined participation.

The Department recognizes the importance and value of reaching out to all Oregon's federally-recognized Tribes on issues related to managing Oregon's state forests. We will pursue opportunities to meet with Tribal Chair Council and Tribal staff directors to listen and learn from the Tribes, seek opportunities for input and collaboration, and build relationships.

This work is being conducted collaboratively with our state and federal sister agencies including- National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality.

Board of Forestry Work Plan || 2022 - 2024 || State Forests Division

| State Forests Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | May | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Issue: Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Draft Environmental Impact Statement – special session of the Board | | | i | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Summary of the Western Oregon HCP from the NEPA Process. ❖ Board direction to move the proposed action forward | | | | | | d | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Board direction on implementation of HCP | | | | | | | | | | | D | | | | | | |
| Issue: Draft Western Oregon Forest Management Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Review Management Focus of the Lands | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Strategies, Engagement Update | | i | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Draft FMP, Engagement Update | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ FMP Modeled Outcomes | | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Board approval of final draft FMP, initiate rulemaking | | | | | | | | | | | | D | | | | | |
| ❖ Board approval of Final FMP, conclude rulemaking | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | | |
| Issue: Endangered Species Management Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Agency role and ESMP content framework | | d | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Progress update | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Board approval of ESMP | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | | | | |

Matrix Key:
TBD – To be determined
i – Informational item
d – Preceding Decision item
D – Final Decision item

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Work Plan: | Administrative |
| Version: | 2022-2024 Final |
| Primary Contacts: | Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director |
| Date Presented: | March 9, 2022 |

OVERVIEW

Purpose & Objective

Agency Administration provides leadership and management, policy development and assessment, public outreach and communications, and administrative support to the Board of Forestry and the agency's key operating programs.

Current Issues and Focus

The administrative issues that regularly require the Board's attention include Board of Forestry Work Plan management, securing the Board's input and approval of the Department's legislative concepts, and the Agency Request Budget that is submitted to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) every two years; assisting the Board with its governance performance self-evaluation each year; reporting on the agency's annual Key Performance Measures, and periodic reports on the agency's financial status and human resource metrics. Additional special topics in this 2022-24 work plan include implementation of the Macias, Gini, & O'Connell LLP (MGO) recommendations and review of the Department's emergency fire financial administration.

TOPICS FOR THE BOARD OF FORESTRY 2022-2024

1. Board of Forestry Work Plan Management
2. Development of Legislative Concepts and Legislative Updates
3. Agency Budget Development and Request
4. Board Governance Best Practices Self-Evaluation
5. Key Performance Measures Review
6. Financial Dashboard
7. Human Resources Dashboard
8. Facilities Capital Management Plan
9. Public Information Request Report
10. Macias, Gini & O'Connell LLP (MGO) Recommendations
11. Emergency Fire Financial Administration

Board of Forestry Work Plan Management

Overview

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.

Purpose

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.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Review draft Board Work Plans | January 2022 |
| Approve final Board Work Plans | March 2022 |
| Assessment of Issues and Trends..... | September 2022, 2023 |
| Annual Planning Retreat | October 2022, 2023 |
| Mid-Course Work Plan Updates | January/March 2023, if needed |

Outreach and Public Involvement

Public comments and input will be taken at Board of Forestry meetings and in meetings with stakeholders.

Development of Legislative Concepts and Legislative Updates

Overview

The Oregon State Legislature convenes annually in February at the State Capitol with sessions lasting generally 160 days in odd years and 35 days in even years. If an emergency arises during the interim period when the legislature is not in session, a special session may also occur. Additionally, the Legislature also meets quarterly in their assigned committees to receive updates on bills that were passed last session and issues that may have emerged since adjournment.

Development of legislative concepts for bills that may be introduced during the 2023 Oregon Legislative Session represents an important opportunity to advance Board and Department goals, objectives, and priorities, to help shape statewide policy, and to address barriers.

Purpose

The Oregon Legislative Assembly enacts new laws and revises existing ones, provides a forum for public engagement, allocates and manages the state’s biennial budget thereby influencing priorities and policies of the executive branch, reviews administrative rules drafted by state agencies at times, and confirms certain executive appointments made by the Governor to Oregon’s public boards and commissions.

The Department’s legislative concept development process involves interactions among multiple groups, including the Board, Department leadership, stakeholders, and the Governor’s Office. Consistent with past cycles, it is expected that the 2023 concepts will be due to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Governor’s Office in April 2022. Review at those levels generally focuses on alignment with agency and statewide budget and policy considerations, and with the Governor’s priorities. As the legislative sessions adjourn, the Department will provide an update to the Board on relevant legislative outcomes.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Review proposed guiding principles and an initial list of potential legislative concepts | January 2022 |
| Approve the legislative concepts for submission to DAS | March 2022 |
| Update on legislative session outcomes..... | April 2022 and July 2023 |
| Strategic initiatives review and development | October 2023 |

Outreach and Public Involvement

Public comments and input will be taken at Board of Forestry meetings and in meetings with stakeholders.

Agency Budget Development and Request

Overview

Biennial budget development begins in the fall of odd-numbered years as one component of the Department’s strategic planning effort. To be effective with budget development, joint engagement by the agency leadership, the Board, and stakeholders is necessary and is a part of the operating model of leadership at the Board and agency levels.

Purpose

The first steps involve assessing the current and expected situation, establishing development principles and guidelines, and creating initial focus areas for further consideration as the process moves along. These steps guide preliminary budget concept development and may adjust due to changing environments over the course of the next nine months as the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget is completed. This combination of assessment, principles, guidance and initial focus areas sets the foundation for final budget development during 2022. As the Agency Request Budget moves through the budgetary processes the Department will provide updates to the Board on outcomes of the Governor’s Recommended Budget and the Legislatively Adopted Budget.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Review proposed guiding principles and provide direction..... | January 2022 |
| Initial review of proposed budget concepts | March 2022 |
| Continued review and input on the initial budget concepts | April 2022 |
| Review and provide input on the final budget concepts | June 2022 |
| Approve the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget and approve in concept the Board of Forestry letter of transmittal to the Governor | July 2022 |
| Update on budgetary outcomes..... | January 2023 and July 2023 |
| Strategic initiatives review and development | October 2023 |

Outreach and Public Involvement

Public comments and input will be taken at Board of Forestry meetings and in meetings with stakeholders.

Board Governance Performance Self-Evaluation

Overview

The governance performance measure for state boards and commissions, “percent of total best practices met by the board” was enacted by the Oregon State Legislature and adopted by the Board in 2006. The measure included fifteen standard best practices criteria and flexibility for Boards and Commissions to develop additional criteria to meet the Board’s specific needs and interests.

In 2007, the Board appointed an ad hoc Board Performance Measure Implementation Subcommittee consisting of Chair Steve Hobbs and members Barbara Craig and Larry Giustina to “tailor and fine-tune” the Board’s specific approach for the performance measure. The Subcommittee completed their work and the Board adopted a tailored set of best practices criteria that included descriptive text to assist in a shared understanding of the measure, one additional criterion relating to public involvement and communications, and key summary questions added to the evaluation. The measure is included in the agency’s annual Key Performance Measures and has been conducted every year since 2008.

Purpose

Board members complete individual self-evaluations of board governance performance and a summary of the self-evaluations is presented to the board for approval in meeting the sixteen best practices criteria. The performance measure information is then included in the Department’s Key Performance Measures Report submitted to the Department of Administrative Services and Legislative Fiscal Office.

The Board of Forestry collectively discusses the results of their annual evaluation at the Board’s planning retreat each October.

To facilitate the Board’s review of the criteria prior to each year’s evaluation process, the Department has built in an additional milestone in the preliminary stage that includes the individual collection of Board member feedback on the criteria and a collective review of any proposed changes that would be presented for Board approval at the April meeting as an initiation to the self-evaluation period that annually occurs in May.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Board members provide an individual preliminary review of self-evaluation criteria | January 2022, 2023 |
| Review proposed changes to criteria, approve and initiate self-evaluation process | April 2022, 2023 |
| Board members complete individual self-evaluations | May 2022, 2023 |
| The summary evaluation presented for approval of best-practices criteria metrics | July 2022, 2023 |
| Collective discussion on board governance performance | October 2022, 2023 |

Outreach and Public Involvement

None. This is a self-evaluation measure performed by the Board as defined by the Legislature; however, additional evaluations outside this measure may be considered by the Board in the future.

Key Performance Measures Review

Overview

Through the biennial budgeting process, each Oregon state agency is required to develop key performance measures consistent with joint direction from the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and DAS Chief Financial Office (CFO). Key performance measures proposed by state agencies must be approved by the Legislature along with their respective agency budgets. The Department is required to submit an Annual Performance Progress report to LFO and CFO in September of each year.

Purpose

A summary listing of the agency’s key performance measures, an executive summary on the Department’s performance for the year based on these measures, and individual summaries for each of the current biennium’s 14 measures are provided to the Board for informational purposes.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Key Performance Measures ReportJuly 2022, 2023

Outreach and Public Involvement

None. This is an informational item.

Financial Oversight

Overview

The Board has requested regular executive financial reports to ensure the Board has up-to-date information for oversight of the Department’s financial condition.

Purpose

The Department’s financial report includes the financial and budgetary status of the Department while also providing information on various topics that are either germane, or direct impacts to the financial status of the agency, or other administrative functions of the organization during any given month.

This financial report will continue to evolve over time. As the Department’s reporting ability matures and insights into its operational and administrative work improve, this financial report will reflect those improvements. These improvements could include operational or process improvements or the introduction of new systems and technologies that enhance the Department’s administrative capabilities. In addition, Board input will be factored in as the report evolves.

An additional deliverable relative to agency finances includes the Board’s annual review and approval of the State Forester’s financial transactions as required by statewide policy.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Financial Report..... | Monthly |
| Annual Approval of the State Forester’s Financial Transactions | March 2022, 2023 |

Outreach and Public Involvement

None. This is an informational item.

Human Resources Dashboard

Overview

The Board has requested regular updates on the Department’s human resources and safety-related metrics.

Purpose

The Department has developed a human resources dashboard providing valuable information about the agency’s human resource trends and safety-related metrics.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Human Resources Dashboard June 2022, 2023

Outreach and Public Involvement

None. This is an informational item.

Facilities Capital Management Plan

Overview

The Department manages over 400 structures in a network of Salem and Field office buildings, storage warehouses, housing facilities, communication sites, and miscellaneous infrastructure.

Purpose

The Department’s Facilities Capital Management Plan provides the Board an overview on the status and condition of our facilities statewide, recurring, and deferred maintenance needs, and investment strategies to manage this extensive network of facilities in Salem and the Field.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Facilities Capital Management PlanJune 2022, 2023

Outreach and Public Involvement

None. This is an informational item.

Public Affairs Report

Overview

The Public Affairs Program resides organizationally within the Administrative Branch and provides internal and external communications support to the department. This support includes strategic communications, outreach, and engagement planning; media relations; and management of the department’s web, social media, and public records functions.

Purpose

The Public Affairs Report provides an overview of the Department of Forestry’s Public Affairs Program and reports on some of the department’s most common types of requests for information. Department staff statewide regularly communicate with and respond to inquiries from the public, stakeholders, and customers in several ways including phone calls, in-person interactions, emails, and social media messages and comments.

Individuals, organizations, and members of the media can request records from the department through the process provided under Oregon’s Public Records Law. The department’s public records function is coordinated through the Public Affairs Program.

Oregon Public Records Law (ORS Chapter 192) guides the agency’s protection, retention, and disclosure of public records. More details can be found in the 2019 Attorney General’s Public Records and Meetings Manual on the Oregon Department of Justice’s website at <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/public-records/attorney-generals-public-records-and-meetings-manual/>

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Public Affairs ReportJune 2022, 2023

Outreach and Public Involvement

None. This is an informational item.

Macias, Gini, & O’Connell LLP (MGO) Recommendations

Overview

In late 2019, Governor Kate Brown established the Forestry Financial Oversight Team to support the Department of Forestry in the financial management of increasingly complex and expensive wildfire season costs. The Team pursued two primary tasks: 1) hire an independent contractor to provide recommendations for structural changes to expedite and standardize the processing of financial transactions associated with wildfire costs, and 2) evaluate options for a financial structure and cash flow management system that recognizes the reality of seasonal borrowing to support wildfire response.

Macias, Gini, & O’Connell LLP (MGO), a certified public accountant (CPA) and advisory firm, was hired by the Department of Administrative Services to assess the Department of Forestry’s (ODF) fire finance operations, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, and district fire budgeting. MGO’s report highlighted 28 observations and recommendations in the five original areas of concern: Budgeting, Financial Resources, Information Technology, Oversight, and Policies and Procedures. The observations fall into three risk categories (based on severity and impact to operations), with 12 in the high category, 12 medium, and 4 in the low.

The Department developed a comprehensive Implementation Management Plan consisting of critical deliverables and actions necessary for the agency to mitigate risk, implement structural changes, and refine our financial processes to reflect the reality of increasingly large wildfires. It is anticipated this plan will have multiple iterations as each recommendation progresses through a lifecycle of cascading refinement in planning and milestone achievements are accomplished.

Additional funding was provided to the Department through its 2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget to support the implementation of the recommendations. These investments are detailed in the 2021 Senate Bill 5518 and include the creation of four new financial positions and transfer of eight financial positions from the Fire Protection Division to Agency Administration, established seven new positions focused on administrative modernization, three dedicated limited-duration positions focused on recommendation implementation, and an additional \$500,000 to continue the contractual relationship with MGO to provide direct implementation, technical assistance, oversight, and reporting as directed by a budget note.

Purpose

ODF will continue to refine the Implementation Management Plan, report on milestone deliverables and progress, and fully implement MGO’s recommendations, including policy development with the Board as defined in MGO Recommendation #16.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|---|--|
| Board Policy on Financial Oversight (MGO #16) | January 2022 and further, until codified |
| ODF Implementation Management Plan Updates | every other meeting until June 2023 |
| MGO Interim Update | every other meeting until June 2023 |
| MGO Final Implementation Report..... | June 2023 |

Outreach and Public Involvement

Public comments and input will be taken at Board of Forestry meetings.

Emergency Fire Financial Administration

Overview

Oregon’s large fire funding structure was designed for the average fire season of a decade ago. Under the current structure, the Department of Forestry starts the fire season with \$10 million in cash on hand for the suppression of large fires. These funds come from landowner fees paid into the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund. This approach worked fine when average gross costs for fighting large fires was \$10 million or less, as was the case prior to 2013. Since then, the state has seen a significant change in the intensity of wildfires in recent years, and more extreme fire behavior has increased suppression costs by orders of magnitude.

Purpose

This topic encompasses a variety of milestone deliverables focused on emergency fire financial administration to include an overview of the firefighting expense insurance policy, appointments to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee, background on the Department’s current practices in cashflow management, and exploration of solutions to address large fire funding.

The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund, established by ORS 477.750, is used to equalize (reimburse) emergency fire suppression costs expended in protecting forestland statewide by forest protection districts, both state and association. ORS 477.440 directs that the Board “shall appoint an Emergency Fire Cost Committee consisting of four members, who shall be forest landowners or representatives of forest landowners whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district. ORS 477.445 gives authority to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee to “supervise and control the distribution of funds from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund”.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 2021-2022 Firefighting Expense Insurance Policy Overview | January 2022 |
| Appointments to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) | as needed |
| Cashflow Management Backgrounder..... | June 2022 |
| Large Fire Funding Fix | to be determined |

Outreach and Public Involvement

Public comments and input will be taken at Board of Forestry meetings and in meetings with stakeholders.

| Administrative Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Board of Forestry Work Plan Management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Review draft Board Work Plans | d | | | | | | | | | | | | | | d | D |
| ❖ Approve final Board Work Plans | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D |
| ❖ Assessment of Issues and Trends | | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | |
| ❖ Annual Planning Retreat in October | | | | | | Oct. | | | | | | | Oct. | | | |
| ❖ Mid-course Work Plan Updates | | | | | | | | TBD | TBD | | | | | | | |
| Development of Legislative Concepts and Legislative Updates | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Review proposed guiding principles and draft list of potential concepts | d | | | | | | | | | | | | | | d | D |
| ❖ Approve the legislative concepts for submission to DAS | | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D |
| ❖ Update on legislative outcomes | | | i | | | | | | | | | i | | | | |
| ❖ Strategic initiatives review at Planning Retreat | | | | | | | | | | | | | Oct. | | | |
| Agency Budget Development and Request | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Review proposed guiding principles and provide direction | d | | | | | | | | | | | | | | d | |
| ❖ Review and provide input on draft budget concepts | | i | d | | | | | | | | | | | | | d |
| ❖ Review and provide input on final budget concepts | | | | d | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Approve the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget and conceptual Board letter of transmittal to the Governor | | | | | D | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Update on budgetary outcomes | | | | | | | | i | | | | i | | | | |
| ❖ Strategic initiatives review at Planning Retreat | | | | | | | | | | | | | Oct. | | | |
| Board Governance Best Practices Self-Evaluation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Individual review of the annual Board governance self-evaluation criteria | d | | | | | | | d | | | | | | | d | |
| ❖ Review any proposed changes to criteria; approve and initiate self-evaluation process | | | D | | | | | | | D | | | | | | |
| ❖ Approve summarized evaluation report and metrics of Board governance best practices criteria | | | | | D | | | | | | | D | | | | |
| ❖ Collective discussion on evaluation results | | | | | | Oct. | | | | | | | Oct. | | | |

Matrix Key:
TBD – To be determined
i – Informational item
d – Preceding Decision item
D – Final Decision item
Oct. - October Retreat

| Administrative Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|------|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Key Performance Measures (KPM) Review | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Review the Annual Performance Progress Report summarizing the agency’s 14 key performance measures | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | |
| Financial Oversight | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Financial Report | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | i |
| ❖ Annual Approval of the State Forester’s Financial Transactions | | D | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | D |
| Human Resources Dashboard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Human Resources Dashboard | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | |
| Facilities Capital Management Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Facilities Capital Management Plan | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | |
| Public Affairs Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Public Affairs Report | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | |
| Macias, Gini & O’Connell LLP (MGO) Recommendations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ MGO #16 Board Policy on Financial Oversight | i | d | d/D TBD | d/D TBD | d/D TBD | d/D TBD | d/D TBD | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ ODF Implementation Management Plan Updates | i | | i | | i | | i | | | i | | i | | | | |
| ❖ MGO Interim Update | i | | i | | i | | i | | | i | | | | | | |
| ❖ MGO Final Implementation Report | | | | | | | | | | | | i | | | | |
| Emergency Fire Financial Administration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Emergency Fire Cost Committee Administration & Membership | | | | | | | D | | | | | | D | | | D |
| ❖ 2021-2022 Firefighting Expense Insurance Policy Overview | i | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Cashflow Management Backgrounder | | | | i | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Large Fire Funding Fix | | | | TBD | TBD | | | | TBD | TBD | | | | i | | |

Matrix Key:
TBD – To be determined
i – Informational item
d – Preceding Decision item
D – Final Decision item

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | I |
| Work Plan | Administrative Work Plan |
| Topic: | Legislative Concepts for 2023 Legislative Session |
| Presentation Title: | 2023 Legislative Concept Development |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director 503-945-7393; Ryan.P.Gordon@odf.oregon.gov Adam Meyer, Legislative Coordinator 503-383-5847; adam.k.meyer@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

This agenda item seeks Board of Forestry (Board) approval of 2023 Legislative Concepts from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

CONTEXT

Legislative concept development, a part of the Board’s and Department’s strategic planning cycle, begins in the fall of odd-numbered years. Agency-led legislative concepts may result in bills that will be introduced during the 2023 legislative session. The development of legislative concepts serves to seek authority for the advancement of Board and Department goals, objectives and priorities, or to address current barriers, resulting from current or lack of existing statutes.

Development of legislative concepts is an iterative process that includes engagement with the Board, Department leadership, stakeholders, and the Governor’s Office. The 2023 legislative concepts will be submitted to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Governor’s Office in April 2022. Concept review at the highest level of the Executive Branch generally focuses on alignment with statewide budget and policy considerations, and with the Governor’s priorities.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Guiding principles for developing Legislative Concepts

The agency’s executive team utilizes a set of principles to guide the development of legislative concepts. These concepts were submitted to the Board for consideration at the Board’s January 2022 meeting.

2023 legislative concept development will:

Seek input and ensure alignment. Key inputs for legislative concepts include alignment with other elements of the Board’s and Department’s strategic planning cycle, such as:

- Board and Department’s strategic initiatives
- Board and Department work plans
- Governor’s priorities
- Public input from stakeholders and other sources

Consider the political and economic environments. These factors may render some legislative concepts more viable, necessary, or timely than others. This environment requires an ongoing assessment as concepts are developed.

Consider feasibility/workload. The number and complexity of concepts should reflect the Department's capacity to engage in the necessary outreach and legislative interaction. Some concepts are relatively simple, non-controversial, and/or offer opportunities for "housekeeping" changes. Others are larger in scale and may connect to or establish major statewide policy direction.

Legislative Concepts for 2023 Legislative Session

The following list, presented for Board approval, includes the legislative concepts the Department seeks to submit ahead of the 2023 Session.

Fire Protection Division

- None.

State Forests Division

- None.

Private Forests Division

- **Forest Products Harvest Tax Rate.** Historically, legislation has been introduced each session to set tax rates for Forest Practices Act (FPA) administration, support of the Oregon State University (OSU) Forest Research Laboratory, and professional forestry education at the College of Forestry, OSU. For the Department of Forestry, when combined with public funds (General Fund), the bill maintains the concept of shared responsibility for the Forest Practices program delivery between the general public and program recipients.

Administrative Branch

- **Emergency Fire Funding Fix.** The Department of Forestry has convened an Emergency Fire Funding Task Force to develop policy recommendations for a sustainable emergency fire funding system that does not rely on fixed operational funds or other internal resources. The Task Force will make recommendations to the State Forester, who will work with staff to develop proposed actions for the 2023-25 biennial budgeting process and ultimately Board decision. Given the timing of the Task Force's work and subsequent Board engagement, the department will submit a placeholder for a potential legislative concept to the Department of Administrative Services in April with final information to follow in June.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the legislative concepts to be fully developed and submitted to the Department of Administrative Services.

NEXT STEPS

Continue legislative concepts development through ongoing agency work and per Governor's office process.

STAFF REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | J |
| Work Plan: | Fire Protection Work Plan |
| Topic: | Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation |
| Presentation Title: | Hearing Request for a Rangeland Protection Association in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Levi Hopkins, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager 503-949-3572, Levi.A.Hopkins@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.

CONTEXT

This is part of the Department's ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

Several representatives of rangeland owners in Southern Jefferson and Northern Deschutes counties have provided a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the Board to hold a public hearing about providing protection from fire for rangelands in the vicinity of Lower Bridge and Terrebonne, Oregon. (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Rangelands in eastern Oregon present a concern to Forest Protection Districts because of the lack of fire protection. Fires starting on these lands, left uncontrolled, have frequently threatened, or spread to forestlands protected by the Department. This creates a dilemma for the district and potential use of district resources on unprotected lands that do not financially support the protection district.

The 2004 Fire Program Review identified assisting local communities in developing fire protection on unprotected lands as a high priority. Rangeland Protective Associations have been formed in Ashwood-Antelope, Blue Mountain, Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Greater Pine Valley, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Lone Pine, Lookout Glasgow, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Wagontire, Warner Valley, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County Fire & Rescue.

The area the private landowners are considering for fire protection is interspersed with other land management agencies.

Although the emphasis is protection of private lands, opportunities will exist for partnerships and mutual aid agreements with other entities to strengthen wildland fire protection throughout the area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Southern Jefferson and Northern Deschutes Counties.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will hold a public hearing and determine the support for providing fire protection in Southern Jefferson and Northern Deschutes Counties, Oregon. If there is sufficient support, a request will be made from the landowners to the Board to determine whether the rangeland should be included within a protection system.

If the Board determines that the rangeland should be included in a rangeland protection system, the Board, in cooperation with interested persons, will establish the extent and type of protection to be provided. Such protection shall be commensurate with the values and uses of the rangeland to be protected.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Letter from rangeland owners in Southern Jefferson and Northern Deschutes Counties.
- (2) Map of Lower Bridge Proposed Boundary

January 21, 2022

Mr. Cal Mukumoto, State Forester
Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Mr. Mukumoto,

As the designated representatives of rangeland owners in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties, we request that the Oregon Board of Forestry hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for private rangelands in the vicinity of Lower Bridge, Terrebonne, Oregon, pursuant to ORS 477.320.

Sincerely,

Robin Galloway
71140 NW Lower Bridge Way
Terrebonne, OR 97760

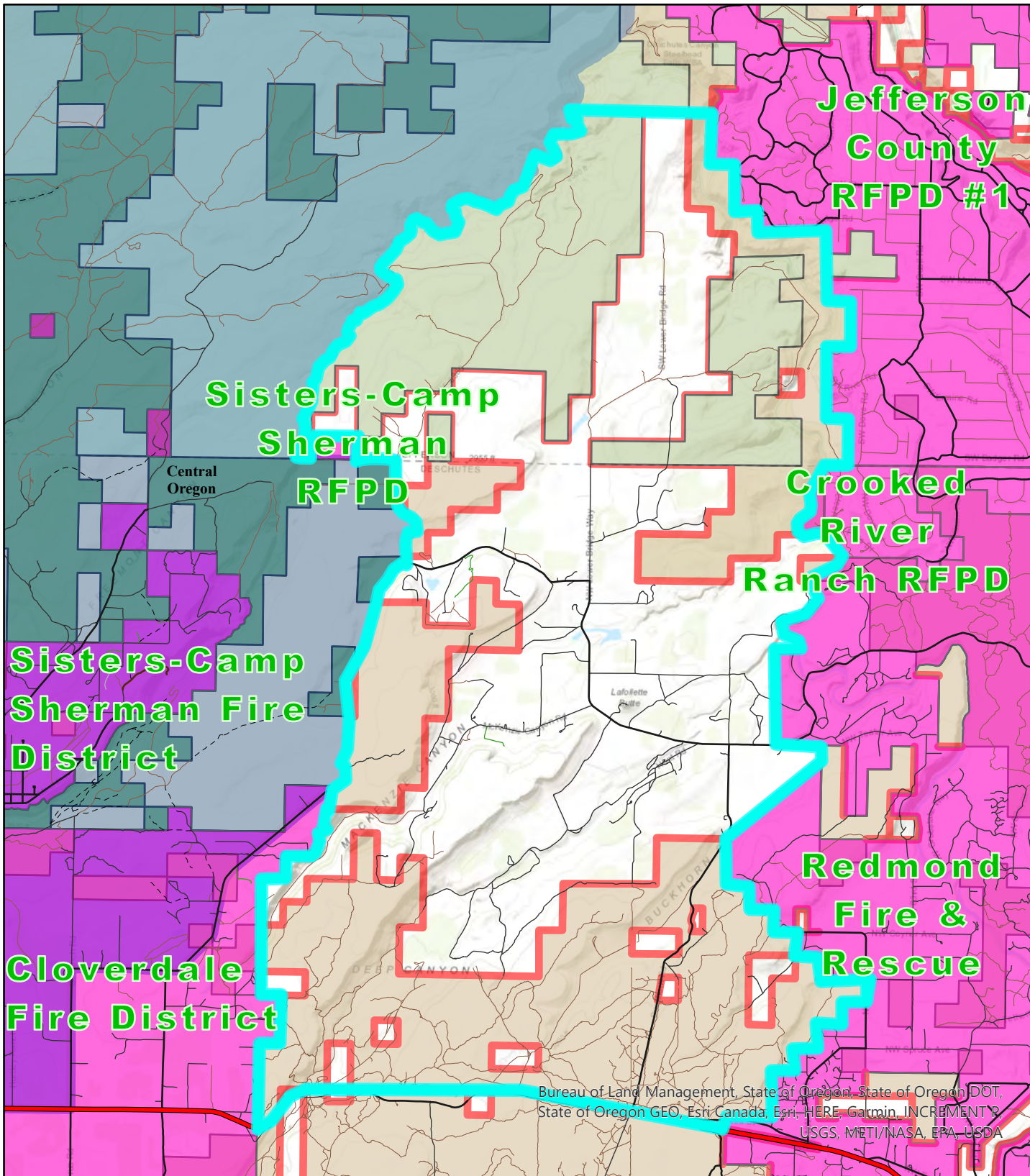
Ted Netter
70535 NW Lower Bridge Way
Terrebonne, OR 97760

Thaddeus Glover
71150 NW Lower Bridge Way
Terrebonne, OR 97760



STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY

Lower Bridge Proposed RFPA



Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon, State of Oregon DOT, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENTAL, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA



- Towns
- In UGB; Paved - Secondary Display Protection Status
- Rangeland Protection Association
- USFS
- Road Types
- Not Drivable; Blocked
- Structural Fire Protection
- BLM
- PDMclass
- Mainline Rd
- Forest Protection Association
- No known protection
- Interstate; Highway
- - Hiking trail
- Other Federal
- Paved; Highway exit
- - 4wd trail
- Lower_Bridge_proposed_RFPA
- All weather
- Stub/driveway; Not a road

STAFF REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | K |
| Work Plan: | Fire Protection Work Plan |
| Topic: | Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation |
| Presentation Title: | Hearing request to Expand Burnt River RPA Boundary |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Levi Hopkins, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager 503-949-3572, Levi.A.Hopkins@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of expanding the current boundary for Burnt River Rangeland Protection Association to include additional rangeland not currently protected.

CONTEXT

This is part of the Department's ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

Rangeland owners in Baker County have provided a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the Board to hold a public hearing about providing protection from fire for rangelands by expanding the current boundary of the Burnt River Rangeland Protection Association (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Rangelands in eastern Oregon present a concern to Forest Protection Districts because of the lack of fire protection. Fires starting on these lands, left uncontrolled, have frequently threatened, or spread to forestlands protected by the Department. This creates a dilemma for the district and potential use of district resources on unprotected lands that do not financially support the protection district.

The 2004 Fire Program Review identified assisting local communities in developing fire protection on unprotected lands as a high priority. Rangeland Protective Associations have been formed in Ash Butte, Blue Mt., Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Greater Pine Valley, Lookout Glasgow, Lone Pine, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Warner Valley, Wagontire, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County.

The area the private landowners are considering for fire protection is interspersed with other land management agencies.

Although the emphasis is protection of private lands, opportunities will exist for partnerships and mutual aid agreements with other entities to strengthen wildland fire protection throughout the area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Baker County, Oregon.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will hold a public hearing and determine the support for providing fire protection in Baker County, Oregon. If there is sufficient support, a request will be made from the landowners to the Board to determine whether the rangeland should be included within a protection system.

If the Board determines that the rangeland should be included in a rangeland protection system, the Board, in cooperation with interested persons, will establish the extent and type of protection to be provided. Such protection shall be commensurate with the values and uses of the rangeland to be protected.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Letter from Burnt River Rangeland Protection Association
- (2) Map of current and proposed boundary of Burnt River Rangeland Protection Association

Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem Headquarters
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

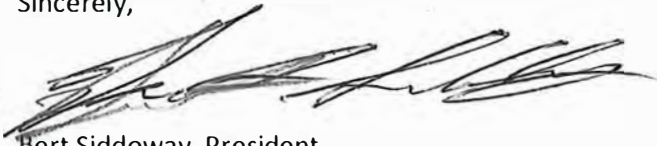
Burnt River Rangeland Fire Protection Association

Dear Mr. Peter Daugherty and the Board of Forestry

The Burnt River Rangeland Fire Protection Association would like to hold public hearings to expand our protection boundaries to the North to include several drainages that currently have no wildland fire protection. This area, predominately consisting of ranching/farming families, has a long history of fire – and the timing is right to bring additional neighbors into the organization and formalize protection. The area of expansion includes land South of Baker City and I-84 down Highway 30, West Fork Sutton Creek, East Fork Sutton Creek, Ebell Creek, Dry Gulch, Dry Creek and ends at the ODF protection boundary at Interstate 84 at approximately MP 360.

Please find attached map, signature page of interested landowners from the area – and thank you in advance for the consideration.

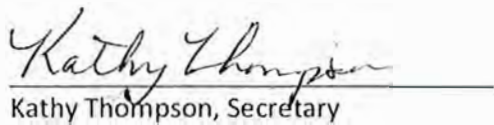
Sincerely,



Bert Siddoway, President
Burnt River Rangeland Fire Protection Association



Rod Bunch, Vice President



Kathy Thompson, Secretary

CC; Marvin Vetter, Oregon Department of Forestry
RFPA Program Coordinator

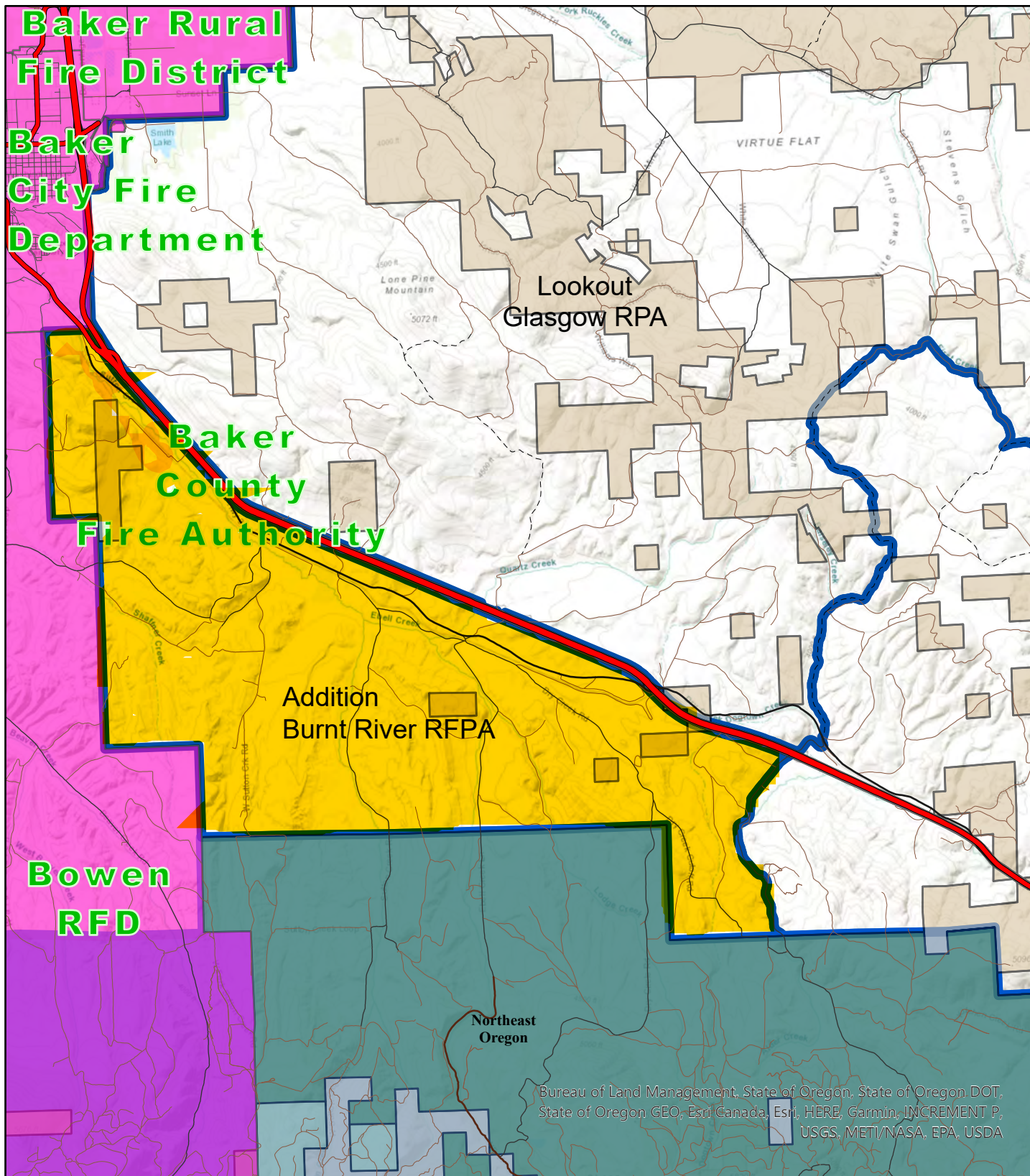


BURNT RIVER RANGELAND FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY

Burnt River RFPA - Addition



- Road Types**
PDMclass
- Interstate; Highway
 - Paved; Highway exit
 - All weather
 - Dirt
 - In UGB; Paved - Secondary Display

- Not Drivable; Blocked
 - Mainline Rd
 - 4wd trail
- Protection Status**
- Protection Status 2021
- Structural Fire Protection
 - BLM

- Forest Protection Association
- No known protection
- Rangeland Protection Association
- USFS
- <all other values>
- ODF Forest Protection Districts
- Range Fire Protection Associations 100K

Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon, State of Oregon DOT, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No: | L |
| Work Plan: | Administrative |
| Topic: | Agency Budget Development and Request |
| Presentation Title: | 2023-2025 Budget Policy Packages |
| Date of Presentation: | March 6, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration 503-945-7203, Bill.Herber@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY AND CONTEXT

The Legislature made significant investments in the department in both the 2021 and 2022 Legislative Sessions. As the department works to implement those new programs, we must also begin budget development for the next biennium. Given the dynamic state of those recent investments, there are some challenges in predicting future resource needs, but there also remain clear areas for additional investment. Based on agency leadership's assessment of the current and expected situation, and the establishment of budget development guiding principles, the initial work on budget resource needs via policy packages has begun. With review and input by the Board and stakeholders, this will evolve into more specific budget concepts.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

As discussed at the January 5, 2022, Board meeting, the initial step in the development of the biennial budget is to assess current and future issues and needs and begin to strategically narrow the investment focus. Strategic investment areas are expressed as policy option packages.

The following table summarizes the initial thinking of agency leadership about the investment strategies for 2023-2025. These policy package concepts are in development and will require further refinement based upon Board input and stakeholder review and input.

2023-2025 Biennial Budget Policy Option Package Summary by Program

Administrative

- Document Management System: Provide for procurement a document management system and appropriate staff support for an agency-wide implementation of a public records management system, as recommended by the 2021 MGO report.
- Facilities Maintenance and Replacement: Address deferred maintenance or replacement of damaged facilities statewide; Maintain staff capacity for project planning and management.
- Continuity of Operations Coordinator: Risk assessment and planning capacity for unpredictable business interruptions, managing the agency's Continuity of Operations Plan, and coordinating simulated response training.
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Build-out: Installation of one level-2 charging station at each of our offices statewide.

- Radio Backbone Upgrades: Replacement of aging repeaters in ODF’s statewide network, and the addition of management capacity for the Radio Unit.

Planning

- Planning and Responding to Changing Climate and Forests: The agency has insufficient capacity and expertise to monitor, evaluate and inform response to climate change; Builds this capacity within the Planning Branch, which serves the agency’s operating programs, enabling the department to better meet its mission and mandates, as well as address policy intentions of the Board of Forestry; Investment in staff capacity as well as additional data collection and monitoring.

Protection

- Statewide notification to landowners in areas of high and extreme wildfire risk: Funds coordinated notification by mail to all landowners in areas of high or extreme wildfire risk based on recent assessment work.
- Smoke Detection Camera Build-out: Continued investment in the statewide smoke detection camera system, increasing coverage in areas historically prone to fire starts; Continued integration with other federal and local partners for rapid detection and response to fire starts.
- ODF Severity Program: As in previous biennia, establishes a Special Purpose Appropriation in the Emergency Board Fund to pay the state’s share of fire insurance premium costs, and to provide critical, mobile severity resources—primarily contract air tankers and helicopters—positioned where and when fire danger is the highest.

State Forests

- State Forests Interpretive Education: Additional capacity to expand State Forests interpretive programs beyond the Tillamook Forest Center; Includes a mobile interpretive education (IE) unit and supporting staff that will enable interpretive education specialists to travel to other state forests, and to bring important I&E programs into underserved areas throughout the state, underscoring the agency’s commitment to furthering DEI initiatives.

Forest Resources

- Private Forest Accord Program Development: Building on the Private Forest Accord, provide funding for a Small Forestland Owner Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) and an Adaptive Management Program. The SFISH program would provide grants to small forest landowners; the Adaptive Management Program would include an independent research and science team to conduct research and monitoring projects requested by an advisory committee.
- Alignment with the Climate Change and Carbon Plan: Additional resources enabling the division to focus on climate-smart goals of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP) including urban and community forestry, research and monitoring, reforestation and

afforestation, climate-smart forestry in silviculture, and forestland climate resilience and ecological function restoration.

- **Federal Forest Restoration & Workforce Development:** Building from a recent capacity needs assessment, add additional staff capacity to plan, prepare, administer, and implement commercial and non-commercial restoration work on federal lands through the department's Federal Forest Restoration Program; Add a workforce development position to support capacity – especially in rural areas – for critical forest restoration and mitigation work.
- **Continuing implementation of Shared Stewardship:** Makes a permanent investment in positions and capacity around the Landscape Resiliency Program, which was established by SB 762 in 2021. Adds capacity for ODF to work with partners and communities to build more robust projects that support multiple objectives and include the principles of climate-smart forestry.
- **Post Fire Recovery and Seedling Capacity:** Investment in permanent staff capacity to provide direct assistance to landowners impacted by wildfire and manage a seedling program to ensure small landowners have access to trees for reforestation; Direct investment to support seedling production at nurseries.

NEXT STEPS

This topic is to inform the Board of preliminary concepts the department is considering for its 2023-25 biennial budget, as well as an opportunity to gather initial thoughts prior to the presentation of draft Policy Option Packages (POPs) at the April 27, 2022, Board of Forestry meeting. Additional concepts may be added, as well as removed, from the above list prior to the April meeting as POPs are fully vetted. The Board will provide its final input and approval of the department's POPs at the June 8, 2022, Board meeting, followed by its final approval of the department's 2023-25 Agency Request Budget at the July 20, 2022, meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) 2023-25 Guiding Principles of Budget Development (as approved by the Board on January 5, 2022)

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.



Oregon Department of Forestry

2023-25 Biennium – Agency Request Budget

Guiding Principles of Budget Development

Budget development principles are essential in leading the department and the Board of Forestry in budget content and process development. These principles set the stage for moving forward and long-term reflection from a budget perspective.

Guided by agency leadership, the 2023-25 budget development process will be conducted through the following principles:

- Prioritize opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice through the department’s work. Consider the needs of historically and currently underserved communities and the racial impacts related to the department’s programs, policies, and budget modifications.
- Focus on and consider the current operationalization of new investments from the 2021-23 biennium in the context of 2023-25 development.
- Support and develop a viable, effective, highly-skilled, diverse, and empowered workforce and organization that maintains or enhances the agency’s core business functions.
- Make budgetary decisions with the agency’s holistic organization and mission in mind.
- Place priority to maintain the department’s core business functions, including legal mandates, key performance measures, Board of Forestry and Governor’s Office initiatives, while addressing any resource gaps that jeopardize fulfillment of that core business.
- Be creative and proactive but realistic in concept development and proposals, recognizing the balance between asking for needed resources while considering budget climate, stakeholder and legislative expectations, and revenue constraints.
- Consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals when determining the department’s budgetary needs.
- Clearly communicate the results of budget investments or reductions that impact forest resources and prioritize services that directly benefit, protect, and sustain Oregon’s forest resources.

Through these principles, the department and the Board of Forestry, will plan, craft and ultimately implement its 2023-25 biennial budget, focusing on an open and transparent process, encouraging input from impacted, affected or interested parties.

State Forester, Board Member, and Public Comments

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No.: | 2 |
| Work Plan: | Forest Resources Division Work Plan |
| Topic: | Implementing Legislative Direction |
| Presentation Title: | Private Forests Accord Update |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Kyle Abraham, Deputy State Forester 503-586-6527, Kyle.Abraham@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

This agenda item presents an opportunity for the Board to receive an update on the recent progress of the Private Forests Accord from external parties. In 2020, conservation and forest products entities developed a memorandum of understanding, and initial legislation was adopted for developing new protections for sensitive aquatic species on private forestland. The groups completed a negotiated process and proposed new protections for sensitive aquatic species. More recently, the groups have introduced additional legislation to move the Private Forests Accord forward and ultimately achieve a statewide habitat conservation plan for private forestland.

CONTEXT

The Board of Forestry's (Board) 2011 *Forestry Program for Oregon* supports protecting and improving the physical and biological quality of the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests (Goal D). The Board's objectives include using education, engineering, incentives, and enforcement of the Forest Practices Act to protect water quality on non-federal forestlands (Objective D.1). The Board promotes the maintenance of forestland in forest uses and the establishment of new forests as key elements in promoting high-quality water (Objective D.4) and supports the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Objective D.6). The Board recognizes that private forest landowners' contribution to providing Oregonians with high-quality drinking water is achieved through compliance with state water quality standards (Objective D.7).

BACKGROUND

In February 2020, a landmark agreement between 13 members of conservation and fishing groups and 13 members of the forest products entities was introduced through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The memorandum described a process to develop new protections for aquatic species through changes to Oregon's Forest Practices Act. In June 2020, the Oregon legislature adopted Senate Bill 1602 (SB 1602). SB 1602 increased helicopter spray buffers, directed rulemaking for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, or SSBT, streams in the Siskiyou Geographic Region, and set communication requirements for spraying pesticides by helicopter. The bill also described a mediated, negotiated process for the two groups to identify specific changes to the forest practices which would form the basis for the state to apply for a habitat conservation plan. This process began in early 2021 and concluded near the end of 2021 with the finalization of the terms for the agreement. In February 2022, the Oregon legislature introduced three bills that move forward the Private Forests Accord package, Senate Bills [1501](#) and [1502](#), and

House Bill [4055](#). Members who participated in the collective process will discuss with the Board the background, mechanics, and anticipated outcomes of the Private Forest Accord.

ANALYSIS

The department will be engaged in several rulemaking efforts and program development as a result of the most recent legislation. More information on those efforts will be described in the 2022-2024 Board work plan for the Forest Resources Division.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is informational only.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No: | 3 |
| Work Plan Title: | Forest Resources Division |
| Presentation Title: | 2022-2024 Draft Board Work Plans |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Josh Barnard, Interim Forest Resources Division Chief 503-551-8568, josh.w.barnard@oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

Forest Resources Division will present its 2022-2024 work plan for the Board of Forestry (Board) to consider for approval. The plan includes implementing the Private Forest Accord legislation.

CONTEXT

In October, Department staff offered items for the 2022-2024 work plan. In November 2021, the Board reviewed these items. The attached work plan details each deliverable, process, and timeline.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The 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.

The process of developing work plans provides several advantages including:

- Allowing staff to more efficiently allocate time among multiple demands,
- Providing the public with a better idea about when to provide input, and
- Organizing the Board's work so that it leads to specific decisions.

The steps of the work plan development process include:

September – Staff presents information to help the Board take stock of the current situation surrounding forest issues. *Note: these items were heard on the November 2021 agenda*

October – Planning Retreat – Board and Department discuss work plan priorities

January – Department staff provides an overview of draft work plans

March – Board approves two-year work plans

The Forest Resources Division work plan delivery to the Board and approval is separate from the other agency work plans because of the Private Forest Accord bills' recent passage on March 3rd and await the governor's signature. The corresponding work plan is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

To approve the 2022-2024 Board work plan for the Forest Resources Division.

NEXT STEPS

Department will post approved work plans online for the public. In October, the Board will review the 2022-2024 work plans, track progress, and discuss changes.

ATTACHMENT

- 1) Forest Resources Division Work Plan

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Work Plan: | Forest Resources Division |
| Version: | 2022-2024 Final |
| Primary Contacts: | Josh Barnard, Forest Resources Interim Division Chief 503-551-8568 josh.w.barnard@odf.oregon.gov |
| Date Presented: | March 9, 2022 |

DIVISION NARRATIVE

Purpose & Objective

The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF), Forest Resources Division, provides resource protection and landowner assistance on Oregon's 10.3 million acres (34 percent of Oregon's forestland) under private forest ownership and assists with federal forest restoration on federal forestland. Oregon's forests are diverse in size and character, including large industrial ownerships, family woodlands of many sizes, federal forests, and treescapes in cities, suburbs, and rural residential areas. To support such diverse ownerships, the Forest Resources Division provides landowner assistance in the areas of forest and stream health protection and enhancement, urban and community forestry, enforcement of forest practices laws, research and monitoring, tree improvement, incentive programs, and federal forest restoration. These forests provide values for all Oregonians, including watershed protection, ecosystem services, economic activity, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

Current Issues

A significant task for the Forest Resources Division is administering the FPA *and* providing wildland, urban, and community forest education, technical assistance, and restoration of federal lands across all our business lines in the Division. ODF field staff spend an increasingly disproportionate amount of time working with complex natural resource situations and conflicts in forests already at risk of conversion and fragmentation. The Department continues to deliver a mix of services that meets the diverse needs of Oregonians, landowners, communities, developers, regulators, and stakeholders across a broad diversity of forests while promoting and conserving forest land and forest values.

Current issues include increasing public pressure on the role of private forestlands in aspects of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other desired outcomes from forests. To help meet these challenges the Division remains anchored in the Board's 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon, which 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 designed to ensure that forest operations would meet state water quality standards adopted under the federal Clean Water Act. Similarly, the discussion of Goal D recognizes that the FPA is designed to protect

soil and water resources, including aquatic and wildlife habitat (Objective D.6). 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; OAR 629-635-0110).

As an outcome of the 2021 Legislative session, the Department received legislative direction to implement provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 762. Aspects of the bill will be produced by the Protection Division, Forest Resources Division, and the Planning Branch, which are outlined in the issue-based Senate Bill (SB) 762 Implementation Board work plan. The Forest Resources Division specifically has been tasked with implementing programmatic elements relative to wildfire risk reduction and small forestland grants, and the milestones as it relates to the Board are noted in the SB 762 Implementation work plan matrix.

In March 2022, the Legislature passed Senate Bills 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055 relating to the Private Forest Accord. Implementing this legislation is the top priority for the Board work plan.

TOPICS FOR THE BOARD OF FORESTRY 2022-2024

A key objective is ensuring privately owned forests are responsibly managed under Oregon's Forest Practices Act. Division staff also provide technical assistance to forest landowners, protect clean water and wildlife habitat, detect, and respond to threats to forest health, support work to safeguard and improve our urban forests, grow high-quality tree seed, and assist our partners with federal forest restoration.

1. Water Quality Topics
 - a. Western Oregon Streamside Protection Review
 - b. ODF-DEQ Sufficiency Review Alignment
2. Forest Practices Act Rule/Policy Review
 - a. Specified Resource Site Rule Analysis: Marbled Murrelet
 - b. Specified Resource Site Rule Analysis: Coho Salmon
 - c. Specified Resource Site Policy Review
3. Implement Legislative Direction
 - a. Private Forest Accord Implementation
 - b. Senate Bill 762-*See Senate Bill 762 Workplan for details*
4. Fire Recovery
 - a. Post Fire Restoration and House Bill 5006, grants to increase nursery capacity and supply
5. Climate Change and Forest Carbon
 - a. Climate Smart Forestry Award Development
6. Board Updates

Water Quality: Western Oregon Streamside Protections Review

Overview

ODF completed the RipStream vegetation and large wood analysis, which was reported in ODF [Technical Report #21](#). ODF is developing a modeling analysis of riparian stand growth and large wood recruitment over time and is tentatively planning for a literature review of Desired Future Conditions (DFC) of riparian forests and large wood in streams. These topics were identified as a high priority in the Division's 2016 Monitoring Strategy. This project was delayed due to the focus of staff resources on the completion of the Siskiyou streamside protection review and post-fire response. With the passage of the Private Forest Accord, this will move from a final decision item (i.e., sufficiency decision) to an informational item as we complete this analysis.

Purpose

Provide the Board with information from a modeling analysis and scientific literature about the protection and function of streamside riparian areas including large wood recruitment in streams.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

ODF will be presenting the combined literature review and modeling analysis to the Board in April 2023 as an informational item.

Outreach and Public Involvement

The Division had previously developed and utilized an external review team for this work. We will continue to work with this group and update our appointed Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process as well. We will continue to engage Tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups as well as specific outreach to the tribes.

Water Quality: ODF-Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Collaboration

Overview

In March 2018, the Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) directed ODF to conduct a literature review to inform the Board's determination of the sufficiency of Forest Practices Act (FPA) stream protection rules for water quality temperature standards, and the shade and riparian stand structure components of desired future conditions (DFC).

ODF completed the literature review and presented it to the Board in June 2019. The Board expressed a desire to use DEQ's Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) as a basis for assessing the sufficiency of riparian rules for the stream temperature portion. The Board directed ODF to collaborate with DEQ and to formulate a range of other approaches to study the sufficiency of FPA rules.

ODF and DEQ have revised an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies to develop a mutual understanding of their respective policies and authorities and to align their water quality responsibilities and processes.

The Division and DEQ delivered approximately quarterly updates on their collaboration to the Board, as well as the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). The Board and EQC reviewed the MOU at the November 2021 joint EQC-Board meeting, and the agency directors will sign the revised MOU soon.

Purpose

To provide an update on the implementation of the revised MOU.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

The Division and DEQ will return in June or July 2022 to provide an update on the implementation of the MOU and relevant work on total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).

Outreach and Public Involvement

We will provide updates on this work to the Board. In addition, we will provide updates to our appointed Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process as well. We will continue to engage Tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups as well as specific outreach to the tribes.

FPA Rule/Policy Review Specified Resource Site Rule Analysis: Marbled Murrelet

Overview

In June 2016, the Board received a Petition to Initiate Rulemaking under specified resource site rules for the marbled murrelet. In November 2016, the Board directed ODF to start a rule analysis for marbled murrelets and develop a technical report per Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 629-680-0100.

Staff presented the draft technical report to the Board in April 2018. Findings from an expert review of the draft technical report were presented to the Board in November 2018 and the final technical report was approved by the Board in April 2019. The approved final technical report lays out a range of options for both the definition of resource sites for marbled murrelets as well as a range of protection options the Board may want to consider protecting those resource sites.

To inform the Board's future decision-making work, ODF plans to seek input on the range of options from tribal governments and stakeholders. With the help of a facilitator, the meetings are designed to help identify preferred resource site determination and protection strategies. This input from focus groups will be summarized and submitted to the Board when completed.

The department initially experienced delays in gathering input from stakeholders due to COVID-19 restrictions and then workload relating to the recovery after the 2020 fires. This work is planned to resume in late 2023 following Private Forest Accord rulemaking.

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to complete a specified resource site rule analysis for marbled murrelets. And assist the Board to:

1. Collect and analyze the best available information and establish inventories of resource sites.
2. Determine if forest practices would conflict with the resource sites
3. Determine appropriate levels of protection if conflicts exist.
4. Adopt rules to protect resource sites as required by statute.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Plan to re-start the rule analysis in late 2023.

Outreach and Public Involvement

We will provide updates to our appointed Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process as well. We will continue to engage Tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups as well as specific outreach to the tribes.

FPA Rule/Policy Review Specified Resource Site Rule Analysis: Coho Salmon

Overview

In April 2019, the Board received a petition to initiate rulemaking under the specified resource site rules for coho salmon. In July 2019, the Board accepted the petition and directed ODF to initiate a rule analysis for coho salmon.

ODF has paused work designed to define the resource sites and work with other natural resource agencies to help establish the inventory of the resource sites due to intersection directly with potential revisions and consideration of Private Forest Accord outcomes designed to address endangered fish and aquatic species.

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to complete a specified resource site rule analysis for coho salmon. And assist the Board to:

1. Collect and analyze the best available information and establish inventories of resource sites.

2. Determine if forest practices would conflict with the resource sites
3. Determine appropriate levels of protection if conflicts exist.
4. Adopt rules to protect resource sites as required by statute.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

TBD

Forest Practices Act Rule/Policy Review: Specified Resource Sites Policy Review

After more than a decade since the adoption of special resource site protection policies, a Board review of such policies—related statutes and/or rules—is needed considering changing circumstances for private forests in Oregon and species protection efforts. Changes include the development of a federal recovery plan for spotted owls, effective implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s development of a statewide conservation strategy, Ballot Measure 49, and the development of a programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for Spotted Owls. Overall, there is also a growing recognition that species-by-species approaches to resource protection, as opposed to more holistic landscape-level approaches, may not be the most effective or efficient means to achieve specified resource site protection goals.

Work on this topic is paused due to intersection directly with potential revisions and consideration of Senate Bill 1602 mediated sessions, designed to address endangered fish and aquatic species and lack of staff capacity currently focused on implementing the Private Forest Accord outcomes.

Purpose

Assist the Board in a policy-level review of the current approach to special resource site protection.

The policy review should address the following topics:

- What is the most appropriate role of the state / Department in relation to the Endangered Species Act and federal regulations for species protection?
- Does the implementation of current policy remain appropriate given the evolution of economic, social, and environmental issues in Oregon since the policies were adopted?

Board Deliverables with Timelines

TBD

Outreach and Public Involvement

We will provide updates to our appointed Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process as well. We will continue to engage Tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups as well as specific outreach to the tribes.

Implement Legislative Direction, Private Forest Accord

Overview

In July 2020, the legislature passed, and the governor signed Senate Bill 1602 into law. The bill set the stage for the Private Forests Accord. The bill called for mediated discussions between representatives from the conservation and timber communities. The group needed to report to the legislature and recommend changes to Oregon's Forest Practices Act by the 2022 regular legislative session. The discussions concluded on October 30, 2021. The group recommended several changes to the Forest Practices Act. They drafted three bills for the legislature to consider. The department was not involved in drafting the bills.

In March 2022, the Legislature passed Senate Bills 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055. SB 1501, sets policy that requires rulemaking, contract work, and appropriates funds to implement the work. Senate Bill 1502 provides a tax credit for small forestland owners. House Bill 4055 establishes and funds a mitigation account, and sets the 2022-2023 harvest tax rate. SB 1501, SB 1502, and HB 4055 include by reference the [Private Forest Accord Report](#).

Purpose

Develop rules and submit HCP application to implement the Private Forest Accord.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Senate Bill 1501 directs the Board to adopt a single rule package on or before November 30, 2022 consistent with the requirements of the Private Forest Accord Report. The board shall give notice of its intent to adopt the proposed rule package in the bulletin described in ORS 183.360 at least 30 days prior to the date proposed for adopting or amending the rules. After giving the notice, the board shall accept public comments for 30 days. The board shall hold one public hearing before or during which interested persons may submit written or oral testimony. The board must appoint members of the Adaptive Management Program Committee on or before November 30, 2022. The Board shall submit to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a proposed habitat conservation plan consistent with the Private Forest Accord Report on or before December 31, 2022. The board shall procure the services of a person to develop and draft the habitat conservation plan. The board shall ensure that representatives of the authors of the Private Forest Accord Report are regularly and closely consulted concerning the development and drafting of the habitat conservation plan and are consulted if any question arise concerning the intent of the Private Forest Accord Report. The Board shall appoint an Independent Research and Science Review team. The Board shall develop a process for a federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon to elect to join as an applicant for a habitat conservation plan. The Board may amend rules that implement ORS 527.610 to 527.770 to make minor changes as needed to conform with the Private Forest Accord Report. The Board shall initiate rulemaking concerning the post-disturbance harvest of trees that, but for the disturbance, would not be harvested under rules adopted, amended, or repealed as part of the rule package described in section 2 of this 2022 Act. The rulemaking must be completed on or before November 30, 2025. The Board shall initiate

rulemaking concerning tethered logging three years after the effective date of the legislation. The board shall prioritize the rulemaking. The State Board of Forestry shall report annually to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to forestry, in the manner described in ORS 192.245, on progress in implementing the requirements of the Private Forest Accord Report. There are contingent operative dates established where regulations will roll back to current standards if milestones and dates are not met:

- An incidental take permit related to an approved habitat conservation plan consistent with the Private Forest Accord Report is issued on or before December 31, 2027
- The State Board of Forestry has not made a finding that the habitat conservation plan imposes more than a de minimis difference in economic or resource impacts, at the level of landscapes, relative to rules adopted or amended as part of the rule package
- The incidental take permit remains in effect

On or before February 1, 2028, the State Board of Forestry shall report to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to forestry, in the manner described in ORS 192.245, on:

(1) Whether the incidental take permit described in section 11 of this 2022 Act was issued on or before December 31, 2027.

(2) Whether the board has received a petition to make a finding the habitat conservation plan imposes more than a de minimis difference

Senate Bill 1502 directs the State Forestry Department, after consultation with the Department of Revenue, to adopt rules for the implementation of the Owner tax credit. This will be part of the rule package for adoption on or before November 30, 2022.

Outreach and Public Involvement

The division will provide updates to its Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process. The division will continue to engage tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups and direct outreach to tribes.

Fire Recovery, Post Fire Restoration, and House Bill 5006 grants to increase nursery capacity and supply

Overview

As noted in the Climate Change and Carbon plan, climate change is threatening Oregon's forest and forest products industry through increased severity and incidence of wildfire, drought, and greater susceptibility to insects and diseases. Fires in 2020 impacted over one million acres in Oregon and another 841,000 acres in 2021. Within the fire perimeters, approximately 343,000

acres in 2020 and 226,242 acres in 2021 of private (industrial and non-industrial) forest land has been impacted to varying extents. The 2020 and 2021 fires have exacerbated issues in Oregon involving access to adequate tree seedlings, as well as nursery and contractor capacity. House Bill 5006 Section 183 appropriated \$5 million to the department for distribution as grants to expand tree seedling nursery capacity and supply to aid in reforestation after these fires. Division staff is working with collaborative groups and state partners to implement the legislation.

Purpose

Keep the Board informed of the implementation of legislation to support post-fire recovery efforts.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Staff will provide updates on post-fire restoration and the implementation of this legislation in January 2022 and January 2023.

Outreach and Public Involvement

We will provide updates to our appointed Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process as well. We will continue to engage Tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups as well as specific outreach to the tribes.

Climate Change and Forest Carbon: Climate Smart Forestry Award

Overview

The Board adopted the climate and carbon change plan at the November 2021 meeting. The Forest Resources Division will be developing a climate-smart forestry award.

Purpose

To incentivize Climate Smart Forestry actions.

Board Deliverables with Timelines

Staff will begin developing the program in 2022 and anticipate providing an update and opportunity for feedback from the Board in November 2022. Staff would begin advertising the program in January 2023 targeting January 2024 as the first recognition by the Board for Climate Smart Forestry.

Outreach and Public Involvement

We will provide updates to our appointed Board advisory committees (Regional Forest Practices Committees and the Committee for Family Forestlands) throughout this process as well. We will continue to engage Tribal interest through the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources cluster groups as well as specific outreach to the tribes.

Board of Forestry Work Plan || 2022 - 2024 || Forest Resources Division

| Forest Resources Division Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Issue: Water Quality Topics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Western Oregon Streamside Protections Review | | | | | | | | | | i | | | | | | |
| ❖ ODF-DEQ Sufficiency Review Alignment | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Issue: Forest Practices Act (FPA) Rule Policy Review | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Specified Resource Sites Rule Analysis: Marbled Murrelet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | i | |
| ❖ Specified Resource Sites Rule Analysis: Coho Salmon*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Specified Resource Sites Policy Review*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Issue: Implement Legislative Direction | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Private Forests Accord Rule Package adoption by Nov 30, 2022 | | | | | | d | D | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Establish Process for Indian Tribes to join HCP application | | | | | | i | D | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Submit PFA HCP application by Dec 31, 2022 | | | | | | i | D | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Adaptive Management Program Committee Member Appointments | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Independent Science and Research Team member appointments | | | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Amend other rules to conform to report by July 1, 2023 | | | | | | | | | i | | D | | | | | |
| ❖ Annual Report on Private Forest Accord Implementation | | | | | | | | | d | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Tethered Logging Rule Analysis Started within 3 years | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TBD |
| ❖ Post Disturbance Rule Analysis completed by 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | i | | |

Board of Forestry Work Plan || 2022 - 2024 || Forest Resources Division

| Forest Resources Division Work Plan | 2022 | | | | | | | 2023 | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Sep | Nov | Jan | Mar |
| Issue: Fire Recovery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Post Fire Restoration and House Bill 5006, grants to increase nursery capacity and supply | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | |
| Issue: Climate Change and Carbon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Develop Climate Smart Forestry award | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | | |
| Issue: Board Updates | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Milestones</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ❖ Climate Smart Forestry Award | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | i |
| ❖ Operator of the Year | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | | i |
| ❖ Committee for Family Forestlands Report and Appointments | | | | | D | | | | | | | D | | | | |
| ❖ Forest Practices Agency Meeting Report | | i | | | | | | | i | | | | | | | i |
| ❖ Forest Health Report | | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | |
| ❖ Forest Practices Monitoring Report | | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | |
| ❖ Urban and Community Forestry Program Update | | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | |
| ❖ Non-industrial Forest Landowner Program Update | i | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | |
| ❖ Federal Forest Restoration | | | | | | i | | | | | | | i | | | |
| ❖ Regional Forest Practices Committee Appointments | | | | | | D | | | | | | | D | | | |

Matrix Key:

TBD – To be determined

i – Informational item

d – Preceding Decision item

D – Final Decision item

*** Paused due to work on Private Forest Accord

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | 4 |
| Work Plan: | Fire Protection |
| Topic: | Evolving Topic: Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response |
| Presentation Title: | Senate Bill 762: Wildland-Urban Interface and Wildfire Risk Mapping |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Mike Shaw, Chief – Fire Protection 503-945-7204, Michael.H.Shaw@odf.oregon.gov Tim Holschbach, Deputy Chief – Policy & Planning 503-945-7434, Tim.J.Holschbach@odf.Oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval from the Board of Forestry (Board) to hold public hearings regarding the creation of a wildfire risk map and criteria identifying the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) in Oregon Administrative Rule 629-044.

BACKGROUND

Following the 2013-2015 fire seasons, two parallel review processes were initiated, the Secretary of State Audit and the Fire Program Review. Both efforts are aligned to help continue a highly functioning wildfire protection system for Oregon into the future. The Oregon Department of Forestry (Department) has fully embraced the findings and recommendations from both final reports. The 2017-2018 fire seasons experience reinforced the need for the agency to continue efforts on these recommendations. Additionally, the Governor issued Executive Order 19-01 creating the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response.

The Secretary of State Performance Audit offered a third-party review of the Department’s ability to sustain its multiple missions, as increased demand to support the fire protection effort has been required from the entire agency.

The Fire Protection Review Committee was coordinated with all agency partners through a transparent process including legislators, governor’s office, forest landowners, and cooperators to reach for continuous improvement in Oregon’s complete and coordinated fire protection system.

The Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response offered 37 recommendations to improve Oregon’s wildfire protection system. Many of the recommendations required legislative action to be carried out.

Senate Bill (SB) 762 captured many of the recommendations of the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response, providing legislative direction to the Board regarding the wildland-urban interface; statewide fire risk mapping; prescribed fire; directed the Department to review and clarify the enforcement of rules pertaining to forestland; and baseline standards for unprotected and under-protected lands in Oregon.

CONTEXT

For this rulemaking, the Department developed a rules advisory committee comprised of 26 representatives from a broad range of interests including industrial, nonindustrial, federal, county, environmental, tribal, and public (Attachment 1). This advisory committee met 13 times virtually, advising the Department regarding the rulemaking for the wildfire risk map and wildland-urban interface criteria. A short summary of each meeting is below:

August 5, 2021 – Introduction of Rules Advisory Committee (RAC). Provided background of SB762. Reviewed proposed charter and scope.

August 19, 2021 – Confirmed charter. Oregon State University (OSU) presented an introduction to Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessments and how risk is modeled.

September 2, 2021 – RAC provided an overview of decision space regarding wildfire risk mapping.

September 16, 2021 –Department staff presented a work plan to the RAC, schedule adjustment, and initial ODF recommendations of rule concepts.

September 30, 2021 – Discussed map update schedule, how wildfire risk is to be calculated, and definitions of vegetative and wildland fuels.

October 14, 2021 – Continued discussion of revised Department recommendations of the definitions of vegetative and wildland fuels, the introduction of recommendations regarding fuel loading, disturbance, and wildfire risk class thresholds.

October 28, 2021 – Continued discussion of revised Department recommendations of fuel loading, disturbance, and wildfire risk class thresholds. Initiated discussion of recommendations defining “geographic area”, “structures”, “other human development”, and inclusion of planned development areas.

November 18, 2021 – Continued discussion of revised Department recommendations defining “structures”, “other human development”, and inclusion of planned development areas. Introduced questions regarding projected vegetative growth, and wildfire risk class values.

December 9, 2021 – Continued discussion of revised Department recommendations pertaining to inclusion of planned development areas and vegetative growth. OSU provided an overview of WUI identification criteria. Department introduced recommendations to RAC. OSU developed an SB762 flowchart relating WUI identification to wildfire risk mapping.

December 16, 2021 – Continued discussion of revised Department recommendations pertaining to the definitions of “structure” and “other human development”, WUI identification criteria. Introduced draft rule language regarding notification, appeals, and public input.

Draft administrative rule package sent to RAC following the meeting to solicit feedback.

January 13, 2022 – Reviewed RAC schedule and key dates. Initiated discussion on the fiscal impact of rules. Reviewed RAC feedback from draft rules, and the edits made by the Department.

February 3, 2022 – OSU provided an informational presentation pertaining to the mapping of social vulnerability. Reviewed draft rules integrating feedback from January 13 RAC meeting. RAC reviewed the draft fiscal impact statement.

February 10, 2022 – Reviewed rule sections edited since February 3 meeting. Reviewed final fiscal, economic impact, and racial equity statements. Department provided an overview of key dates upcoming.

The Department gained extensive feedback through the committee process. The Department thanks the Rules Advisory Committee members for their commitment of time to the process, feedback, and advisement.

ANALYSIS

This section is intended to provide a basis for the proposed rule, capture the discussion of Rule Advisory Committee members, and identify what alternatives were considered. Discussions were based on the use of objective, scientific, quantifiable data as the cornerstone of the recommendation and decision-making, as identified in the RAC charter (Attachment 2). Rules Advisory Committee members also submitted written comments as received by the Department, Attachment 5.

629-042-1000 – Purpose

The purpose statements of administrative rules are to connect the rule sections to the respective authorizing statutes. Each purpose statement proposed correlates to the authorizing statutes of ORS 477.027 and ORS 477.490.

629-042-1005 - Definitions

The definitions proposed for this rule division are to provide clarification and context that was not clear in the law. Many of the proposed definitions provide clarification for terminology for implementation of SB762, such as “hazard rating”. Many of the remaining terms are words within the definition of Wildland-Urban Interface, adopted at the October 20, 2021, Special Board meeting.

“Structures” and “other human development” have been addressed as a pair in RAC discussions. Both share a single data set. “Other human development” was best characterized by referencing ORS 455.447.

The current definition is recommended on the basis of being quantifiable with the currently available data, and based on square footage, would exclude sheds and small outbuildings. This would avoid the inclusion of small outbuildings on tax lots in bringing a particular tax lot into the WUI boundary. This is further augmented in the proposed OAR 629-044-1010.

The RAC has expressed that the current definition for “structures” does pose challenges regarding the implementation of regulatory requirements.

Alternatives considered: “Structure” means any building that is at least 400 square feet that required a land use decision, a building permit, or both, regardless of whether a land use decision or a building permit was obtained.

This definition was presented at the February 3, 2022, RAC meeting, however, after further research by ODF and OSU, could not be supported by the data available to successfully identify the WUI.

629-042-1010 – Wildland-Urban Interface Identification Criteria

This rule outlines the criteria by which the WUI will be identified. The RAC discussed how other states identify the WUI, the merits of each methodology, and potential unintended effects.

The recommendation is consistent with the Federal Register’s formulations for WUI identification and takes into consideration national best practices, as direct by SB762, Section 33.

To facilitate a forward-looking WUI layer, there are considerations for inclusion of lands that are currently undeveloped but are identified or planned for development in a manner that would meet the criteria in 1(a).

In taking additional considerations for the proposed definition of “structure”, 629-044-1010(2) is intended to address the issue of an inflated density calculation and focus on the principle of homesteads. This rule negates the effects of multiple outbuildings, such as sheds and barns, bringing an isolated tax lot into the WUI boundary. There is also a proximity factor that excludes isolated parcels.

Alternatives considered: The RAC discussed how WUI was identified at the federal level, and in Colorado, California, and Washington.

Colorado – definition, and criteria are very similar to the federal register. Non-regulatory and adopted locally.

California – California utilizes a density of 1 structure per 20 acres, with a 1.5-mile buffer external to that boundary. This criterion was contrary to the RAC’s desire to not include working forestland expressed at initial RAC meetings.

Washington – Washington largely follows the federal register criteria. Washington also identifies the WUI in a “point” format, which results in isolated properties being included in the WUI, as opposed to developing the WUI as an “area” in the proposed rule set.

629-042-1015 – Periodic Wildland-Urban Interface Lands Identification and Classification

The intent of this proposed rule is to specify an update cycle pertaining to the Wildland-Urban Interface.

629-042-1020 – Wildfire Risk Classification and Wildfire Hazard Rating

This rule is intended to specify the breakpoints between the five wildfire risk classifications required by SB 762, as well as provide an illustration of wildfire behavior that may be common to that designation. The RAC recommended that a natural breaks methodology be utilized to distinguish between wildfire risk classes. In the current rule, the exact values are absent. OSU is calculating these values, and they will be included in the rule pre-filing before public hearings.

629-042-1025 – Statewide Wildfire Risk Map

This rule characterizes how OSU is to develop and maintain the wildfire risk map. This rule was developed through extensive conversations within the RAC, as well as informational presentations from OSU. The development of this rule is consistent with RAC discussions to capture the wildfire risk of the environment when the threat of large wildfire generally occurs. The RAC reached a consensus in a recommendation that wildfire risk is to be calculated using the hazard ratings of wildfire frequency and wildfire intensity.

The update schedule associated with this rule allows for public outreach to be completed prior to an updated map being in effect, provides notice, and allows for coordination with other state agencies.

629-042-1030 - Notification

SB 762 identified specifically that owners of properties identified as high or extreme risk were to be notified of the wildfire risk classification assignment. This notification will be conducted through a written notice mailed to the property owner of record according to the local tax assessor's records.

The RAC expressed that there is a broader need for all members of the public to be informed of wildfire risk. This will be accomplished through public meetings held virtual and regionally, to inform the public and receive input on the wildfire risk classification assignments.

629-042-1035 – Locally Developed Wildfire plans

The intent of this rule is to include locally identified priority areas into the Oregon Explorer Wildfire Risk Portal, if a local jurisdiction chooses, and have it accessible to property owners reviewing the wildfire risk of their own properties. The inclusion of these local plans would not supersede the wildfire risk map.

629-042-1040 – Appeals of Wildfire Risk Assignment

The intent of this rule is to identify a process for a landowner or local government to appeal its wildfire risk class assignment. This rule was developed to be consistent in structure with the Department's current appeal processes. The RAC recommended a 60-day appeal window. Subsection 2 identifies the grounds for an appeal, as identified in SB 762. The RAC expressed there would be a likelihood of public interest in the appeals that were successful, which was addressed in 3(c)(D).

RECOMMENDATION

The Board directs the Department to proceed with the public hearing process and return in June 2022 with the final rule language for Chapter 629, Division 44.

NEXT STEPS

Pending the Board of Forestry's direction, the Department will schedule and hold public hearings. Following public input, the Department will return to the Board requesting promulgation of the rules.

RULE REVIEW TIMELINE

March 9, 2022 – ODF presents proposed rules to BOF to seek permission to conduct public hearings.

March 20, 2022 – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Fiscal Impact Statement sent to Secretary of State. Notify legislators and interested parties.

April 18 – 24, 2022 – Conduct public hearings.

June 8, 2022 – ODF submits the final rule draft language with public comments to BOF for final consideration and approval.

June 20, 2022 – Submit rule to Secretary of State and Legislative Counsel for filing. Effective date June 30, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Rules Advisory Committee members
2. Rules Advisory Committee Charter
3. Oregon Administrative Draft rule filing
4. Department's proposed administrative rule language
5. Rules Advisory Committee Comments



**Wildland Urban Interface and Statewide Wildfire
Risk Mapping Rulemaking Advisory Committees
Master Member List**



| Organization | RAC Member | RAC Alternate |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1000 Friends of Oregon | Mary Kyle McCurdy | |
| Associated Oregon Loggers | Amanda Astor | Rex Storm |
| Association of Oregon Counties | Mallorie Roberts | Drenda Howatt |
| Association of Oregon County Planning Directors | Holly Kerns | Lindsey Eicher or Jill Rolfe |
| Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians | Jason Robison | Tim Vrendenburg |
| Department of Land Conservation and Development | Jon Jinings | Sadie Carney |
| Hood River County Planning Commission | Leti Moretti | |
| Jackson County Fire | Robert (Bob) Horton | |
| League of Oregon Cities | Jim McCauley | |
| Office of the State Fire Marshal | Travis Medema | Chad Hawkins |
| Oregon Farm Bureau | Lauren Smith | Mary Anne Cooper |
| Oregon Fire Chiefs Association | Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker | |
| Oregon Fire Marshals Association | Shawn Olson | Tanner Fairrington or Ryan Kragero |
| Oregon Forest Industries Council | Kyle Williams | Mike Eliason |
| Oregon Home Builders Association | Mark Long | Karna Gustafson |
| Oregon Property Owners Association | Dave Hunnicut | Samantha Bayer |
| Oregon Small Woodlands Association | Roger Beyer | |
| Oregon State University—Faculty | Chris Dunn | |
| Oregon State University—Faculty | Erica Fischer | |
| Sisters Fire | Roger Johnson | |
| Special Districts Association | Michele Bradley | Jason Jantzi |
| Sustainable Northwest | Dylan Kruse | |
| Tualatin Valley Fire | Les Hallman | |
| Western Environmental Law Center | Pam Hardy | Marlee Goska |
| The Nature Conservancy | Amelia Porterfield | Kerry Metlen |
| Oregon State University – Institute of Natural Resources | Megan Creutzburg | |

Non-Voting Information Sources

| | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ODF | Tim Holschbach | Jenna Trentadue |
| USFS | Ian Rickert | |
| BLM | Richard Parrish | |

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY (ODF)
SENATE BILL 762 RULEMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)
STATEWIDE WILDFIRE RISK MAPPING RAC (RAC NO. 2)

Final Adopted Charter and Collaboration Principles (Charter)

(Adopted on August 19, 2021, by RAC No. 2 Members)

For any collaborative process, the participants should establish procedures to govern the committee and its members. Such agreement increases success and decreases meeting time by assuring a good faith process that explores competing needs and leads to balanced recommendations to the sponsor.

I. Background

The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997, Senate Bill (SB) 360, was the first defensible space law in Oregon. At that time, the “forestland-urban interface” (WUI) was defined as properties within an Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) forest protection district that lie within a county where a specific concentration of homes exists (10 acres or less, or four homes per legal 40 acres).

SB 762, passed in the 2021 legislative session and signed by Governor Kate Brown, revises Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 477.015 to 477.064. The major changes follow.

| Requirement | SB 360 | SB 762 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Mapping | Limited to within ODF protection districts | Statewide |
| Display | Paper maps | Oregon Explorer Wildfire Risk Portal |
| Wildfire risk classes | 3 to 5 classes | 5 classes |
| Defensible Space Administration | Oregon Department of Forestry | Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal |

The Oregon Wildfire Explorer Map (map) when originally developed was primarily designed as an education and research tool. The map is now the official wildfire planning and classification mapping tool for the State of Oregon.

SB 762 includes specific regulatory and other actions based upon property level and landscape level mapping. The purpose of this rulemaking committee is to identify those specific mapping data sets and criteria that will be used in development of the map. Community members, businesses and

property owners may be required to follow subsequent Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Department of Land and Conservation Development (DLCD), and Building Codes Division (BCD) rules based on certain new regulatory aspects associated with high and extreme fire risk levels. To implement the new regulatory aspects mandated by SB 762 within the designated timeframes, ODF, in coordination with Oregon State University (OSU), will establish rules to govern the tool and have those in place by June 2022. ODF's work in this regard will be focused on developing the information necessary to support the implementation of those regulatory requirements with a focus on standards for notification and due process, including appeals, and establishing five specific risk classes.

The bill directs ODF to oversee development and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide map of wildfire risk that displays five wildfire risk classes and updates the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer. The Board of Forestry (the Board) approved the convening of this RAC (RAC No. 2) at its July 21, 2021, meeting. The map and process must be established by June 30, 2022. RAC No. 2 will recommend risk criteria and maintenance requirements for the map. After June 30, 2022, the map will be subject to regular maintenance and updates.

II. Scope & Charge

RAC No. 2 is not a decision-making body. It is a recommendation-making group pursuant to ORS Chapter 183 and Department of Justice (DOJ) Model Rule 137-001-0007 (Public Input Prior to Rulemaking.) RAC No. 2 is charged with providing perspective, input, and assistance to ODF so that ODF can develop administrative rules surrounding SB 762 sections 7 and 7a for its presentation to the Board.

RAC No. 2: Recommend the criteria by which the map is developed, updated, and maintained as described in SB 762 sections 7 and 7a, Statewide Map of Wildfire Risk.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB762/Enrolled>

The major deliverables for RAC No. 2 are to recommend:

- Five statewide wildfire risk classes of extreme, high, moderate, low and no risk, based on weather, climate, topography, and vegetation.
- A process in which a property owner may appeal a designation of high or extreme wildfire risk classes.
- Opportunities for public input into the assignment of properties to the wildfire risk classifications.
- A process in which a property owner is notified of risk assignment of high or extreme.
- Maintenance criteria for the map.

RAC No. 2 should include a discussion of the methodology from OSU and model inputs.

Additionally, RAC No. 2 is charged with providing input for the ODF Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact.

ODF asks RAC No. 2 to consider the fiscal impact of its proposed rules (see generally, ORS Chapter 183 and OAR 137-001-0018) including:

- Whether the rules will have a significant adverse fiscal impact, and if so, what the extent of that impact will be.
- Whether the rules will have a significant adverse fiscal impact on small businesses likely to be affected by the rules, and if so, how ODF can mitigate the cost of compliance.

RAC No. 2 is not charged with making recommendations on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as described in SB 762 section 31-34, Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Protection. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB762/Enrolled>. Those recommendations, among others, will be discussed in RAC No. 1.

ODF will consider the recommendations of RAC No. 2 when drafting its rules. ODF will then follow the rulemaking procedures identified in ORS Chapter 183 and DOJ Model Rule 137-001-0011 through 137-001-0100. Ultimately, the Board will decide on the rules, and subsequently, ODF will issue contract specifications consistent with those rules.

III. Guiding Principles

RAC No. 2 should consider the following guiding principles and/or policies, among others, in the development of administrative rules regarding SB 762.

- The use of objective, scientific, quantifiable data is the cornerstone of the recommendation and decision-making.
- Administrative rule development discussions will pertain exclusively to the requirements of section 7 and 7a of SB 762.
- Recognizing the Oregon Explorer as a viable tool and how it will be impacted by this wildfire risk mapping work is important.
- ORS 477.005 Policy provisions, which follow, are paramount:
 - The preservation of the forests and the conservation of the forest resources through the prevention and suppression of forest fires hereby are declared to be the public policy of the State of Oregon.
 - In order to accomplish the purposes of the policy stated in this section:
 - The need for a complete and coordinated forest protection system is acknowledged and the primary mission of the State Forestry Department in such a system is protecting forest resources, second only to saving lives. Structural protection, though indirect, shall not inhibit protection of forest resources.
 - This chapter shall include all persons and activities designated in this chapter, irrespective as to whether or not such person or activity is concerned with the harvesting, cutting, removal or marketing of trees, timber or other forest products.
- Relevant policy consideration.

IV. Membership

The following members provide their diverse perspectives on policy proposals, including environmental justice, public health, and fiscal impacts of the program as voting members. The members list for RAC No. 2 is below. For a full list of members and alternates online, see link here: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Documents/laws-rules/members-rac-swrn.pdf>

| Organization | RAC Member / (Alternate) | Voting |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1000 Friends | Mary Kyle McCurdy | X |
| Associated Oregon Loggers | Amanda Astor / (Rex Storm) | X |
| Association of Oregon Counties | Lauren Smith | X |
| Association of Oregon County Planning Directors | Holly Kerns / (Lindsey Eichner or Jill Rolfe) | X |
| Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians | Jason Robison / (Tim Vrendenburg) | X |
| Department of Land Use & Conservation | Jon Jinings / (Sadie Carney) | X |
| Hood River County Planning Commission | Leti Moretti | X |
| Jackson County Fire | Robert Horton | X |
| League of Oregon Cities | Jim McCauley | X |
| Office of the State Fire Marshal | Travis Medema / (Chad Hawkins) | X |
| Oregon Farm Bureau | Mary Anne Cooper | X |
| Oregon Fire Chiefs Association | Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker | X |
| Oregon Fire Marshall's Association | Shawn Olson / (Tanner Farrington or Ryan Kragero) | X |
| Oregon Forest Industries Council | Kyle Williams / (Mike Eliason) | X |
| Oregon Home Builders | Mark Long | X |
| Oregon Property Owner's Association | Dave Hunnicut / (Samantha Bayer) | X |
| Oregon Small Woodlands Association | Roger Beyer | X |
| Oregon State University - Extension | Chris Dunn / (Erica Fischer) | X |
| Oregon State University - Institute Natural Resources | Megan Creutzburg | X |
| Sisters Fire | Roger Johnson | X |
| Special Districts Association | Michele Bradley / (Jason Jantzi) | X |
| Sustainable Northwest | Dylan Kruse | X |
| The Nature Conservancy | Kerry Metlen / (Amelia Porterfield) | X |
| Tualatin Valley Fire | Les Hallman | X |
| Western Environmental Law Center | Pam Hardy | X |

Each member is allowed to assign an alternate by providing written notice to Tim Holschbach in advance of the meeting the primary member will miss. sb762.rulemaking@oregon.gov.

While not part of the RAC No. 2, the Board members may be present to listen and include Chair Kelly, Deuming, and Justice. Additionally, ODF staff Tim Holschbach, Jenna Trentadue, and others will be present during the meetings as resources, but they are not part of RAC No. 2. This includes Ian Rickert from the United States Forest Service, and Richard Parrish, Bureau of Land Management.

Government to government Tribal consultations are ongoing.

V. Non-Committee Member Attendees

The public is welcome to attend all meetings. The facilitator will manage the meetings to accommodate both members and non-members who wish to provide input, but priority will be given to committee members. There will be time on the agenda dedicated to receiving input from the public with time limits for each person.

After RAC No. 2 concludes, a formal public comment period will open on the proposed rules.

VI. Subcommittees

ODF, with RAC No.2's input, will evaluate the need for subcommittees, factoring in resource considerations, but none are planned at this time.

VII. RAC Material and Support

All committee materials will be provided electronically as a sustainability measure.

Meeting notices, agendas, materials, summary, and recordings (<https://www.youtube.com/c/OregonDepartmentofForestry/featured>) will be posted on the following webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/rac.aspx>. The meeting recordings will be used as the formal meeting minutes, and the control, in the event of a conflict.

Technical input from agencies, organizations, or individuals with specialized expertise will be available to RAC No. 2 as issues arise.

VIII. Facilitator

ODF has contracted with an independent and neutral third-party facilitator, Oregon Consensus (<https://oregonconsensus.org/>) who has contracted with Triangle Associates (<https://www.triangleassociates.com/>) and ICMresolutions (<https://www.icmresolutions.com/>), together, "Facilitator," whose role is to facilitate meetings, help the RAC develop recommendations, and produce RAC reports. The Facilitator's "client" is the RAC process, but neither RAC

membership/sponsorship, nor process participation is a substitute for independent legal or other professional advice. That is the responsibility of the process participants. The Facilitator will also be available as a resource for conflict resolution and RAC process improvement suggestions.

The Facilitator's written contract with ODF is available for review. The Facilitator will not be influenced by payment source. To ensure impartiality, ODF will solicit RAC input on the Facilitator's performance before changing their status, but the ultimate decision is ODF's alone.

The Facilitator will not function as an advocate on any issue, interest group, or RAC member. However, to help move the process forward, the Facilitator may suggest concepts for RAC consideration, but will not make any decisions.

Specific Facilitator responsibilities include:

- Design and support meeting process to achieve the outcomes of the process using formal agenda and meeting recordings to track progress.
- Ensure culturally competent practices are used to foster inclusion and the equal voice of all participants.
- Ensure a welcoming meeting environment where all members can participate.
- Ensure a safe environment for alternative opinions to be expressed.
- Conduct meetings in a manner to foster collaborative decision-making and consensus Building.
- Prevent dialogue from becoming confrontational and apply mediation practices to resolve conflict.

The Facilitator may have non-confidential, informal communications and perform facilitation activities between and during meetings. The Facilitator will address situations where it appears a participant is not acting according to this document.

IX. Work Plan/Schedule

RAC No. 2 will begin meeting according to its draft work plan outlined below, which is subject to change.

Meetings and Draft Workplan for First Two Meetings

There will be bi-weekly, two-hour Zoom meetings for RAC No. 2 starting August 5, 2021, and running through March 2022. The work plan below covers information for meetings one and two. A detailed work plan will be shared by ODF to be reviewed by RAC No. 2 at a future date. See the ODF RAC website link for more information on the overlap and distinction between work plans for RAC no. 1 and RAC No. 2: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/rac.aspx>.

Meeting 1: August 5, 2021

- Introductions
- Background
- Review and Adoption of Charter
- Public Comment
- Next Steps
- Meeting Evaluation

Meeting 2: August 19, 2021

- Introduce Oregon Explorer
- OSU to Present Available Risk Data
- Next Steps
- Meeting Evaluation

Schedule

- **Final RAC No. 2 Recommendations Report:** By mid-February 2022.
- **Secretary of State filing:** Statewide wildfire risk mapping draft rules filed March 20, 2022.
- **Earliest Public Hearing date:** Statewide wildfire risk mapping criteria: April 15, 2022.
- **Board of Forestry Meeting:** Statewide wildfire risk mapping final rules: June 2022 Board approval.

X. Collaboration Protocols for RAC Recommendations

RAC No. 2 will follow protocols, including:

- **Quorum:** 51% of RAC Organizations listed above.
- **Meetings:** Meetings of the RAC and its subcommittees, if any, are open to the public and will include an opportunity for public comment. Notice of RAC meetings will be posted in advance of meetings on the ODF project website.
- **Meeting Agendas and Meeting Materials:** The Facilitator will develop Working Agendas for each meeting. Meeting agendas and meeting materials will be sent electronically to RAC members in advance of the meetings and will be posted on the project website.
- **RAC Commitments:** The RAC members, staff, and participants will participate in good faith, which means:
 - 1) Prepare for and set aside time for the meetings and the entire process.
 - 2) Participate fully, honestly, and fairly, commenting constructively and specifically.

- 3) Speak respectfully, briefly, and non-repetitively; not speaking again on a subject until all other members desiring to speak have had the opportunity to speak.
- 4) Allow people to say what is true for them without fear of reprisal.
- 5) Avoid side conversations during meetings.
- 6) Provide information as much in advance as possible of the meeting in which such information is to be used and share all relevant information to the maximum extent possible.
- 7) Generate and explore all options on their merits with an open mind, listening to different points of view with a goal of understanding the underlying interests of other RAC members.
- 8) Consult regularly with their appointing/nominating bodies and provide their input in a clear and concise manner.
- 9) Each member agrees to work toward fair, practical, and durable recommendations that reflect the diverse interests of the entire RAC and the public.
- 10) When communicating with others, accurately summarize the RAC process, discussion, and meetings, presenting a full, fair, and balanced view of the issues and arguments out of respect for the process and other members.
- 11) Not attempt to affect a different outcome outside of the RAC process once the RAC has reached a “consensus” recommendation.
- 12) Strive vigorously for consensus and closure on issues.
- 13) Self-regulate and help other members abide by these commitments.

XI. Public Comment

There will be public comment opportunities during the RAC No. 2 process. Comments from the public will be limited in time to allow sufficient opportunity to conduct the other portions of the meeting. Typically, comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. Participants are encouraged to submit written comments via email addressed to sb762.rulemaking@oregon.gov or ODF, Tim Holschbach, 2600 State Street, Building D, Salem, OR 97310 in advance of the meeting so they can be circulated to the entire RAC for their consideration.

XII. Process for RAC Recommendations

The Facilitator will assist the RAC and its members in identifying objectives, addressing the diversity of perspectives, and developing substantive, practical recommendations. Each voting RAC member will have one vote. A vote represents that the member will strongly recommend to their government, organization, or group that they should support or oppose the voted-upon proposal consistent with the member’s vote.

The RAC will strive for and use a “consensus” recommendation-making approach to determine their level of agreement on proposals. This allows RAC members to distinguish underlying values, interests, and concerns with a goal of developing widely accepted solutions. Consensus does not mean 100% agreement on each part of every issue, but rather support for a decision, “*taken as a whole.*” This

means that a member may vote to support a consensus proposal even though they would prefer to have it modified in some manner to give it their full support. Consensus is a process of “*give and take*,” of finding common ground and developing creative solutions in a way that everyone can support. Consensus is reached if all voting members support an idea or can say, “*I can live with that.*”

When developing recommendations, the RAC will address each rule component individually, and in various combinations. The RAC will decide on whether it wants to make a package recommendation for the entire rule at the end of the process.

“1-2-3” Consensus Polling

The Facilitator will assist the RAC in articulating points of agreement, as well as articulating concerns that require further exploration. The RAC will use a “Consensus Polling” procedure for assessing the group’s opinion and adjusting proposals. In “Consensus Polling,” the Facilitator will articulate the proposal. Each RAC voting member will then offer “one,” “two,” or “three,” reflecting the following:

- “One” indicates full support for the proposal as stated.
- “Two” indicates that the participant agrees with the proposal as stated but would prefer to have it modified in some manner to give it full support. Nevertheless, the member will support the consensus even if his/her suggested modifications are not supported by the rest of the group because the proposal is worthy of general support, as written.
- “Three” indicates refusal to support the proposal as stated.
- The Facilitator will repeat the consensus voting process as reasonably practical and as time allows to assist the group in achieving consensus regarding a particular recommendation, so that all members are voting “one” or “two.” Either way, the result will be noted in the ODF Staff Report and/or the RAC Report.

No Consensus – Majority and Minority Recommendations

If a consensus on an issue is not likely, as determined by the Facilitator, the votes of those present at the meeting will be taken and recorded as a Majority – Minority recommendation in the meeting summary, which will include the specific majority recommendation, the specific minority recommendation, along with the names supporting each recommendation. Majority is defined as at least 51% of the RAC Organizations (members or alternates) noted above.

Summary of RAC Recommendations

The meeting summaries will serve as the record of RAC recommendations as supplemented by the addition of RAC member statements who elect to submit additional information by the deadline to be established at the last RAC meeting. ODF will package all this information in its staff report to the Board.

XIII. Additional Provisions

The following provisions apply to the RAC process.

A. Regular Communication with Affiliated Group

There is an expectation of regular, two-way communication between RAC members and their appointing jurisdictions / organizations. This is intended to ensure meaningful representation of those interests. Time will be set aside on the RAC agenda for reports from this outreach.

B. Transparency and Media

Members agree that transparency is essential to all deliberations. In that regard:

- 1) RAC members agree to notify Tim Holschbach at sb762.rulemaking@oregon.gov of written communications with the media.
- 2) Members agree to direct public testimony about RAC work to Tim Holschbach at sb762.rulemaking@oregon.gov. These communications will be included in the public record and copied to all RAC members.
- 3) Individual members should not speak on behalf of the entire RAC.
- 4) Whenever reasonable, RAC members and staff will refer press, citizen, and other inquiries to Tim Holschbach at sb762.rulemaking@oregon.gov.

C. Disclosure of Public Official Conflicts of Interest

- 1) Some RAC members may be “public officials.” A public official is required to make an announcement of the nature of a conflict of interest each time the issue giving rise to the conflict of interest is discussed or acted upon.
- 2) The announcement needs to be made on each occasion when the public official is met with the conflict of interest, and the public official must disclose the nature of the conflict of interest.
- 3) For example, the public official would have to make the public announcement one time when met with the conflict of interest, but only one time in each meeting of the RAC. If the matter giving rise to the conflict of interest is raised at another meeting, the disclosure must be made again at that meeting.
- 4) For guidance, please see <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Documents/2021%20PO%20Guide%20Final%20Adopted.pdf>

D. Open Meetings and Records

Meetings of the RAC and subcommittee meetings are open to the public. Notice to the public regarding the dates, times, and locations of all meetings will be provided in advance of a meeting.

RAC members can participate through telephonic conference calls. All records of the Body, including formal documents, discussion drafts, meeting recordings, and exhibits, etc. are public records.

"Communications" refers to all statements and votes made during meetings, memoranda, work products, records, documents, text messages, pictures, or materials developed to fulfill the charge, including electronic mail correspondence. The personal notes of individual members taken at public meetings might be public record to the extent they relate to the conduct of the public's business.

E. Amendment and Interpretation

The Facilitator shall lead a RAC discussion designed to reach a consensus on any proposed Scope & Charge, Guiding Principles, Collaborative Protocols, and Process for RAC Recommendations amendment(s) to this document. Any remaining amendments can be made informally. The terms of this document, except those required by law, are process guidelines – not binding mandates. Ultimately, ODF will make the final decision on the proposed amendments and interpretation issues.

F. RAC Member Agreement

Participation in this process is agreement to abide by the terms of this document.

STATEMENT OF NEED AND FISCAL IMPACT.

Need for Rule(s):

These rules are necessary to meet the statutory obligations of Senate Bill 762, Section 7 and 31-34, enrolled during the 2021 legislative session, directing the Board of Forestry to establish the development of a statewide wildfire risk map, and development of criteria to identify the wildland-urban interface.

Documents Relied Upon, and where they are available:

Rules Advisory Committee documents:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/rac.aspx>

Board of Forestry documents:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/bofmeetings.aspx>

Statement Identifying How Adoption of Rule(s) Will Affect Racial Equity in this state:

All property owners within the State of Oregon are subject to these rules, and all residents of the State of Oregon are impacted by these rules. The proposed administrative rules serve two functions, establishment of a wildfire risk map and identify the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Department has solicited input from organizations representing racial groups.

There is no current data on how this rule would impact racial equity. These rules to create a map in which areas of known socially and economically vulnerable populations will be overlaid with wildfire risk to identify focus areas. These rules will be utilized to inform future decisions and prioritization.

There are no known adverse consequences regarding racial equity. The map created through these rules may identify priority areas to focus financial resources for wildfire risk mitigation and home hardening.

Fiscal and Economic Impact:

The proposed administrative rules serve two functions, establishment of a wildfire risk map and identification of the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

The rules pertaining to the wildfire risk map establish a process that each tax lot in the state of Oregon is assigned 1 of 5 wildfire risk classes. A tax lot with an assignment of high or extreme wildfire risk, that is also identified in the geographic area of the WUI, is subject to additional requirements outlined in Senate Bill 762, enrolled during the 2021 legislative session. It is estimated that approximately 900,000 properties may be within the WUI, with approximately 100,000 assigned a High wildfire risk class and approximately 130,000 assigned an Extreme wildfire risk class.

Within the WUI, tax lots assigned a wildfire risk classification of high or extreme will be required to implement defensible space measures on said property, as determined by the Office of the State Fire Marshal in subsequent rulemaking. This requirement may potentially impose a labor requirement on the tax lot owner or require the owner to hire a contractor to complete the work. The specific need and requirements are indeterminate currently and will vary from tax lot to tax lot. Additionally, the designation high and extreme wildfire risk prioritizes funds for wildfire mitigation activities, which may be utilized to assist with the financial burden of defensible space requirements.

Vacant lands within the WUI and assigned a wildfire risk classification of high or extreme will be required to meet wildfire hazard mitigation building code standards compliant with section R327 of the 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code, as adopted by the Department of Consumer and Business Services in subsequent rulemaking. This will be an ongoing impact and is indeterminate.

For properties outside of the WUI, any designation may have additional indirect impacts, such as an insurer's review of the wildfire risk assignment to a particular property. This impact is undetermined.

Statement of Cost of Compliance:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

These administrative rules will primarily affect the public and small business owners as property owners, who will be regulated through the assignment of wildfire risk class and designation of owning property within the WUI. It is estimated that 230,000 tax lots are within the WUI and assigned a wildfire risk class of High or Extreme. These rules do not impose reporting or record keeping requirements. These rules will identify tax lots that may be subject to additional requirements imposed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

Describe how small businesses were involved in the development of these rule(s)?

All property owners within the State of Oregon are subject to these rules, and all residents of the State of Oregon are impacted by these rules. The proposed administrative rules serve two functions, establishment of a wildfire risk map and identify the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Department has solicited input from organizations representing racial groups.

There is no current data on how this rule would impact racial equity. These rules to create a map in which areas of know socially and economically vulnerable populations will be overlaid with wildfire risk to identify focus areas. These rules will be utilized to inform future decisions and prioritization.

There are no known adverse consequences regarding racial equity. The map created through these rules may identify priority areas to focus financial resources for wildfire risk mitigation and home hardening.

Was an Administrative Rule Advisory Committee consulted? Yes or No?

If not, why not?

Yes

DIVISION 44

Wildland-Urban Interface and Statewide Wildfire Risk Mapping

629-044-1000

Purpose

- (1) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040 is to implement the provisions of ORS 477.027 and ORS 477.490.
- (2) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1010 to 629-044-1015 is to establish criteria by which the wildland-urban interface shall be identified and classified pursuant to ORS 477.027
- (3) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1020 to 629-044-1025 is to set forth the criteria by which a statewide wildfire risk map must be developed and maintained pursuant to ORS 477.027.
- (4) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1030 is to set forth the process for notification to property owners pursuant to ORS 477.027.
- (5) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1035 is to set forth the process of integrating public input into the statewide wildfire risk map pursuant to ORS 477.027.
- (6) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1040 is to set forth the process of how a property owner or local government may appeal the assignment of wildfire risk pursuant to ORS 477.027.

629-044-1005

Definitions

- (1) The definitions set forth in ORS 477.001, shall apply.
- (2) The following words and phrases, when used in OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040, shall mean the following:
 - (a) "Geographical area" means an area of land with similar characteristics that can be considered as a "unit" for the purposes of classification of the wildland-urban interface.
 - (b) "Hazard rating" is a numerical value describing the likelihood and intensity of a fire, based on specific factors or conditions including weather, climate, topography, and vegetation.
 - (c) "Other human development" means essential facilities, special occupancy structures, or hazardous facilities as defined in ORS 455.447 that support community functions, public communication, energy, or transportation.
 - (d) "Structure" means any building that is at least 400 square feet.
 - (e) "Unincorporated community" has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 22.
 - (f) "Urban growth boundary" has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 15.
 - (g) "Vegetative fuels" means plants that constitute a wildfire hazard.
 - (h) "Wildfire Risk" means the wildfire impacts to values based on scientifically modeled wildfire frequency and wildfire intensity.
 - (i) "Wildland fuels" means natural vegetation that occurs in an area where development is essentially non-existent, including grasslands, brushlands, rangelands, woodlands, timberlands, or wilderness. Wildland fuels are a type of vegetative fuels.
 - (j) "Wildland-Urban Interface" means a geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.

629-044-1010

Wildland-Urban Interface Identification Criteria

- (1) A tax lot will be included in the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary if it includes either:
 - (a) a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres and either:
 - (A) A minimum of 50% coverage of wildland or vegetative fuels; or
 - (B) A 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile of wildland or vegetative fuels into a community with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels; or
 - (b) lands identified within an urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary by local comprehensive plans that meet the criteria in (1)(a); or
 - (b) A planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities, that is not identified in (a) but that is approved for development that meets the criteria in (a); or
 - (c) is an occluded geographical area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40-acres within 1.5 miles of an area greater than 1 square mile but less than 2 square miles with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels.
- (2) If multiple structures or other human developments are located on a single tax lot, then the totality will be considered a single structure or other human development.
- (3) Each tax lot in the State of Oregon shall be assigned a wildfire risk classification in accordance with 629-044-1020.

629-044-1015

Periodic Wildland-Urban Interface Lands Identification and Classification

Tax lots identified as Wildland-Urban Interface shall be reviewed in conjunction with updates to the statewide wildfire risk map in accordance with OAR 629-044-1025(3).

629-044-1020

Wildfire Risk Classification and Wildfire Hazard Rating

1. Wildfire risk classifications are defined by a range of wildfire hazard values that illustrate likely wildfire behavior. Each wildfire hazard value range is identified as a wildfire risk class as follows:
 - a. No Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as non-burnable areas.
 - b. Low Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of less than 4 feet, a wildfire that exhibits little to no spotting, torching, or crowning.
 - c. Moderate Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of 4 to 6 feet, and that occasionally exhibits spotting, torching, or crowning.
 - d. High Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of 6 to 8 feet, and frequently exhibits spotting, torching, or crowning.

- e. Extreme Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of over 8 feet, and exhibits frequent spotting, torching, or crowning.
2. It is recognized that natural vegetation is highly variable and that the fuel models used in subsection (1) of this rule may not always accurately reflect expected wildfire behavior, due to variations in local species and vegetation conditions. Therefore, consistent with peer reviewed methods, modifications may be made to the hazard rating as necessary to ensure accuracy.
3. Each wildfire risk class assignment shall be based on the average wildfire hazard rating of each tax lot.
4. Each wildfire risk class shall consist of a wildfire hazard value range. The wildfire hazard value ranges that correlate to a given wildfire risk class shall be determined using a statistically objective methodology.

629-044-1025

Statewide Wildfire Risk Map

1. Oregon State University shall develop and maintain the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map in a publicly accessible format. The map shall be developed:
 - a. Using current, peer reviewed data sets when calculating wildfire risk;
 - b. calculating wildfire risk as a combined hazard rating value incorporating how often wildfires occur and wildfire burn intensity;
 - c. utilize fuel loading measured at the time of year when large wildfires generally occur; and
 - d. shall include a layer that geospatially displays the locations of socially and economically vulnerable communities.
2. The map and other publicly available web-based tools shall be updated in consultation with Oregon State University, within 12 months after updates to the most current wildfire risk assessment are available.

629-044-1030

Notification

1. The State Forester shall provide written notice to property owners whose property is classified as high or extreme wildfire risk. The notice shall include:
 - a. The wildfire risk class assignment;
 - b. where a map of the property can be found in the publicly accessible mapping portal, including the average wildfire hazard value of the property;
 - c. resources available to address wildfire risk;
 - d. information regarding what the wildfire risk assignment means for the property owner; and
 - e. information about how a property owner may appeal the assignment of wildfire risk class, including the specific elements that may be appealed.
2. Prior to the effective date of updates to the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map, the Department shall hold regional public meetings.
3. The Department shall provide a notice of the times and places of all statewide and regional meetings, and the other ways by which comments may be submitted, using a variety of notice methods designed to reach diverse audiences, both statewide and within each region.
4. The Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, shall present anticipated changes to the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary and Wildfire Risk Classification assignments at a county scale.

5. The meeting shall allocate time to receive input from any interested persons relating to the proposed wildfire risk class assignments.
6. The Department shall establish and publicize a place where electronic and written comment may be received.
7. Following the public meeting the Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, may make changes in the proposed wildfire risk classification assignments, hold additional meetings, and thereafter shall make final wildfire risk class assignments.

629-044-1035

Locally Developed Wildfire plans

1. The following types of locally developed wildfire plans may be integrated into the wildfire risk mapping portal if the local jurisdiction chooses.
 - a. Community Wildfire Protection Plans developed under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act;
 - b. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans developed under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; or
 - c. Firewise USA Action Plans developed under the Firewise USA Program administered by the National Fire Protection Association.
2. Information in the types of locally developed wildfire plans identified in subsections (1)(a) thru (c) above, may complement, but does not supplant or supersede the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map

629-044-1040

Appeal of Wildfire Risk Assignment

1. An affected property owner or local government may appeal the assignment of properties by submitting an appeal in writing: within 60 days of:
 - a. The date that the wildfire risk map or update is posted on Oregon Explorer Map Viewer website; or
 - b. The date that a correctly addressed notice is deposited with the postal service for mailing to the affected property owner.
2. In the written appeal in section (1) of this rule, the property owner must specifically state:
 - a. the objections to the wildfire risk class assignment;
 - b. the change in wildfire risk assignment sought; and
 - c. any pertinent facts that may justify a change in the wildfire risk class assignment, in accordance with ORS 477.490.
3. Upon receipt of a written appeal of wildfire risk assignment, the forester:
 - a. shall review the appeal to determine whether the appellant has standing and whether the appeal addresses the issues in subsection (2)(c).
 - b. may contact the property owner or local government to clarify any pertinent facts identified in subsection (2)(c); and
 - c. Prepare a report describing the issue and reach a final decision of the matter by:
 - (A) Reviewing whether the wildfire risk assignment and map were developed and maintained according to these rules and the most current wildfire assessment.
 - (B) Reviewing for any error in the data that was used to determine the wildfire risk class assignment;
 - (C) Reviewing any pertinent facts that may justify a change in the assignment;and

(D) Providing the report to the appellant.

d. The Department shall provide information to the public describing changes to the map based on approved appeals. The information shall be posted on the Department's public website.

4. A final decision of the matter issued under section (3) of this rule shall be a final order, and subject to appeal as prescribed by ORS 183.484.

DRAFT



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

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Fax: 503-378-5518

www.oregon.gov/LCD

February 16, 2022

Tim Holschbach, Deputy Chief
Policy & Planning Protection from Fire Division
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street, Building D
Salem, OR 97310



Dear Tim:

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) would like to thank you and your team for the strong efforts and patience shown while working with the SB 762 Wildland-Urban Interface Criteria and Statewide Wildfire Risk Mapping Rules Advisory Committee (RAC). Drafting administrative rules is often complicated, even controversial. This process has been no exception. Managing a spirited exchange of ideas is no easy task. Your team has consistently worked to find the right balance and we appreciate it.

As members of the RAC, DLCD has learned much about the roles and interests of the various stakeholders involved in this important discussion. We hope to put this knowledge to good use as we work to complete our own work assigned by SB 762, preparing land use planning recommendations for presentation to the state's Wildfire Programs Advisory Council and the Oregon Legislature.

Please accept the attached suggestions for your consideration. You will notice that we have included two documents, an Alternative A version and an Alternative B. These documents include two approaches regarding the terms "intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels" and "meets with wildland or vegetative fuels." DLCD believes that additional explanation of these terms will help clarify how the Wildland-Urban Interface Identification Criteria set forth at 629-044-1010 carry out the definition of Wildland-Urban Interface adopted by the Oregon Board of Forestry and included at 629-044-1005¹. Both identified approaches achieve the same purpose and do not change the rulemaking objective. We simply struggled with how to articulate two possible approaches in one document while maintaining the preferred formatting arrangement.

All other provisions of Alternative A and Alternative B are identical. DLCD is also offering suggestions regarding other areas 629-044-1010, as well as the Notification provisions at 629-044-1030. The location and nature of our suggestions are described below:

¹ "Wildland-Urban Interface" means a geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.

Text in **Bold** is included in the current draft rule. Text in **Green** is suggested to be added

Text that looks like this is suggested to be removed

629-044-1005: Definitions

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|---|---|
| <p>(2) The following words and phrases, when used in OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040, shall mean the following:</p> <p>(c) “Intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels” means minimum of 50% coverage of wildland or vegetative fuels.</p> <p>(d) “Meets with wildland or vegetative fuels” means located within a 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels</p> | <p>No suggested change to this section.</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: Suggested language consistent with that included in Section 1010(1)(a)(A) and (B) of the current draft. Would work in conjunction with suggestions for Section 1010(1)(A) and (B) included below.</i></p> | <p><i>Discussion: None.</i></p> |

629-044-1010: Wildland-Urban Interface Identification Criteria

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|--|---|
| <p>(1) The A tax lot will be included in the Wildland-Urban Interface is a geographical area comprised of tax lots, or portions of tax lots boundary if it that includes either:</p> <p>(a) an average density of minimum one structure or other human development per 40 acres and either:</p> | <p>(1) Same as DLCD Alternative A.</p> <p>(a) Same as DLCD Alternative A.</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: DLCD believes emphasizing that the WUI is an “area of land with similar characteristics” serves a good purpose here. Otherwise, it could be possible to misinterpret this subsection as requiring a tax lot by tax lot assessment, which is not what we understand the intent to be. Using the term “average density” is also intended to re-enforce that the WUI is an area comprised of multiple properties rather than an individual tax lot.</i></p> <p><i>DLCD believes this suggestion align (1) and (1)(a) with the first part of the Wildland-Urban Interface definition:</i></p> <p><i>“Wildland-Urban Interface” means a geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.</i></p> | |

Text in **Bold** is included in the current draft rule. Text in **Green** is suggested to be added
 Text that looks like this is suggested to be removed

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|---|--|
| <p>(A) Meets with A minimum of 50% coverage of wildland or vegetative fuels; or</p> <p>(B) Intermingles with A 1.5 mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile of wildland or vegetative fuels. into a community with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels; or</p> | <p>(A) Meets A minimum of 50% coverage with wildland or vegetative fuels through being located within a 1.5 mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels; or</p> <p>(B) Intermingles with A 1.5 mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile of wildland or vegetative fuels due to a minimum of 50% coverage with wildland or vegetative fuel types. into a community with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels; or</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: This approach would rely on the suggested definitions in Section 1005 making extra text unnecessary.</i></p> | <p><i>Discussion: This approach would rely the text of the subsection to explain the thresholds for “Meets” and “Intermingles” making additional definitions in Section 1005 unnecessary.</i></p> |
| <p><i>Overall Discussion: DLCD found use of the term “communities” a bit confusing so suggest removing it, either by not including it in the definition at Section 1005 or not including in Subsection(s) 1010(1)(a)(A) or (B).</i></p> <p><i>DLCD believes that either of these possible approaches would help align Subsections (1)(a)(A) and (1)(a)(B) with the second part of the Wildland-Urban Interface definition:</i></p> <p><i>“Wildland-Urban Interface” means a geographical area where structures and other human development <u>meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.</u></i></p> | |

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <p>(2) The Wildland-Urban Interface also includes:</p> | <p>(2) Same as Alternative A.</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: Upon looking and thinking about this more, it felt a bit unusual use an “or” to transition from (1)(a)(B) to (1)(b). Therefore, DLCD suggests creating a new (2).</i></p> <p><i>DLCD also thinks it could be helpful establish a stand-alone designation for lands in a UGB or Unincorporated Community boundary in the way “occluded geographical area” is treated. Please see language and description for (2)(a) & (b) below.</i></p> | |

Text in **Bold** is included in the current draft rule. Text in **Green** is suggested to be added

Text that looks like this is suggested to be removed

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) lands identified within an urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary by local comprehensive plans that meets with wildland or vegetative fuels. the criteria in (1)(a).</p> | <p>(a) lands identified within an urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary by local comprehensive plans that meets with wildland or vegetative fuels through being located within a 1.5 mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels. the criteria in (1)(a).</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: The language above would rely on the new definition of “Meets with wildland and vegetative fuels” suggested for Section 1005 in the same way as (1)(a)(A) and (B) would under this alternative (DLCD Alternative A).</i></p> | <p><i>Discussion: The language above would rely on the text of (2)(a) to describe the threshold for “Meets with wildland and vegetative fuels” in the same way as (1)(a)(A) and (B) would work under this alternative (DLCD Alternative B).</i></p> |
| <p>Overall Discussion - DLCD feels that limiting this inquiry to lands that “meet” wildland or vegetative fuels will refine the amount of land that might be included under this provision, although we wouldn’t oppose looking at “intermingled” areas within UGB’s and Unincorporated Community boundaries as well.</p> <p>As we mentioned during the RAC meeting, DLCD believes the treatment of vacant lands inside urban growth boundaries and unincorporated community boundaries to be the most important policy choice of the rulemaking. These lands may be empty or sparsely settled now but they will be full, full of homes and businesses and people. This is an opportunity to be entirely proactive as opposed to being forced to be reactive. There is only one chance to do things right the first time. Building out communities to be fire resistant from the beginning is one thing we can do to help avoid the damage and destruction so many families have suffered through in recent years. This approach could become part of Oregon’s legacy.</p> | |

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>(b) An is an occluded geographical area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40-acres within 1.5 miles of an area greater than 1 square mile but less than 2 square miles with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels.</p> | <p>(b) Same as Alternative A.</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: Minor wording suggestion.</i></p> | |

Text in **Bold** is included in the current draft rule. Text in **Green** is suggested to be added

Text that looks like this is suggested to be removed

629-044-1030: Notification

| DLCD Alternative A | DLCD Alternative B |
|--|--|
| <p>1. The State Forester shall provide written notice to to of properties classified as high or extreme wildfire risk.</p> <p>2. The written notice shall be sent to the property owner address included in the county assessor records, as well as the property's physical address if the addresses are different.</p> <p>3. The written notice shall include:</p> | <p>1. Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>2. Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>3. Same as Alternative A.</p> |
| <p><i>Discussion: Sending notice to a property's physical address when that address is different than what is listed for the property owner in the county records would reach more of the individuals living in high or extreme wildfire risk areas.</i></p> <p><i>It has been DLCD's observation that this is a relatively straightforward and non-time-consuming methodology, which provides a significant amount of additional notice with very little additional costs. It is a methodology that is being adopted by more and more local governments.</i></p> <p><i>We appreciate that this level of notice exceeds what is required under SB 762. However, we think it could result in a more prepared, resilient community.</i></p> | |

In conclusion, DLCD is proud to have been part of this conversation to help keep people and property out of harm's way. Furnishing protection from nature hazards like wildfire is a marathon, not a sprint. We believe that the work conducted pursuant to SB 762 will serve to make Oregon a safer place. We also believe that more fire-resistant communities will help promote the State's timber industry. Please feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions you would like to discuss. I can be reached by phone at 541-325-6928 or email at jon.jinings@dlcd.oregon.gov.

Respectfully,



Jon Jinings
Community Services Specialist
Department of Land Conservation and Development

Attachments

1 **DIVISION 44**

2 **Wildland-Urban Interface and Statewide Wildfire Risk Mapping**

3

4 **629-044-1000**

5 **Purpose**

6 (1) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040 is to implement the provisions of ORS 477.027
7 and ORS 477.490.

8 (2) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1010 to 629-044-1015 is to establish criteria by which the wildland-
9 urban interface shall be identified and classified pursuant to ORS 477.027

10 (3) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1020 to 629-044-1025 is to set forth the criteria by which a statewide
11 wildfire risk map must be developed and maintained pursuant to ORS 477.027.

12 (4) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1030 is to set forth the process for notification to property owners
13 pursuant to ORS 477.027.

14 (5) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1035 is to set forth the process of integrating public input into the
15 statewide wildfire risk map pursuant to ORS 477.027.

16 (6) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1040 is to set forth the process of how a property owner or local
17 government may appeal the assignment of wildfire risk pursuant to ORS 477.027.

18

19 **629-044-1005**

20 **Definitions**

21 (1) The definitions set forth in ORS 477.001, shall apply.

22

23 (2) The following words and phrases, when used in OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040, shall mean the
24 following:

25

26 (a) “Geographical area” means an area of land with similar characteristics that can be
27 considered as a "unit" for the purposes of classification of the wildland-urban interface.

28

29 (b) "Hazard rating" is a numerical value describing the likelihood and intensity of a fire, based on
30 specific factors or conditions including weather, climate, topography, and vegetation.

31

32 (c) “Intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels” means minimum of 50% coverage of
33 wildland or vegetative fuels.

34

35 (d) “Meets with wildland or vegetative fuels” means located within a 1.5-mile buffer from the
36 edge of an area greater than 1 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or
37 vegetative fuels

38

39 (ee) “Other human development” means essential facilities, special occupancy structures, or
40 hazardous facilities as defined in ORS 455.447 that support community functions, public
41 communication, energy, or transportation.

42

1 (f) "Structure" means any building that is at least 400 square feet.

2
3 (g) "Unincorporated community" has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 22.

4
5 (h) "Urban growth boundary" has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 15.

6
7 (i) "Vegetative fuels" means plants that constitute a wildfire hazard.

8
9 (j) "Wildfire Risk" means the wildfire impacts to values based on scientifically modeled wildfire
10 frequency and wildfire intensity.

11
12 (k) "Wildland fuels" means natural vegetation that occurs in an area where development is
13 essentially non-existent, including grasslands, brushlands, rangelands, woodlands, timberlands,
14 or wilderness. Wildland fuels are a type of vegetative fuels.

15
16 (l) "Wildland-Urban Interface" means a geographical area where structures and other human
17 development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.

18
19 **629-044-1010**

20 **Wildland-Urban Interface Identification Criteria**

21 (1) ~~The A tax lot will be included in the~~ Wildland-Urban Interface is a geographical area comprised
22 of tax lots, or portions of tax lots boundary if it that includes either:

23
24 (a) an average density of minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres
25 and either:

26
27 (A) Meets with A minimum of 50% coverage of wildland or vegetative fuels; or

28
29 (B) Intermingles with A 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square
30 mile of wildland or vegetative fuels, into a community with a minimum of 75% cover of
31 wildland or vegetative fuels; or

32
33 (2) The Wildland-Urban Interface also includes:

34
35 (a) lands identified within an urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary
36 by local comprehensive plans that meets with wildland or vegetative fuels, the criteria in (1)(a)

37
38 (b) A planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities,
39 that is not identified in (a) but that is approved for development that meets the criteria in (a); or

(be) ~~An is an~~ occluded geographical area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40-acres within 1.5 miles of an area greater than 1 square mile but less than 2 square miles with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels.

(32) If multiple structures or other human developments are located on a single tax lot, then the totality will be considered a single structure or other human development.

(43) Each tax lot in the State of Oregon shall be assigned a wildfire risk classification in accordance with 629-044-1020.

629-044-1015

Periodic Wildland-Urban Interface Lands Identification and Classification

Tax lots identified as Wildland-Urban Interface shall be reviewed in conjunction with updates to the statewide wildfire risk map in accordance with OAR 629-044-1025(3).

629-044-1020

Wildfire Risk Classification and Wildfire Hazard Rating

1. Wildfire risk classifications are defined by a range of wildfire hazard values that illustrate likely wildfire behavior. Each wildfire hazard value range is identified as a wildfire risk class as follows:
 - a. No Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as non-burnable areas.
 - b. Low Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of less than 4 feet, a wildfire that exhibits little to no spotting, torching, or crowning.
 - c. Moderate Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of 4 to 6 feet, and that occasionally exhibits spotting, torching, or crowning.
 - d. High Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of 6 to 8 feet, and frequently exhibits spotting, torching, or crowning.
 - e. Extreme Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of over 8 feet, and exhibits frequent spotting, torching, or crowning.
2. It is recognized that natural vegetation is highly variable and that the fuel models used in subsection (1) of this rule may not always accurately reflect expected wildfire behavior, due to variations in local species and vegetation conditions. Therefore, consistent with peer reviewed methods, modifications may be made to the hazard rating as necessary to ensure accuracy.
3. Each wildfire risk class assignment shall be based on the average wildfire hazard rating of each tax lot.
4. Each wildfire risk class shall consist of a wildfire hazard value range. The wildfire hazard value ranges that correlate to a given wildfire risk class shall be determined using a statistically objective methodology.

629-044-1025

Statewide Wildfire Risk Map

- 1 1. Oregon State University shall develop and maintain the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map in a publicly
2 accessible format. The map shall be developed:
 - 3 a. Using current, peer reviewed data sets when calculating wildfire risk;
 - 4 b. calculating wildfire risk as a combined hazard rating value incorporating how often wildfires
5 occur and wildfire burn intensity;
 - 6 c. utilize fuel loading measured at the time of year when large wildfires generally occur; and
 - 7 d. shall include a layer that geospatially displays the locations of socially and economically
8 vulnerable communities.
- 9 2. The map and other publicly available web-based tools shall be updated in consultation with Oregon
10 State University, within 12 months after updates to the most current wildfire risk assessment are
11 available.

13 629-044-1030

14 Notification

- 15 1. The State Forester shall provide written notice ~~of to~~ property ~~es~~ ~~owners whose property is~~ classified
16 as high or extreme wildfire risk.
- 17
- 18 2. The written notice shall be sent to the property owner address included in the county assessor
19 records, as well as the property’s physical address if the addresses are different.
- 20
- 21 1.3. The written notice shall include:
 - 22 a. The wildfire risk class assignment;
 - 23 b. where a map of the property can be found in the publicly accessible mapping portal,
24 including the average wildfire hazard value of the property;
 - 25 c. resources available to address wildfire risk;
 - 26 d. information regarding what the wildfire risk assignment means for the property owner; and
 - 27 e. information about how a property owner may appeal the assignment of wildfire risk class,
28 including the specific elements that may be appealed.
- 29
- 30 2.4. Prior to the effective date of updates to the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map, the Department shall hold
31 regional public meetings.
- 32 3.5. The Department shall provide a notice of the times and places of all statewide and regional
33 meetings, and the other ways by which comments may be submitted, using a variety of notice
34 methods designed to reach diverse audiences, both statewide and within each region.
- 35 4.6. The Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, shall present anticipated changes to
36 the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary and Wildfire Risk Classification assignments at a county
37 scale.
- 38 5.7. The meeting shall allocate time to receive input from any interested persons relating to the
39 proposed wildfire risk class assignments.
- 40 6.8. The Department shall establish and publicize a place where electronic and written comment may be
41 received.
- 42 7.9. Following the public meeting the Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, may
43 make changes in the proposed wildfire risk classification assignments, hold additional meetings, and
44 thereafter shall make final wildfire risk class assignments.

46 629-044-1035

47 Locally Developed Wildfire plans

- 1 1. The following types of locally developed wildfire plans may be integrated into the wildfire risk
 2 mapping portal if the local jurisdiction chooses.
 - 3 a. Community Wildfire Protection Plans developed under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act;
 - 4 b. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans developed under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
 5 Emergency Assistance Act; or
 - 6 c. Firewise USA Action Plans developed under the Firewise USA Program administered by the
 7 National Fire Protection Association.
- 8 2. Information in the types of locally developed wildfire plans identified in subsections (1)(a) thru (c)
 9 above, may complement, but does not supplant or supersede the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map

10
 11 **629-044-1040**

12 **Appeal of Wildfire Risk Assignment**

- 13 1. A request of a property owner or local government who objects to a wildfire risk class assignment
 14 may contest that decision by filing an appeal with the State Forester that is:
 - 15 a. in writing; and
 - 16 b. received within 60 days after either:
 - 17 A. Completion or update of the wildfire risk classification map, or
 - 18 B. delivery of the notice of classification to property owners whose property is in the
 19 extreme or high wildfire risk classes.
- 20
 21 2. In the written appeal in section (1) of this rule, the property owner must specifically state:
 - 22 a. the objections to the wildfire risk class assignment;
 - 23 b. the change in wildfire risk assignment sought; and
 - 24 c. any pertinent facts that may justify a change in the wildfire risk class assignment, in
 25 accordance with ORS 477.490.
- 26 3. Upon receipt of a written appeal of wildfire risk assignment, the forester:
 - 27 a. shall review the appeal to determine whether the appellant has standing and whether
 28 the appeal addresses the issues in subsection (2)(c).
 - 29 b. may contact the property owner or local government to clarify any pertinent facts
 30 identified in subsection (2)(c); and
 - 31 c. Prepare a report describing the issue and reach a final decision of the matter by:
 - 32 (A) Reviewing whether the wildfire risk assignment and map were developed
 33 and maintained according to these rules and the most current wildfire
 34 assessment.
 - 35 (B) Reviewing for any error in the data that was used to determine the wildfire
 36 risk class assignment;
 - 37 (C) Reviewing any pertinent facts that may justify a change in the assignment;
 38 and
 - 39 (D) Providing the report to the appellant.
 - 40 d. The Department shall provide information to the public describing changes to the
 41 map based on approved appeals. The information shall be posted on the Department’s
 42 public website.
- 43
 44 4. A final decision of the matter issued under section (3) of this rule shall be a final order, and subject
 45 to appeal as prescribed by ORS 183.484.

1 **DIVISION 44**

2 **Wildland-Urban Interface and Statewide Wildfire Risk Mapping**

3

4 **629-044-1000**

5 **Purpose**

6 (1) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040 is to implement the provisions of ORS 477.027
7 and ORS 477.490.

8 (2) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1010 to 629-044-1015 is to establish criteria by which the wildland-
9 urban interface shall be identified and classified pursuant to ORS 477.027

10 (3) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1020 to 629-044-1025 is to set forth the criteria by which a statewide
11 wildfire risk map must be developed and maintained pursuant to ORS 477.027.

12 (4) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1030 is to set forth the process for notification to property owners
13 pursuant to ORS 477.027.

14 (5) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1035 is to set forth the process of integrating public input into the
15 statewide wildfire risk map pursuant to ORS 477.027.

16 (6) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1040 is to set forth the process of how a property owner or local
17 government may appeal the assignment of wildfire risk pursuant to ORS 477.027.

18

19 **629-044-1005**

20 **Definitions**

21 (1) The definitions set forth in ORS 477.001, shall apply.

22

23 (2) The following words and phrases, when used in OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040, shall mean the
24 following:

25

26 (a) “Geographical area” means an area of land with similar characteristics that can be
27 considered as a "unit" for the purposes of classification of the wildland-urban interface.

28 (b) "Hazard rating" is a numerical value describing the likelihood and intensity of a fire, based on
29 specific factors or conditions including weather, climate, topography, and vegetation.

30 (c) “Other human development” means essential facilities, special occupancy structures, or
31 hazardous facilities as defined in ORS 455.447 that support community functions, public
32 communication, energy, or transportation.

33 (d) "Structure" means any building that is at least 400 square feet.

34 (e) “Unincorporated community” has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 22.

35 (f) “Urban growth boundary” has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 15.

36 (g) “Vegetative fuels” means plants that constitute a wildfire hazard.

37 (h) “Wildfire Risk” means the wildfire impacts to values based on scientifically modeled wildfire
38 frequency and wildfire intensity.

39 (i) “Wildland fuels” means natural vegetation that occurs in an area where development is
40 essentially non-existent, including grasslands, brushlands, rangelands, woodlands, timberlands,
41 or wilderness. Wildland fuels are a type of vegetative fuels.

(j) “Wildland-Urban Interface” means a geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.

629-044-1010

Wildland-Urban Interface Identification Criteria

(1) ~~The A tax lot will be included in the~~ Wildland-Urban Interface is a geographical area comprised of tax lots, or portions of tax lots boundary if it that includes either:

(a) an average density of minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres and either:

(A) ~~Meets A minimum of 50% coverage of with~~ wildland or vegetative fuels through being located within a 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels; or

(B) ~~Intermingles with A 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile of~~ wildland or vegetative fuels due to a minimum of 50% coverage of wildland or vegetative fuel types. into a community with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels; or

(2) The Wildland-Urban Interface also includes:

~~(a)~~ lands identified within an urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary by local comprehensive plans that meets with wildland or vegetative fuels through being located within a 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 1 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels. the criteria in (1)(a)

~~(b)~~ A planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities, that is not identified in (a) but that is approved for development that meets the criteria in (a); or

~~(b)~~ An is an occluded geographical area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40-acres within 1.5 miles of an area greater than 1 square mile but less than 2 square miles with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels.

~~(3)~~ If multiple structures or other human developments are located on a single tax lot, then the totality will be considered a single structure or other human development.

~~(4)~~ Each tax lot in the State of Oregon shall be assigned a wildfire risk classification in accordance with 629-044-1020.

629-044-1015

Periodic Wildland-Urban Interface Lands Identification and Classification

1 Tax lots identified as Wildland-Urban Interface shall be reviewed in conjunction with updates to the
 2 statewide wildfire risk map in accordance with OAR 629-044-1025(3).

3

4 **629-044-1020**

5 **Wildfire Risk Classification and Wildfire Hazard Rating**

- 6 1. Wildfire risk classifications are defined by a range of wildfire hazard values that illustrate likely
 7 wildfire behavior. Each wildfire hazard value range is identified as a wildfire risk class as follows:
 8 a. No Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as non-burnable
 9 areas.
 10 b. Low Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the
 11 capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of less than 4 feet, a wildfire
 12 that exhibits little to no spotting, torching, or crowning.
 13 c. Moderate Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having
 14 the capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of 4 to 6 feet, and that
 15 occasionally exhibits spotting, torching, or crowning.
 16 d. High Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the
 17 capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of 6 to 8 feet, and frequently
 18 exhibits spotting, torching, or crowning.
 19 e. Extreme Wildfire Risk. A wildfire hazard value xx to xx. Typically characterized as having the
 20 capacity to generate a wildfire which produces a flame length of over 8 feet, and exhibits
 21 frequent spotting, torching, or crowning.
 22 2. It is recognized that natural vegetation is highly variable and that the fuel models used in subsection
 23 (1) of this rule may not always accurately reflect expected wildfire behavior, due to variations in
 24 local species and vegetation conditions. Therefore, consistent with peer reviewed methods,
 25 modifications may be made to the hazard rating as necessary to ensure accuracy.
 26 3. Each wildfire risk class assignment shall be based on the average wildfire hazard rating of each tax
 27 lot.
 28 4. Each wildfire risk class shall consist of a wildfire hazard value range. The wildfire hazard value ranges
 29 that correlate to a given wildfire risk class shall be determined using a statistically objective
 30 methodology.
 31

32 **629-044-1025**

33 **Statewide Wildfire Risk Map**

- 34 1. Oregon State University shall develop and maintain the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map in a publicly
 35 accessible format. The map shall be developed:
 36 a. Using current, peer reviewed data sets when calculating wildfire risk;
 37 b. calculating wildfire risk as a combined hazard rating value incorporating how often wildfires
 38 occur and wildfire burn intensity;
 39 c. utilize fuel loading measured at the time of year when large wildfires generally occur; and
 40 d. shall include a layer that geospatially displays the locations of socially and economically
 41 vulnerable communities.
 42 2. The map and other publicly available web-based tools shall be updated in consultation with Oregon
 43 State University, within 12 months after updates to the most current wildfire risk assessment are
 44 available.
 45

46 **629-044-1030**

Notification

~~1.~~ The State Forester shall provide written notice ~~to of~~ property ~~iesy owners whose property is~~ classified as high or extreme wildfire risk.

~~2.~~ The written notice shall be sent to the property owner address included in the county assessor records, as well as the property’s physical address if the addresses are different.

~~3.~~ The written notice shall include:

- a. The wildfire risk class assignment;
- b. where a map of the property can be found in the publicly accessible mapping portal, including the average wildfire hazard value of the property;
- c. resources available to address wildfire risk;
- d. information regarding what the wildfire risk assignment means for the property owner; and
- e. information about how a property owner may appeal the assignment of wildfire risk class, including the specific elements that may be appealed.

~~4.~~ Prior to the effective date of updates to the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map, the Department shall hold regional public meetings.

~~5.~~ The Department shall provide a notice of the times and places of all statewide and regional meetings, and the other ways by which comments may be submitted, using a variety of notice methods designed to reach diverse audiences, both statewide and within each region.

~~6.~~ The Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, shall present anticipated changes to the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary and Wildfire Risk Classification assignments at a county scale.

~~7.~~ The meeting shall allocate time to receive input from any interested persons relating to the proposed wildfire risk class assignments.

~~8.~~ The Department shall establish and publicize a place where electronic and written comment may be received.

~~9.~~ Following the public meeting the Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, may make changes in the proposed wildfire risk classification assignments, hold additional meetings, and thereafter shall make final wildfire risk class assignments.

629-044-1035

Locally Developed Wildfire plans

1. The following types of locally developed wildfire plans may be integrated into the wildfire risk mapping portal if the local jurisdiction chooses.

- a. Community Wildfire Protection Plans developed under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act;
- b. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans developed under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; or
- c. Firewise USA Action Plans developed under the Firewise USA Program administered by the National Fire Protection Association.

2. Information in the types of locally developed wildfire plans identified in subsections (1)(a) thru (c) above, may complement, but does not supplant or supersede the Statewide Wildfire Risk Map

629-044-1040

Appeal of Wildfire Risk Assignment

- 1 1. A request of a property owner or local government who objects to a wildfire risk class assignment
 2 may contest that decision by filing an appeal with the State Forester that is:
 3 a. in writing; and
 4 b. received within 60 days after either:
 5 A. Completion or update of the wildfire risk classification map, or
 6 B. delivery of the notice of classification to property owners whose property is in the
 7 extreme or high wildfire risk classes.
 8
- 9 2. In the written appeal in section (1) of this rule, the property owner must specifically state:
 10 a. the objections to the wildfire risk class assignment;
 11 b. the change in wildfire risk assignment sought; and
 12 c. any pertinent facts that may justify a change in the wildfire risk class assignment, in
 13 accordance with ORS 477.490.
- 14 3. Upon receipt of a written appeal of wildfire risk assignment, the forester:
 15 a. shall review the appeal to determine whether the appellant has standing and whether
 16 the appeal addresses the issues in subsection (2)(c).
 17 b. may contact the property owner or local government to clarify any pertinent facts
 18 identified in subsection (2)(c); and
 19 c. Prepare a report describing the issue and reach a final decision of the matter by:
 20 (A) Reviewing whether the wildfire risk assignment and map were developed
 21 and maintained according to these rules and the most current wildfire
 22 assessment.
 23 (B) Reviewing for any error in the data that was used to determine the wildfire
 24 risk class assignment;
 25 (C) Reviewing any pertinent facts that may justify a change in the assignment;
 26 and
 27 (D) Providing the report to the appellant.
 28 d. The Department shall provide information to the public describing changes to the
 29 map based on approved appeals. The information shall be posted on the Department’s
 30 public website.
 31
- 32 4. A final decision of the matter issued under section (3) of this rule shall be a final order, and subject
 33 to appeal as prescribed by ORS 183.484.

HOLSCHBACH Tim J * ODF

From: Kyle Williams <kyle@ofic.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2022 4:23 PM
To: Sam Imperati; HOLSCHBACH Tim J * ODF
Cc: Amanda Astor; Mike Eliason
Subject: WUI RAC meeting 2/10 and important feedback.

Afternoon Sam and Tim,

Wanted to let you know that I won't be able to attend our WUI Rac meeting tomorrow. In fact Amanda won't make it either and neither will my alternate Mike Eliason. We've run into a time of year where competing priorities are making too much going on at once a very real problem.

For formalities sake Amanda and I have given our proxy to Lauren Smith and Dave Hunnicutt.

But I wanted to be sure you heard directly from me that I have a serious concern about where this is headed. We (the RAC members) are all acknowledging that we have to accept broad criteria for "structures" because of a limitation on the mapping data available. While everyone has acknowledged the data set will not match what we believe to be prudent policy, we nonetheless are accepting what will likely be a very broad interpretation and resultant map. That unto itself would likely be workable, if not for the very real fact that downstream regulations will be applied in those mapped areas. Specifically, and only because it's the set of rules we know are coming first, defensible space standards. OSFM has clearly messaged they are NOT going to be refining where their defensible space standards will apply. "the criteria set forth in the map will guide where the standards apply". If that does not change, we will have defensible space standards applying to EVERY structure over 400 sf. that falls within what we are acknowledging to be a broad WUI mapped area, regardless of occupancy, building permit, ag exemption, etc. etc. (for now in high and extreme).

If one of these two things does not give; a broad set of criteria, or OSFM not being willing to refine where their rules apply. We are most certainly headed for bad policy, overreaching regulations, and a full scale pushback by Oregonians.

None of this is a surprise, I've clearly messaged the importance of credibility in the standards and right sizing our regulatory footprint, I fear we are going to lose on both.

Thanks for your efforts on this workgroup, I understand the challenges and the limitations in the process.



Kyle Williams

Director of Forest Protection

Oregon Forest & Industries Council

O: 503-586-1244 | C: 541-207-4547 | [ofic.com](mailto:kyle@ofic.com)



HOLSCHBACH Tim J * ODF

From: Olson, Shawn <shawn.olson@ClackamasFire.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 4:00 PM
To: HOLSCHBACH Tim J * ODF; Sam Imperati
Cc: Les Hallman (Les.Hallman@tvfr.com); rjohnson@sistersfire.com; Bob Horton; Tanner Fairrington
Subject: OFMA and OFCA Comments Relating to Proposed OAR's
Attachments: OFMA and OFCA - OAR Comments.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning Tim and Sam,

Thank you so much for all your efforts and guidance during the RAC process! It has been an incredible process!

Attached are comments from OFCA and OFMA.

Additionally, we wanted to provide the following written comments:

OFCA and OFMA support the use of the definition of "Structure" from the 2-3-22 meeting.

- This definition helps determine what locations are within the WUI. For locations that are in the WUI, and classified as high or extreme risk, additionally requirements will apply including defensible space, home hardening, and possibly land use rules.

We wanted to address concerns raised during the meeting held on Thursday, February 10th relating to the definition of Structure:

- Concerns were raised that narrowing the definition of structure would create challenges for creating a map based on available data. As mentioned in the last couple of meetings, we believe that the rules can be modified to allow both to occur.
- A suggestion was made to change the previous "Structure" definition from "required a land use decision, a building permit, or both" to "required a land use decision AND a building permit". The change from OR to AND would have unintended consequences and is not in line with previous RAC discussions.
- A suggestion was made to add a reference to "certificate of occupancy" into the "Structure" definition. We believe if a reference is provided to occupancy, it should be "normally occupied". This would help achieve concerns expressed by RAC members without creating unintended consequences from using that specific and defined term.

The following RAC members are in support of the above mentioned comments:

Chief Roger Johnson-OFCA

Chief Les Hallman-OFCA

Chief Robert Horton-OFCA

Deputy Fire Marshal Tanner Fairrington-OFMA (past president)

Fire Marshal Shawn Olson-OFMA (president)

Please let anyone of us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care,

Shawn Olson
Battalion Chief-Fire Marshal
Ph: 503-742-2663
main: [503.742.2600](tel:503.742.2600)



HOLSCHBACH Tim J * ODF

From: Hawkins, Chad E <Chad.Hawkins@osp.oregon.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 4:42 PM
To: HOLSCHBACH Tim J * ODF; 'samimperati@icmresolutions.com'
Cc: Medema, Travis; Ruiz-temple, Mariana
Subject: ODF RAC comments on behalf of OSFM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Tim and Sam,

OSFM has appreciated the opportunity to participate in the RAC process with ODF and provide input and perspectives as needed.

Throughout the RAC process, many stakeholders voiced concerns about the definition of a structure. The current proposed definition language states *“means any building that is at least 400 square feet.”* This definition of structure is too broad in the opinion of OSFM. As outlined and discussed throughout this process, the structure definition established by ODF will be extremely important to OSFM and the fire service as we move towards development and implementation of the defensible space code.

In the RAC process, previous drafted rule language (02-03-2022 version) that OSFM and the fire service were agreeable to stated *“means any building that is at least 400 square feet that required a land use decision, a building permit, or both, regardless of whether a land use decision or a building permit was obtained”*. Adding the additional language refines the scope of structures for efficient and effective downstream application of the defensible space code. In addition, this language also provides a pathway for certain structures to be exempt, such as Agricultural Buildings as they are not issued a permit.

OSFM believes it necessary to further define structures to make downstream application of the defensible space code clear and consistent across all agencies.

Respectfully,

Chad E. Hawkins
Assistant Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Fire & Life Safety Division
Office of State Fire Marshal
Oregon State Police
(503) 934-8252 desk
(503) 400-4671 cell
cehawkin@osp.oregon.gov

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STAFF REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | 5 |
| Topic: | Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee |
| Presentation Title: | FTLAC Testimony to the Board of Forestry |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | David Yamamoto, FTLAC Chair and Tillamook County Commissioner John Sweet, FTLAC Vice-Chair and Coos County Commissioner |

On behalf of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC), comments and additional information may be provided on State Forest Lands business.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | 6 |
| Work Plan: | State Forests Work Plan |
| Topic: | Marbled Murrelet Management |
| Presentation Title: | Endangered Species Management Plan |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Nick Palazzotto, Wildlife Biologist 503-945-7366, Nick.Palazzotto@Oregon.gov Justin Butteris, Policy Analyst 503-945-7481, Justin.Butteris@Oregon.gov |

CONTEXT

At its July 2021 meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) voted to uplist the marbled murrelet from threatened to endangered under the state Endangered Species Act (ESA; Oregon Revised Statute 496.171 to 496.192). The decision to uplist triggers a statutory requirement for state landowners and land managers to develop an Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP) for the listed species. The state ESA establishes a process of plan development and approval (ORS 496.182), and plan content requirements have been established by the Commission in Oregon Administrative Rule ([OAR 635-100-0140](#)). Many of these actions have discrete timeframes established.

Within four months of the listing decision the Commission is required to determine if state land can play a role in the conservation of endangered species. State land owning or managing agencies that the Commission determines can play a role in conservation of the species must develop ESMPs (ORS 496.182(8), OAR 635-100-0140(6)). At the November 4, 2021, meeting, the Commission identified ODF as an agency that manages terrestrial marbled murrelet habitat in Oregon that can play a role in the conservation of the marbled murrelet (Attachment 1).

In November 2021, the Division submitted a staff report to the Board of Forestry (Board) describing the Commission’s decision and associated requirements of an ESMP. Following the Commission’s finding that ODF can play a role, the next step is for the Division to determine the role for State Forests lands in the conservation of marbled murrelets (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(B)). This report provides the Division’s recommendation for the role of ODF-managed lands in marbled murrelet conservation for BOF approval. It also presents a framework for the ESMP for review to allow for Board feedback early in the development process (Attachment 2).

A progress update will be given to the Board in July 2022, and a final draft ESMP will be presented to the Board for approval in November 2022. The Board-approved ESMP will be submitted to the Commission no later than January 2023 for their review and approval.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Commission’s adopted survival guidelines ([OAR 635-100-0137](#)) apply unless an agency has a Commission-approved ESMP or an Incidental Take Permit. The guidelines are what the Commission considers necessary to ensure the survival of individual members of the species (ORS

496.182(2)(a)) in the absence of an ESMP. The Division has been implementing these requirements following their adoption as mandatory.

The uplisting of the marbled murrelet to endangered sets in motion a series of actions that must be taken by the Commission, ODFW, ODF, and the Board, most notably the development and approval of an ESMP. State land managers have 18 months to develop and submit their ESMP to the ODFW Commission, who then has 6 months to approve it. The process of development and final approval of the ESMP by the Commission is required to be completed within 2 years (ORS 496.182). The uplisting has no impact on private landowners.

Within four months of the listing decision the Commission is required to determine if state land can play a role in the conservation of endangered species. State land owning or managing agencies that the Commission determines can play a role in conservation of the species must develop ESMPs (ORS 496.182(8), OAR 635-100-0140(6)). At the November 4, 2021, meeting, the Commission identified ODF as an agency that manages terrestrial marbled murrelet habitat in Oregon that can play a role in the conservation of the marbled murrelet (Attachment 1).

Following the finding that ODF can play a role, the next step is for the Division to determine the role for State Forests lands in the conservation of marbled murrelets (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(B)). As defined in ORS 496.171, “conservation” means the use of methods and procedures necessary to bring a species to the point at which the measures provided under ORS 496.171 to 496.182 are no longer necessary. This role may include, but is not limited to conservation, contribution toward conservation, or take avoidance.

Each agency has considerable discretion in determining the role that its lands can play, and in making this determination must balance several factors consistent with the biological aspects of species management identified by ODFW and the statutory or constitutional obligations of the agencies (including the land’s statutory purpose). Thus, the Division is obligated to balance: (1) the statutory requirements, rules, and policies applicable to the management of state forests; (2) the social and economic impacts that conservation would have on the state; (3) the conservation needs of the species; and (4) the purpose of the land and the roles of other ownership categories when determining the role of State Forest lands in the conservation of marbled murrelets.

Within 18 months of the listing decision (i.e., by January 16, 2023), the Division is required to develop and approve an ESMP and submit that plan to the Commission for their review and approval (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(C)). The Commission is given an additional six months to review the submitted plan to determine whether the plan achieves the role defined for the land (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(D)). Based on the biology of the endangered species, the Commission may modify the ESMP if necessary to be consistent with the role defined for the land. The Commission must approve the plan as submitted or modified within 24 months from the date the species is listed as endangered, which is by July 16, 2023.

These statutorily established timelines require the Division to proceed with development of the ESMP, while working on the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and associated Forest Management Plan (FMP). The ESMP will align with the current FMP, which is not connected to an incidental take permit. A Commission-approved ESMP for the marbled murrelet will supersede survival

guidelines for the species (OAR 635-100-0140(8)). Furthermore, pursuant to ORS 496.172(4), an Incidental Take Permit or statement issued by a federal agency for a species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, shall be recognized by the state as a waiver of any state protection measures or requirements otherwise applicable to the actions allowed under the federal permit. This is most directly related to an Incidental Take Permit associated with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan superseding the requirements of the ESMP.

The rule governing ESMPs requires the following topics to be addressed, at a minimum (635-100-140):

1. What state land is covered by the plan;
2. What role that state land is to play in conservation of the species and how the agency defined that role;
3. How the agency will manage the state land to achieve its defined role;
4. Whether the agency will monitor implementation of the plan, and if so, how and when;
5. Whether the agency will reassess and review the plan and its implementation, and if so, how and when. For example, the agency may determine that new biological information, catastrophic events, changes in the species' listing status, changes in land use practices, or other factors will trigger the agency's reassessment and review of the plan;
6. How the agency's plan relates to other state agency endangered species management plans, federal recovery plans and state and other recovery efforts;
7. What process the agency used in developing the plan, including the review and approval process, if any.

For the purpose of developing an ESMP within the framework of the current FMP, the Division proposes to define the role of ODF-managed lands as a "contribution to conservation" of marbled murrelets. This contribution to conservation is designed to support stable or increasing population and habitat trends, by protecting occupied habitat and improving habitat conditions, and is based on existing take avoidance policies and other commitments under the current FMP.

The Division's marbled murrelet policies are our approach to take avoidance (i.e., compliance with Section 9 of the federal ESA) under the current FMP. The policies are largely aligned with ODFW's mandatory survival guidelines, and the Division is taking measures to implement any requirements therein that are additive to existing policy (e.g., project-specific consultation with ODFW, trash management at public use areas). Taken together, the policies and survival guidelines represent more than just measures for compliance with the state and federal ESAs. They also represent a contribution to conservation since protection of occupied habitat helps ensure we are not directly contributing to any population impacts or declines of known occupied marbled murrelet habitat.

The FMP is designed to protect, maintain, and enhance native wildlife habitats with an emphasis on promoting habitat for species-associated mature and old-growth forests. The FMP establishes a target of 30 – 50% of the landscape for layered and old forest structural conditions. These stands are then placed in a landscape design that is intended to provide for large areas of interior habitat and broadscale connectivity. The FMP also has requirements for retention of existing old-growth trees and patches, other leave trees in harvest units, and management of riparian areas for mature

forest conditions. While not all of these strategies will result in marbled murrelet habitat, the FMP nonetheless represents a substantial contribution to conservation beyond just the take avoidance approach to compliance for ESA-listed species. The context of other relevant mandates and external factors precludes the Division's ability to define the role for ODF-managed lands as conservation of marbled murrelets exclusively.

The statutory requirements and rules applicable to State Forests management include ORS 530.050, OAR 629-035-0020 and 629-035-0030. The purpose of the land is to manage for "Greatest Permanent Value" (GPV). As provided in ORS 530.050 (Management of lands acquired), GPV means "healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon." OAR 629-035-0020 establishes that "to secure the greatest permanent value of these lands to the state, the State Forester shall maintain these lands as forest lands and actively manage them in a sound environmental manner to provide sustainable timber harvest and revenues to the state, counties, and local taxing districts." This management focus is not exclusive of other forest resources and must be pursued within a broader management context that includes protection, maintenance, and enhancement of native wildlife habitats.

The social and economic impacts conservation would have on the state relate primarily to timber revenue produced from State Forests. The Division is self-funded and almost entirely dependent on timber revenue to support all forest management activities. After ODF receives its portion of gross revenue from timber sales, the remaining revenue is distributed to the counties and local school and taxing districts where harvest occurs on State Forests. The counties, schools, and local taxing districts, in turn, provide critical services to local communities. Timber sales on State Forests further support local economies by providing job opportunities in the woods and at local mills. Conservation of marbled murrelets on State Forests must be balanced with these important economic contributions mandated in statute and rule.

Public interest in recreating on State Forests has increased in recent years and continued growth is expected. Some recreational activities may be incompatible with conservation and protection of marbled murrelet nesting habitat including activities such as camping, off-highway vehicle use, and target shooting. These activities are already restricted in designated occupied murrelet habitat under current policy and ODFW's survival guidelines. However, they might reasonably be expected to be curtailed, or eliminated entirely, across much larger areas under a conservation framework as defined above.

The statutory obligation to provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon must be balanced with the conservation needs of the species. To carry out its consulting role, ODFW has provided an [assessment of the conservation needs](#) of the species. Marbled Murrelets have narrow habitat requirements and limited geographic distribution. The survival and reproduction of the Marbled Murrelet are thought to be most affected by forest habitat alteration; large-scale disturbances; small population size; predation; changes in forage fish populations; and oil spills. Uncertainty remains regarding impacts of climate change to Marbled Murrelet breeding success and population trends because of changes in the marine environment and forested habitat. Remaining habitat is highly fragmented in Oregon, and most of it persists on public lands. Conservation of existing nesting habitat on federal lands may not be sufficient to

conserve murrelet populations in the short-term. Contributions from nonfederal lands will help the larger goal of murrelet conservation and recovery.

ODF-managed lands play a limited but outsized role in marbled murrelet conservation in Oregon. State Forests comprise less than 4% of the forest cover in the Coast Ranges (i.e., the range of the murrelet in Oregon), yet just over 15% of existing habitat is on State Forests. The Division has conducted more surveys for marbled murrelets than any other land manager in Oregon, and on a much smaller land base than federal lands in the Coast Ranges. The current FMP calls for a desired future condition that would likely promote larger patches of murrelet habitat on state lands. These actions are consistent with the ODFW's stated conservation needs for the species and the contributions of nonfederal lands to the larger goal of murrelet conservation and recovery.

The Division's marbled murrelet policies and current FMP, in conjunction with the survival guidelines, provide a substantial contribution to conservation of the species. However, other statutory mandates and environmental factors limit State Forests' capacity to provide for conservation as defined under the state ESA. The purpose of the land includes a full range of economic, social, and environmental benefits. ODF has a statutory requirement to provide timber harvest revenue to counties and local taxing districts, and the Division is also self-funded predominantly through timber harvest revenue. State Forests represent a relatively small portion of the total range of the species in Oregon. The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests play an important role in marbled murrelet conservation on the North Coast, but ODF-managed lands are scattered and smaller elsewhere. Federal lands harbor more habitat in larger patches in the rest of the species range. Ocean conditions, particularly the availability of forage fish can affect adult survival and breeding success. ODF has no capacity to influence ocean conditions. Likewise, effects of at-sea predators are beyond our control. Large-scale disturbances, either on land (e.g., fires, windstorms) or at-sea (e.g., oil spills), are difficult to predict or prevent. As are the effects of climate change on habitat and resources on land or in the ocean. These limitations are such that State Forests can't recover murrelets in Oregon, but can help arrest declines and improve habitat conditions, and thus contribute to positive trends for local populations and habitat.

RECOMMENDATION

The Division recommends that, for the purpose of developing an ESMP within the framework of the current FMP, the Board approves the role of State Forests as a "contribution to conservation of the marbled murrelet" as defined and detailed above and based on existing take avoidance policies and other commitments under the current FMP.

Division staff have developed an outline for the content of the ESMP based on the requirements listed above and detailed in OAR 635-100-140. The Division is requesting feedback from the Board on the proposed framework for the ESMP (Attachment 2). Feedback will be incorporated during the development of the ESMP.

NEXT STEPS

1. The Division will provide a status update on the development of the content of the ESMP in July 2022.
2. The Division will provide the final draft ESMP to the Board for approval in November 2022.

3. Following Board approval, the ESMP will be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Commission by January 16, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter to State Forester Mukumoto from ODFW Commission Chair Wahl regarding “Notification of Marbled Murrelet Reclassification and Requirements for Affected State Land-Ownning and Managing Agencies under the Oregon Endangered Species Act”, November 12, 2021.
2. Framework for the State Forests’ Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

State Fish and Wildlife Commission

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6044

FAX (503) 947-6042

odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov

November 12, 2021

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear State Forester Mukumoto:

Subject: Notification of Marbled Murrelet Reclassification and Requirements for Affected State Land-Owning and Managing Agencies under the Oregon Endangered Species Act

On July 9, 2021, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) voted to amend OAR 635-100-0125 to uplist the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) from threatened to endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA). At the time of uplisting, the Commission also adopted mandatory [survival guidelines](#)¹ for the species (OAR 635-100-0137), as required by statute. These rule changes, which became effective July 15, 2021, impact state land owning and managing agencies in two primary ways.

The first way that the Commission's reclassification decision affects state agencies is that they are now required to consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) before taking, authorizing or providing direct financial assistance for any proposed action on land owned or leased by the state, or for which the state holds a recorded easement. The purpose of the consultation is to determine whether the proposed action is consistent with the Marbled Murrelet survival guidelines (ORS 496.182(3); OAR 635-100-0130(1))². This requirement remains in place until the Commission approves an endangered species management plan for your agency's land, the process for which is discussed below. If your agency is proposing to take, authorize or provide direct financial assistance for any action with potential to impact Marbled Murrelets on its owned or managed land, please contact Martin Nugent, ODFW Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Coordinator, at the email address provided below.

The second impact of the Commission's uplisting decision for purposes of this letter is that state agencies that the Commission determines can play a role in conservation of the species must develop endangered species management plans (ORS 496.182(8), OAR 635-100-0140(6)). At the

¹ Survival guidelines are quantifiable and measurable guidelines necessary to ensure the survival of individual members of the species (OAR 635-100-0100(13)). They apply only to actions proposed on lands owned or leased by the state, or for which the state holds a recorded easement (OAR 635-100-0135(1)).

² For more information on this process, please see ORS 496.182(3)-(5).

Our mission is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Attachment 1

Page 1 of 3

November 4, 2021 meeting, the Commission identified your agency as one that owns and/or manages terrestrial Marbled Murrelet habitat in Oregon that can play a role in the conservation of the Marbled Murrelet.

Under the OESA, your agency has considerable discretion in determining the role that its lands can play and in subsequent development of an endangered species management plan. This role may include, but is not limited to, conservation, contribution toward conservation, or take avoidance (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(B)). In determining its role, your agency must consider the survival guidelines adopted by the Commission, additional information provided by the Department on the species' conservation needs, the social and economic impacts of implementing needed conservation measures, and your agency's statutory obligations. A [recent biological assessment](#) completed by the department summarizes the life history requirements of the Marbled Murrelet and identifies key factors influencing its survival and reproductive potential in Oregon.

After determining the Oregon Department of Forestry's role, and within 18 months of the species' listing as endangered, your agency must develop and approve an endangered species management plan (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(C)). Pursuant to OAR 635-100-0140(6), the endangered species management plan must address, at a minimum: (a) what state land is covered by the plan; (b) what role that state land will play in conservation of the species and how your agency defined that role (see OAR 635-100-0140(3) and (4)); (c) how your agency will manage the state land to achieve its defined role; (d) whether your agency will monitor implementation of the plan, and if so, how and when; (e) whether your agency will reassess and review the plan and its implementation, and if so, how and when; (f) how your agency's plan relates to other state agency endangered species management plans, federal recovery plans, and state and other recovery efforts; and (g) what process your agency used in developing the plan, including the review and approval process, if any.

With the Commission's uplisting rule becoming effective July 15, 2021, your agency is required to prepare and approve an endangered species management plan for the species by January 16, 2023. Please accept this letter as written notification under OAR 635-100-0140(2)(b).

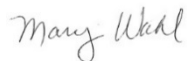
After your agency submits its approved endangered species management plan to the Commission, the next step is for the Commission to approve the plan. Commission approval of the endangered species management plan is based on whether the plan achieves the role defined by your agency (ORS 496.182(8)(a)(D)). Given the biological needs of the species, and in consultation with your agency, the Commission may modify the endangered species management plan to make it consistent with your agency's role. The Commission must approve the endangered species management plan within 24 months of listing the species as endangered, which is by July 16, 2023.

A Commission-approved endangered species management plan for the Marbled Murrelet developed by your agency will supersede survival guidelines for the species (OAR 635-100-0140(8)). Furthermore, pursuant to ORS 496.172(4), an Incidental Take Permit or statement issued by a federal agency for a species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205, 16 U.S.C. 1531), as amended, shall be recognized by the state as a waiver of any state protection measures or requirements otherwise applicable to the actions allowed under the federal permit. As noted in OAR 635-100-0137(4)(a), survival guidelines do not apply if the state agency is operating in

compliance with, and has on file with the Department, an Incidental Take Permit for the Marbled Murrelet issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the federal ESA. This is most directly related to an Incidental Take Permit associated with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan.

We look forward to continued coordination and consultation with your agency on this matter. Please contact Martin Nugent, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Coordinator with any questions about Marbled Murrelet reclassification, survival guidelines, or endangered species management plans (Martin.Nugent@odfw.oregon.gov).

Sincerely,



Mary Wahl
Chair, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

cc:

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief, ODF

Curt Melcher, Director, ODFW

Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director, ODFW

Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator, ODFW

Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, ODFW

Martin Nugent, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Coordinator, ODFW

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

Oregon Administrative Rule 635-100-0140 establishes the minimum requirements for an Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP). The rule states the ESMP must address, at a minimum, the following seven aspects:

1. [What state land is covered by the plan;](#)
2. [What role that state land is to play in conservation of the species, how the agency defined that role, and how the agency balanced conservation needs with other applicable statutory requirements and rules, social and economic impacts to the state, the purpose of the state lands, and the roles that lands other state lands play in the conservation of the species;](#)
3. [How the agency will manage the state land to achieve its defined role;](#)
4. [Whether the agency will monitor implementation of the plan, and if so, how and when;](#)
5. [Whether the agency will reassess and review the plan and its implementation, and if so, how and when. For example, the agency may determine that new biological information, catastrophic events, changes in the species' listing status, changes in land use practices, or other factors will trigger the agency's reassessment and review of the plan;](#)
6. [How the agency's plan relates to other state agency endangered species management plans, federal recovery plans and state and other recovery efforts;](#)
7. [What process the agency used in developing the plan, including the review and approval process, if any.](#)

These aspects are expanded and elaborated upon in the outline below.

What state land is covered by the plan:

- a. Lands owned or managed by the Department of Forestry in the Astoria, Forest Grove, Tillamook, West Oregon, Western Lane Districts (Western Lane, Coos, and SW units) – i.e., all ODF-managed lands within the range of the murrelet.
- b. Does not include decertified CSFL or CSFL on the Elliott State Forest.

What role that state land is to play in conservation of the species and how the agency defined that role (i.e., how the agency balanced the factors listed in sections (3) and (4) of (OAR 635-100-140):

Role

1. "Conservation" means the use of methods and procedures necessary to bring a species to the point at which the measures provided under ORS 496.171 to 496.182 are no longer necessary.
2. Contribution to conservation
3. Intended to support stable or increasing population and habitat trends by protecting occupied habitat and improving habitat conditions
4. Based on existing take avoidance policies and other contributions under the current FMP.

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

5. Aligned with survival guidelines
6. Approach to federal ESA compliance (take avoidance) is different from full suite of conservation benefits provided under FMP (i.e., more than just take avoidance).
7. Role is limited by context of other mandates (e.g., GPV rule) and other factors (e.g., size and location of land base, ocean conditions).

Balance

1. The statutory or constitutional requirements, rules, and policies applicable to the agency's programs
 - a. ORS 530.050
 - b. OAR 629-035-0020
 - c. OAR 629-035-0030
 - d. ORS 530.450 through 530.520 (for CSFL)
2. The social and economic impacts that conservation would have on the state:
 - a. Timber revenues
 - i. Division self-funded
 - ii. Counties
 - iii. Schools
 - iv. Services provided by local taxing districts
 - b. Jobs
 - i. In the woods (logging, reforestation)
 - ii. In local mills
 - iii. Also supports indirect jobs (employment multipliers)
 - c. Recreation - Some types of recreation might be impacted
 - i. Camping
 - ii. OHV use
 - iii. Target shooting
3. The conservation needs of the species:
 - a. To carry out its consulting role, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has provided a [biological assessment](#) of the species. The 2021 marbled murrelet biological assessment focuses on verifiable scientific information and other data relevant to the species' biological and legal status in Oregon.
 - b. Marbled murrelets have narrow habitat requirements and limited geographic distribution. The survival and reproduction of the marbled murrelet are thought to be most affected by forest habitat alteration; large-scale disturbances; small population size; predation; changes in forage fish populations; and oil spills. Uncertainty remains regarding impacts of climate change to marbled murrelet breeding success and population trends because of changes in the marine environment and forested habitat.
 - c. Based on federal Northwest Forest Plan's Marbled Murrelet Effectiveness Monitoring Program results, higher probability nesting habitat increased in Oregon from

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

- approximately 471,220 acres in 1993 to 517,686 acres in 2017, a net increase of 46,466 acres (+9.9% net change).
- d. Despite net increases in higher probability nesting habitat across all landownerships in Oregon, some losses of habitat were masked when considering only net change. Specifically, increases in nesting habitat have occurred on federal (13.0% net change) and state (43.4% net change) landowners, whereas higher probability nesting habitat losses (-10.2% net change) have occurred on other lands (private, tribal, county, and municipal).
 - e. Remaining habitat is highly fragmented in Oregon, and most of it persists on public lands. Conservation of existing nesting habitat on federal lands may not be sufficient to conserve murrelet populations in the short term. Contributions from nonfederal lands will help the larger goal of murrelet conservation and recovery. The creation and maintenance of large, unfragmented patches of higher probability suitable nesting habitat would likely augment future marbled murrelet conservation efforts. Further, conservation efforts that focus on protecting higher probability nesting habitat will benefit this species, as will management efforts that enlarge the size of tracts of core habitat.
 - f. The Northwest Forest Plan's Marbled Murrelet Effectiveness Monitoring Program surveyed murrelets at sea in Oregon from 2000-2019. During this period, the Oregon population was increasing at an annual rate of 2.2% (95% CI: 0.9 to 3.4%).
 - g. Forest fragmentation and edge effects can increase predation rates. Predation pressure is expected to remain at current levels or increase in the future and is of particular concern where parks, trails, or campgrounds overlap with murrelet habitat. Recovering raptor (e.g., Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons) populations pose a new potential threat to adult and juvenile murrelet survival.
 - h. Marbled murrelets require sufficient prey resources in the marine environment for survival and successful reproduction. A growing body of evidence indicates that low recruitment in the murrelet is linked, in part, to changes in the marine environment. Further work is needed on direct measures of murrelet prey resources and their effects on recruitment of murrelets. Currently, there is insufficient information to determine whether prey depletion or competition with commercial or recreational fisheries for marine forage species in Oregon is impacting marbled murrelets. Separating out the roles of fishing pressures, changing ocean conditions, and other factors in murrelet diet will require more study.
 - i. While natural disturbances have always shaped Oregon forests, climate change is expected to increase potential for habitat loss from catastrophic wildfires, insect infestations, disease outbreaks, and severe storms, and to exacerbate conditions unfavorable to murrelets in the marine environment.
 - j. The threat posed by inadequate state and federal programs and regulations has decreased since federal listing of the Marbled Murrelet in 1992 and state listing in 1995. Nonetheless, existing state and federal programs and regulations have failed to

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

- prevent continued rates of murrelet habitat loss on landownerships other than public lands.
- k. At the time that the Marbled Murrelet was listed as state-threatened in 1995, ODFW identified a variety of natural and human-induced factors that could affect the species' "natural reproductive potential" and continued existence in Oregon. These were termed "influencing factors" and included:
 - i. Limited geographic distribution
 - ii. Nesting habitat alteration (habitat loss and degradation)
 - iii. Natural large-scale disturbances (e.g., fires, windstorms)
 - iv. Small population size
 - v. Declining population
 - vi. Predation
 - vii. Adverse ocean and weather conditions (effects of variability on prey resources)
 - viii. Gillnet fisheries (i.e., entanglement)
 - ix. Other fisheries (i.e., competition for prey resources with fisheries)
 - x. Oil spills
 - xi. Pollution (mainly, effluent discharges from pulp and paper mills)
 - l. In 2012, the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Implementation Team convened by the USFWS identified the following top five mechanisms, in ranked order, for sustained low recruitment of murrelets in Oregon and the south coast of Washington: 1) loss of terrestrial habitat, 2) nest predation, 3) changes in marine forage, 4) cumulative and interactive effects, and 5) post-fledging mortality.
 - m. Given the complexity of these systems, more research is needed to refine model projections and to improve our understanding of how climate change effects will influence biological communities.
4. The purpose of the state forest land:
- a. The purpose of the land is to manage for "Greatest Permanent Value" (GPV). As provided in ORS 530.050 (Management of lands acquired), GPV means "healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon."
 - b. OAR 629-035-0020 establishes that "to secure the greatest permanent value of these lands to the state, the State Forester shall maintain these lands as forest lands and actively manage them in a sound environmental manner to provide sustainable timber harvest and revenues to the state, counties, and local taxing districts." This management focus is not exclusive of other forest resources and must be pursued within a broader management context that includes protection, maintenance, and enhancement of native wildlife habitats.

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

- c. The goal for management of CSF lands is the maximization of income to the CSF over the long-term and within the context of other applicable state and federal mandates (ORS 530.450 through 530.520).
5. The roles that land other than state land will play in the conservation of the species:
- a. Summary contributions across ownerships –
 - i. Most of the higher probability marbled murrelet nesting habitat currently persists on federal lands (312,027 of 517,686 acres; 60%), including the Siuslaw and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests, forests owned by the Bureau of Land Management.
 - ii. An additional 16% (81,092 acres) occurs on the state-owned and managed Tillamook, Clatsop, and Elliott State Research forests (which together comprise less than 4% of forestlands in the Coast Ranges).
 - iii. The remaining 24% persists across all other ownerships (e.g., private, county, tribal).
 - b. Federal role –
 - i. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) identified several goals for murrelet nesting habitat, including providing substantially more habitat for marbled murrelets than existed at the start of the plan, providing large contiguous blocks of murrelet nesting habitat, and improving or maintaining the distribution of populations and habitat. Ecological monitoring programs were established in 1993 to evaluate the effectiveness of the NWFP in meeting conservation objectives, and to inform management decisions. After 25 years of NWFP implementation, the most recent effectiveness monitoring report concluded that the NWFP has largely been successful at conserving marbled murrelet habitat on federal lands.
 - ii. In 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed the Records of Decisions for the Resource Management Plans (RMP) in Western Oregon. This RMP revision replaced the 1995 RMPs developed for consistency with the 1994 NWFP, thereby also revising the NWFP for the management of BLM-administered lands in western Oregon.
 - iii. Out of 2.5 million acres in the BLM planning area, nearly three quarters are protected in reserves for fish, water, wildlife, and other resource values.
 - iv. In July 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a biological opinion that found that the proposed RMP was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any of the species (including the marbled murrelet) under their jurisdiction, or adversely modify their critical habitat.
 - c. Other non-federal lands –
 - i. ODF is responsible for administering the Forest Practices Act (FPA) in Oregon. The FPA (ORS 527.610 to 527.992 and OAR Chapter 629, Divisions 600 to 665) lists protection measures specific to nonfederal (i.e., private and state-owned) forestlands in Oregon.

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

- ii. These measures include specific rules for resource protection (OAR 629-665), but the rules do not address protection of Marbled Murrelet resource sites.
- iii. In November 2016, the Board of Forestry directed ODF to initiate a rule analysis for Marbled Murrelets. The rulemaking process to address protection of Marbled Murrelet resource sites on nonfederal lands regulated by the Forest Practices rules is on the Board's workplan, completion date to be determined.

6. Summary Findings –

- a. Statutory requirements and related mandates require balanced management of state forests that includes sustainable timber harvest to fund the Division's operations and provide economic and social benefits to counties and local taxing districts.
- b. Any reduction in harvest impacts revenue and the provision of related services and benefits. Some recreational activities might also be impacted by further restrictions to support a larger conservation role.
- c. ODF-managed lands play a locally and regionally important, but still limited role, in murrelet conservation at the state level.
 - i. State Forests comprise less than 4% of the forest cover in the Coast Ranges (i.e., the range of the murrelet in Oregon), yet 16% of existing habitat is on State Forests.
 - ii. The Division has conducted more surveys for marbled murrelets than any other land manager in Oregon, and on a much smaller land base than federal lands in the Coast Ranges.
 - iii. The current FMP calls for a desired future condition that would likely promote larger patches of murrelet habitat on state lands. These actions are consistent with the ODFW's stated conservation needs for the species and the contributions of nonfederal lands to the larger goal of murrelet conservation and recovery.
 - iv. Federal lands harbor more habitat on a larger land base that is more widely distributed.
 - v. Ocean conditions exert strong influences on murrelet populations that are beyond ODF's control.
 - vi. Large-scale disturbances (fires, wind events, oil spills), actions taken on other managed lands, and the effects of climate change on both terrestrial and aquatic habitats are other important factors that limit the role of ODF-managed lands in conservation at the state level.

How the agency will manage the state land to achieve its defined role:

Current FMP (includes take avoidance approach to federal ESA compliance)

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

1. ODF has developed policies specific to marbled murrelets on state forest lands, which are intended to avoid "take" and protect suitable habitat around identified occupied sites. The ODF plans timber sales only after surveys for marbled murrelets have been conducted in potentially suitable habitat. The ODF has conducted over 32,000 individual surveys for marbled murrelets at more than 1,300 unique sites since 1992. This represents the largest survey effort for Marbled Murrelets by any land manager in Oregon, Washington, or California. The State Forests Division designates protected Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMMAs), which includes "occupied habitat" identified through surveys and associated "buffers". Some management activities are allowed in MMMAs, but only after consultation and agreement from the USFWS that the activity as proposed has a low likelihood of take of marbled murrelets.
2. The policies are largely aligned with ODFW's mandatory survival guidelines, and the Division is taking measures to implement any requirements therein that are additive to existing policy (e.g., trash management at public use areas). Taken together, the policies and survival guidelines represent more than just measures for compliance with the state and federal ESAs. They also represent a contribution to conservation since protection of occupied habitat helps ensure we are not contributing to further population or habitat declines.
3. The ODF Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (FMP) takes a multi-resource approach to forest management, and presents guiding principles, a forest vision, and resource management goals that set the long-term direction for these lands. The resource management goals and strategies are intended to achieve a balance between the resources and achieve the greatest permanent value through a system of integrated management that will likely benefit murrelets and other species of concern. The FMP provides management direction for state forests and is founded upon an approach called structure-based management. Structure-based management is designed to produce and maintain an array of forest stand structures across the landscape in a functional arrangement.
4. The integrated management strategies are intended over time to result in habitat conditions on the landscape and in aquatic and riparian areas that will provide functional habitat conditions for native species. The long range desired future condition envisions 30-50% complex forest, which (this includes 15-25% of old forest structure and 15-25% layered forest structure; both stand types have the potential to provide suitable habitat for marbled murrelets). The FMP also has requirements for retention of existing old-growth trees and patches, other leave trees in harvest units, and management of riparian areas for mature forest conditions.
5. While not all these strategies will result in marbled murrelet habitat, the FMP nonetheless represents a substantial contribution to conservation beyond just the take avoidance approach to compliance for ESA-listed species. The context of other relevant mandates and external factors precludes the Division's ability to define the role for ODF-managed lands as conservation of marbled murrelets exclusively.

Management under an Incidental Take Permit (Habitat Conservation Plan scenario)

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

1. In 2018, the ODF began working on the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The plan includes long-term protection for threatened species and allows for timber harvest. The ODF estimates the plan would increase the amount of marbled murrelet habitat by the end of the permit term (70 years). In October 2020, the Board of Forestry voted to advance the Draft HCP into the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and stakeholder engagement phase. The Western Oregon State Forests HCP is anticipated to be completed and approved by the Board of Forestry in 2022 and implemented in 2023.
2. The Board of Forestry and ODF State Forests Division initiated a multi-year project in 2017 to evaluate potential changes to the Northwest Oregon Forest Management Plan, which is ongoing and expected to be completed in 2022 concurrently with an HCP.
3. These statutorily established timelines require the Division to proceed with development of the ESMP, while working on the HCP and associated FMP. The ESMP will align with the current FMP, which is not connected to an incidental take permit.
4. A Commission-approved ESMP for the marbled murrelet will supersede survival guidelines for the species (OAR 635-100-0140(8)). Furthermore, pursuant to ORS 496.172(4), an Incidental Take Permit or statement issued by a federal agency for a species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, shall be recognized by the state as a waiver of any state protection measures or requirements otherwise applicable to the actions allowed under the federal permit. This is most directly related to an Incidental Take Permit associated with an approved HCP.

Whether the agency will monitor implementation of the plan, and if so, how and when:

1. No HCP
 - Operational surveys – to identify and protect occupied habitat
 - Habitat monitoring (FMP) – progress towards landscape-level targets for DFC-complex
 - USFWS consultation
2. HCP
 - Robust species and habitat monitoring program
 - 5- and 10-year reporting requirements to USFWS
 - Linked to Implementation Plan cycle and Adaptive Management program

Whether the agency will reassess and review the plan and its implementation, and if so, how and when. For example, the agency may determine that new biological information, catastrophic events, changes in the species' listing status, changes in land use practices, or other factors will trigger the agency's reassessment and review of the plan:

Framework for the State Forests' Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan.

- Policies are live documents that can be updated in response to new science, new methods, changes to listing status, or land use practices.
- Current policy calls for periodic review as new information becomes available.
- If USFWS or ODFW issue new guidance, we would be responsive (i.e., adjust current policy for alignment) and would consult as needed for any areas of continued uncertainty.

How the agency's plan relates to other state agency endangered species management plans, federal recovery plans and state and other recovery efforts:

- Other state plans uncertain at this time (e.g., ESRF, OPRD).
- Need to review for specifics on alignment with federal recovery plan. Will point out specific recovery actions addressed.
- Aligns with survival guidelines – The guidelines are what the Commission considers necessary to ensure the survival of individual members of the species (ORS 496.182(2)(a)) in the absence of an ESMP.

What process the agency used in developing the plan, including the review and approval process, if any:

- Development in consultation with ODFW
- Review and approval by BOF in public meetings with opportunities for public input.

Board of Forestry Timeline and Process

- October 2021 – Added to the workplan
- November 2021 – Information topic
 - Describe the statutory requirements
 - Describe the process and steps to complete the ESMP
- March 2022 – Decision
 - Staff recommendation on role
 - Feedback on framework of the ESMP
- July 2022 – Information topic
 - Update on process
- November 2022 – Decision
 - BOF Approval of ESMP

STAFF REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda Item No.: | 7 |
| Work Plan: | State Forests Work Plan |
| Topic: | State Forests Management |
| Presentation Title: | State Forests Draft HCP and FMP Overview |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Kate Skinner, State Forests Division Chief (503) 815-7001 Kate.J.Skinner@Oregon.gov Cindy Kolomechuk, HCP Project Lead (503) 502-5599 Cindy.Kolomechuk@Oregon.gov |

CONTEXT

In October 2020, the Board of Forestry (Board) directed the State Forests Division (Division) to finalize the development of an Administrative Draft Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (draft HCP) and begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Board also directed the Division to develop a draft Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan (draft FMP), that would use the draft HCP as its mechanism for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The draft FMP is needed to articulate the complete integrated forest management approach for state forest lands.

In November 2017, the Board approved a 3-phase approach to explore the possibility of a Western Oregon HCP:

- Phase 1: HCP Initiation/Scoping (*Timeline: Nov.2017 - Nov.2018*)
- Phase 2: Strategy Development (*Timeline: Nov. 2018 - Oct. 2020*)
- Phase 3: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and consultation (*Timeline: Oct. 2020 - Jan. 2023*)

The Division presented the deliverables of Phase 1 for Board consideration in November 2018, which included a business case analysis designed to evaluate potential financial implications resulting from an HCP as compared to the current FMP. The results provided a *relative* evaluation of potential outcomes if the Division continues to manage without an HCP as compared to with an HCP. Based on this work, the Board directed the Division to move into Phase 2: Strategy Development and Stakeholder Engagement.

Since November 2018, the Division collaborated with state and federal agencies as well as our county partners, Tribes, interested stakeholders, and members of the public to develop the draft HCP. The Division also completed a draft take-avoidance FMP. Further consideration of a draft take-avoidance FMP has been paused indefinitely.

In October 2020, the Division presented the draft HCP to the Board for the decision on whether to move the HCP to Phase 3: NEPA Analysis. The Board unanimously voted to direct staff to move to Phase 3: NEPA Analysis and consultation. Specifically, the Board directed staff to complete the draft Western Oregon State Forests HCP and the NEPA process.

The Division was awarded three \$1 million (\$750,000 federal, \$250,000 match) USFWS Technical Assistance grants to support the work completed on the HCP to date. The most recent grant, awarded October 2021, will be used to support the NEPA process. It is anticipated that the NEPA process will be complete in January 2023. In April 2023, the Division will bring the federal Record of Decision and the Final Environmental Impact Statement to determine whether to accept and implement the Incidental Take Permits. The Division will bring the Final FMP in May 2023 to the Board for consideration and decision (see *Working Project Timelines*; Attachment 1). While the Board and Division continue to work on these overarching forest management policies, the Division will continue operating under the current Forest Management Plan.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

All landowners must comply with the ESA. Currently, the Division complies with the ESA through a process called take-avoidance. State forest lands are managed in alignment with the current Forest Management Plan (FMP). Habitat is evaluated operation-by-operation and we conduct costly surveys for listed species. If a listed species is detected, operations plans are either modified or may have to be dropped. Without an HCP, management activities are subject to new listings or changed federal conservation standards – placing additional uncertainties for future management activities.

An HCP is a programmatic ESA compliance tool involving an agreement between the Department of Forestry, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and NOAA Fisheries that provides a holistic approach to complying with the Federal Endangered Species Act. The HCP establishes long-term commitments (70-year) to conservation and provides long-term assurances that forest management will continue, under a set of agreed upon conservation measures throughout the life of the HCP.

The draft HCP covers 639,489 acres of state forestlands west of the Cascades. Most of these lands (96% or 613,734 acres) are owned by the Board, and the remaining 4% (25,755 acres) are Common School Forest Lands (CSFL) owned by the State Land Board. The draft HCP does not include the CSFL in the Elliott State Forest.

WESTERN OREGON NEPA UPDATE

ODF continues to support NOAA Fisheries and the USFWS (the Services) to complete the NEPA process. As the applicant, ODF has hired a third-party consultant (ICF) to lead the technical project work, complete required analyses, and engage the public. NEPA Part 1: Public Scoping is complete.

Since our last update to the Board in November 2021, The Services have been working toward completing NEPA Part 2: Development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Stakeholder Engagement. It is anticipated that the draft EIS will be available for a sixty-day public comment period beginning in March 2022. The HCP Scoping Team and Steering Committee have refined, reviewed, and agreed upon a Public Draft Western Oregon HCP. The [Public Draft HCP](#) will be released for public comment,

concurrent with the release of the draft EIS. The Division has also submitted Incidental Take Permits to NOAA Fisheries and the USFWS for consideration.

Once the draft EIS is complete, the ICF NEPA team will present the draft EIS results at a special Board Meeting scheduled for May 2022. The Division will work with the Services in responding to public comments on the draft EIS and the Public Draft HCP. In September 2022, the Division will provide the Board with a summary of public comment and a recommendation for moving the proposed action into NEPA Part 3: Final EIS (*Working Project Timelines*; Attachment 1). Any changes to the proposed action will require consultation with the Services and direction from the Board. A summary of the NEPA tasks is provided below.

NEPA Part 1: Scoping - Complete

Public Scoping is a process for determining the scope of issues for analysis in an EIS. The Scoping process includes identifying the purpose and need, alternatives to the proposed action (which is the Western Oregon State Forests Draft HCP), and the environmental resource topics needed to be analyzed in the EIS.

NOAA issued a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on March 6th, 2021, which launched the Public Scoping Process. This period typically lasts 30 days, but ODF requested and was granted a two-week extension to ensure that the public had an opportunity to review the HCP and provide informed feedback. Public input informs potential alternative actions, relevant data and information to consider, and issues to analyze in the EIS. Ultimately, the lead agency (NOAA Fisheries) determines the scope of the EIS including: which alternatives will be analyzed and which are dismissed; which resource issues will be analyzed and which environmental resource topics are dismissed; and any connected actions that will be considered. The scoping process culminates with clearly defined alternatives and a detailed scope of issues to be analyzed in the EIS. At this point any additional analyses or data can be developed to support the EIS analyses. The information obtained during scoping will be used to inform the scope of work for the draft EIS.

NEPA Part 2: Draft EIS - Current

The draft EIS will describe the Proposed Action (Public Draft HCP), no-action alternative (baseline for comparison) and action alternatives developed from the Public Scoping process. For each of the environmental resources analyzed, the draft EIS will describe the existing conditions for the resource and potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on that resource.

The Notice of Availability of the draft EIS and the Public Draft HCP will be published in the *Federal Register*, which will launch the public review and comment period (60 days). It is anticipated that this review period will begin in March 2022. A public hearing is planned for April 6th, 2022. All public comment on the draft EIS and the Public Draft HCP will be accepted on the [federal website](#). The Services and ODF will review and provide responses to all public comment.

NEPA Part 3: Final EIS- *October 2022- January 2023*

The EIS will be updated to reflect any potential changes to the Proposed Action, as directed by the Board of Forestry, and in consultation with the Services. The final EIS will include a description of the public review and comment period and a summary of updates between draft and final EIS. The final EIS will go through the same internal reviews as the draft EIS. The Notice of Availability of the final EIS and final HCP will be published in the *Federal Register*. This launches a 30-day waiting period during which comments may be submitted on the final EIS. These comments will be reviewed by the Services, but no response is required. The agency decision document (Record of Decision) will be published after this 30-day period and prior to the permit decision. The Division will present the Record of Decision, the final EIS, and the Incidental Take Permits to the Board for consideration in April 2023.

DRAFT WESTERN OREGON STATE FORESTS MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The draft FMP is being developed concurrent with the NEPA process. Since the November 2021 Board of Forestry meeting informational update, the project team has focused on the draft FMP strategies to achieve the draft FMP goals presented to the Board in November 2021. The draft FMP planning framework presented in November 2021 is also provided below for context.

FMP Planning Framework

The Division's planning framework establishes relationships between the draft FMP and other agency-level and interagency planning efforts. The diagram below (Figure 1) captures and describes the planning framework for the draft FMP and related State Forests planning levels.

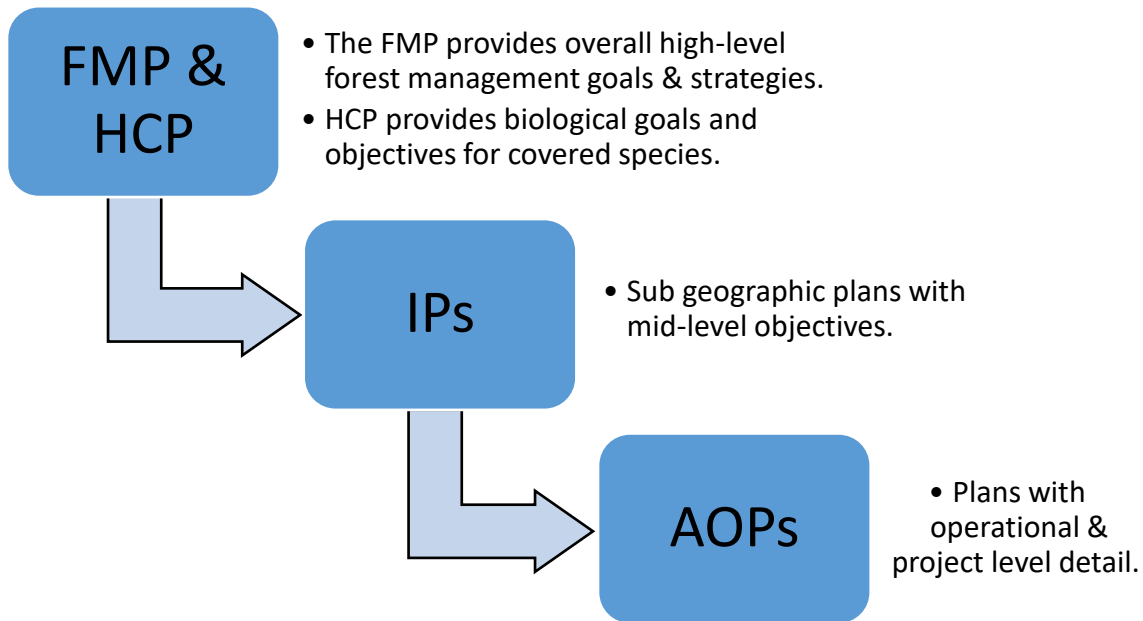


Figure 1. Hierarchy of the three types of plans used for the management of State Forests.

FMPs provide the overarching management direction for State Forests and are formally adopted into Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) by the Board of Forestry to codify that management direction meets Greatest Permanent Value. FMPs contain resource assessments, resource goals, strategies for achieving those goals, and guidelines for asset management, implementation and adaptive management.

Implementation Plans (IPs) cover a longer timeframe (10 year) and larger spatial scale (district or multiple district) than Annual Operations Plans (AOPs). Implementation Plans characterize physical and biological landscape conditions, annual harvest objectives, reforestation targets, human uses, and considerations for threatened and endangered species. Implementation Plans describe mid-term expectations for forest conditions, associated management activities and expected outcomes. Implementation and Operations Plans characterize protection and management for forest resources, identify district monitoring projects, and describe public engagement. Annual Operation Plans describe specific activities that will be carried out at smaller spatial (e.g., stand or watershed) and temporal scales (1-3 years) to achieve expected outcomes.

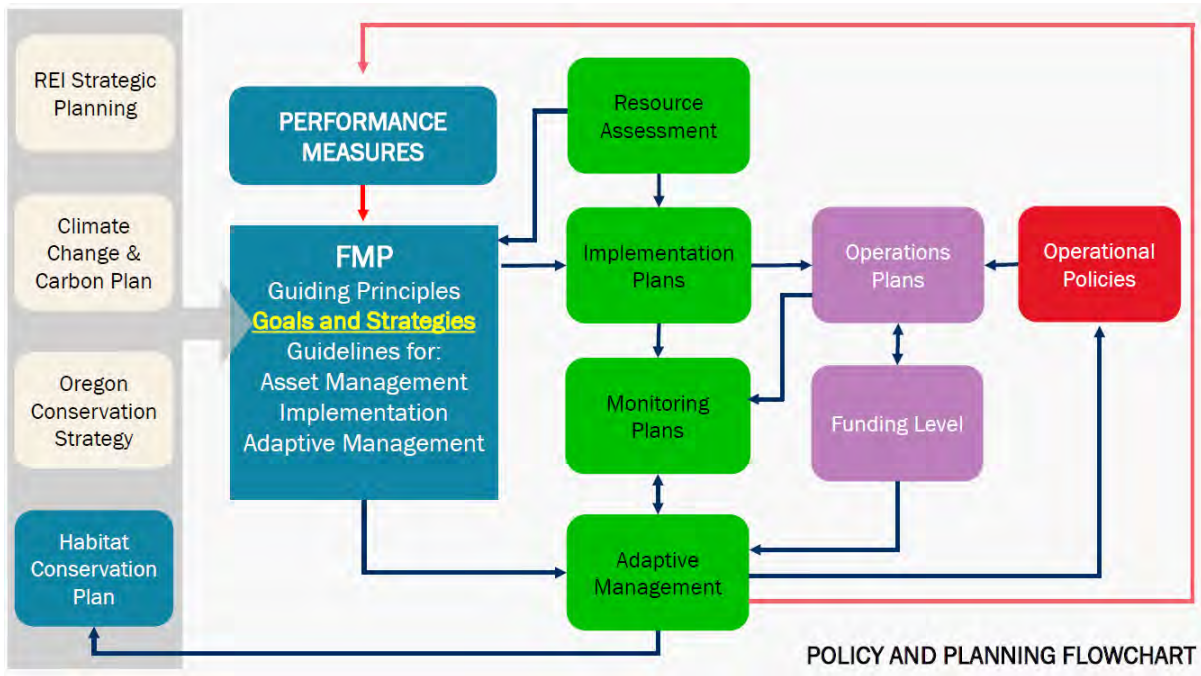


Figure 22. State Forests management policy and planning flowchart.

Figure 2 shows more detail on the interrelationships and feedback loops among the FMP, IP and AOP planning levels, as well as how external plans and processes influence the FMP. Several external plans contribute, to varying degrees, to the breadth of resources addressed, the goals that are set, and the strategies in the draft FMP. Examples of these external influences are displayed in the diagram including the Recreation, Education and Interpretation Program strategic planning, the Climate Change and Carbon Plan, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and the draft HCP.

ODF’s Recreation, Education and Interpretation Strategic Planning will form the basis for the program’s goals and strategies within the FMP. ODF’s Climate Change and Carbon Plan will guide climate-smart forest management to provide forests that contribute to carbon storage and are resilient to the effects of climate change. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) is Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s overarching strategy for conserving native fish and wildlife. It provides information and tools that allow land managers such as ODF to further develop conservation strategies. The FMP strategies that respond to the OCS will be broader than the draft HCP conservation actions in both the assemblages of species addressed and the specificity of the strategies.

The conservation actions articulated in the draft HCP will be the management standards implemented for the covered species. The conservation actions and standards will be the fundamental underpinning for conservation of covered species and their habitat. The draft HCP will also contribute to conservation of other native fish and wildlife that are associated with similar terrestrial and aquatic habitat as the covered species.

Implementation Plans, Monitoring Plans and the Adaptive Management Plan (green boxes in Figure 2) will all flow from the FMP goals and strategies, and Annual Operations Plans (purple box in Figure 2) will in turn be used to fulfill Implementation Plan objectives.

While the FMP sets certain management standards, primarily associated with resource protection, there are many instances where different management options exist to achieve FMP goals and IP objectives. Operational policies (red box in Figure 2) guide decisions within this range of options by defining specific procedures and best management practices that allow for management flexibility while ensuring sound management and resource protection.

Most importantly, performance measures will be developed in collaboration with the Board that contain specific metrics and targets that will demonstrate progress toward FMP goals. While the performance measures will not be the only metrics monitored under the FMP, they provide the essential “dashboard” for the Board of Forestry and others to track progress and to maintain accountability for management commitments.

FMP Goals

Goals are intentionally broad, establish the overarching aim for securing greatest permanent value, and provide direction for managing the forest. After bringing the draft goals to the Board in November 2021 Forest Health was changed to Forest Resilience based on Board feedback. Goals are listed alphabetically and grouped by GPV category (social, economic, environmental) as listed in the GPV Rule (OAR 629-035-0020). Goals are not organized based on importance.

FMP Strategies Development

Draft strategies provide management direction for state forests to achieve the draft goals. The draft strategies were shared internally with staff prior to releasing them for external review and input. The strategies were reviewed by leadership and staff from the Division and District Offices, and by our partner agencies including the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of State Lands (DSL). *FMP Draft Strategies* are available for Board review as Attachment 2.

After internal review the draft strategies were shared with the Board of Forestry, the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, and the State Forests Advisory Committee. The team developed an informal public survey to gauge the general level of support for each strategy as drafted and to collect written comment. The team received 1,344 survey responses and 3,322 comments from the survey. All of the survey comments are available [online](#). In addition to the survey, the team received 318 emails (mostly of one form letter), approximately 111 oral comments at joint stakeholder meetings, and 13 written letters. The summarized feedback is provided in *Draft FMP Strategies Feedback Summary and Themes* (Attachment 3). Full emails and written letters are provided in *Draft FMP Strategies Email and Letter Comments* (Attachment 4). Most of the draft strategies received positive review from the public. Public concerns centered around reducing pesticide use, Timber

Production (reducing or increasing), Revenue (exploring alternative revenue streams, or increasing timber revenue), and Mining, Agriculture, Administrative Sites, and Grazing (concern about negative environmental effects). Strategy revisions have not been made at the time of this report. The Division will continue to analyze the feedback received and make revisions in the coming months.

Please note that the Cultural Resources Goals and Strategies pertaining to indigenous peoples have not been through the public process described above (Attachment 5). ODF has been working directly with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon to guide the development of Cultural Resources Goals and Strategies using the Government-to-Government forum. Members of the Cultural Resources Cluster and Natural Resources Cluster have worked with ODF to develop Cultural Resources Goals and Strategies designed to respect and honor their ancestral ties to the lands that ODF currently manages. This includes provisions for access, cultivation of culturally significant natural resources, integration of Tribal perspectives, priorities, and objectives into all levels of State Forest Management Plans. They also address protection and preservation of cultural resources, which is critical in honoring and maintaining connections from ancestors to current Tribal members, and future generations of tribal descendants.

ODF will continue building our relationships and trust with the Tribes through regular meetings using the Government-to-Government forum, as well as staff-level engagement. These meetings will focus on building the processes necessary to implement the Cultural Resources Goals and Strategies.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

In April and May 2021, Kearns & West conducted interviews with a cross-section of stakeholders to understand best practices and lessons learned from the past engagement process, as well as key concerns and suggestions heading into the FMP and IP development process. These stakeholder interviews provided an opportunity to better understand stakeholders' key interests, concerns, and perspectives as they relate to the FMP and IPs as well as understand how stakeholders prefer to be engaged throughout the process. Input from these interviews was used to develop the public and stakeholder engagement goals, and to shape the overall public and stakeholder engagement process.

The public and stakeholder engagement goals are to:

1. Fully inform county partners, Tribes, stakeholders, and the general public throughout the FMP and IP development process;
2. Provide county partners, Tribes, stakeholders, and the public with opportunities to engage and offer input at multiple levels throughout the process;
3. Better understand what Oregonians care about when it comes to forest management;
4. Ensure sister state agencies are engaged as an integral part of the process and are supportive of the HCP and FMP outcomes;
5. Provide clear expectations for how county partner, stakeholder, and public input will be used and integrated into the FMP and IP documents; and

6. Align engagement and outreach opportunities with related processes such as the HCP NEPA Process, Recreation, Education and Interpretation (REI) Program Strategic Planning, Climate Change and Carbon Plan, and other ODF processes.

Meetings Open to the Public

The team conducted several meetings to introduce and discuss the draft strategies. These engagements included: a FTLAC meeting December 3rd, a meeting open to the public December 7th, and joint stakeholder meetings December 9th and 13th. The December 7th meeting open to the public updated the public on the progress of the Draft FMP and the HCP and introduced them to the draft strategies. The process for further engagement with the FMP and input on draft strategies was explained at the December 7th meeting. The December 9th and 13th joint stakeholder meetings gave the public the opportunity to comment and ask questions about individual strategies they were interested in.

All meetings were held via webinar due to COVID-19 concerns and safety precautions. The *Draft FMP Strategies Feedback Summary and Themes* (Attachment 3) is available on the [FMP Website](#).

ODF notification methods to inform stakeholders and the public about the meetings included:

- Email distributions to interested parties;
- Posts on ODF social media including Facebook and Twitter;
- Meeting notice via FlashAlert;
- Posts on the ODF news site; and
- Posts on the Western Oregon FMP and IP Project Page.

Upcoming Work

The FMP team is writing and assembling portions of the FMP such as the Introduction, Management Approach, and Forest Resource Description. The team is working on the Resource Assessment, Implementation Guidelines, Monitoring Plan, and Adaptive Management Guidelines. Staff will continue to review and refine strategies based on internal and public feedback and expect to engage with stakeholders at a public meeting this spring.

The Draft FMP without performance measure targets is planned to be presented to the Board Fall of 2022. The Board will determine targets for performance measures based on Modeled Outcomes. FMP scenario modeling is planned to begin Summer 2022 with modeled outcomes presented to the Board early 2023. Modeling will provide greater clarity for outcomes including, but not limited to: the flow of timber and revenue over time, the development of forest structure across the landscape and coarse filter habitat for native species not covered by the draft HCP, carbon sequestration and storage on state forest lands and in harvested wood products.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next several months, the Division will:

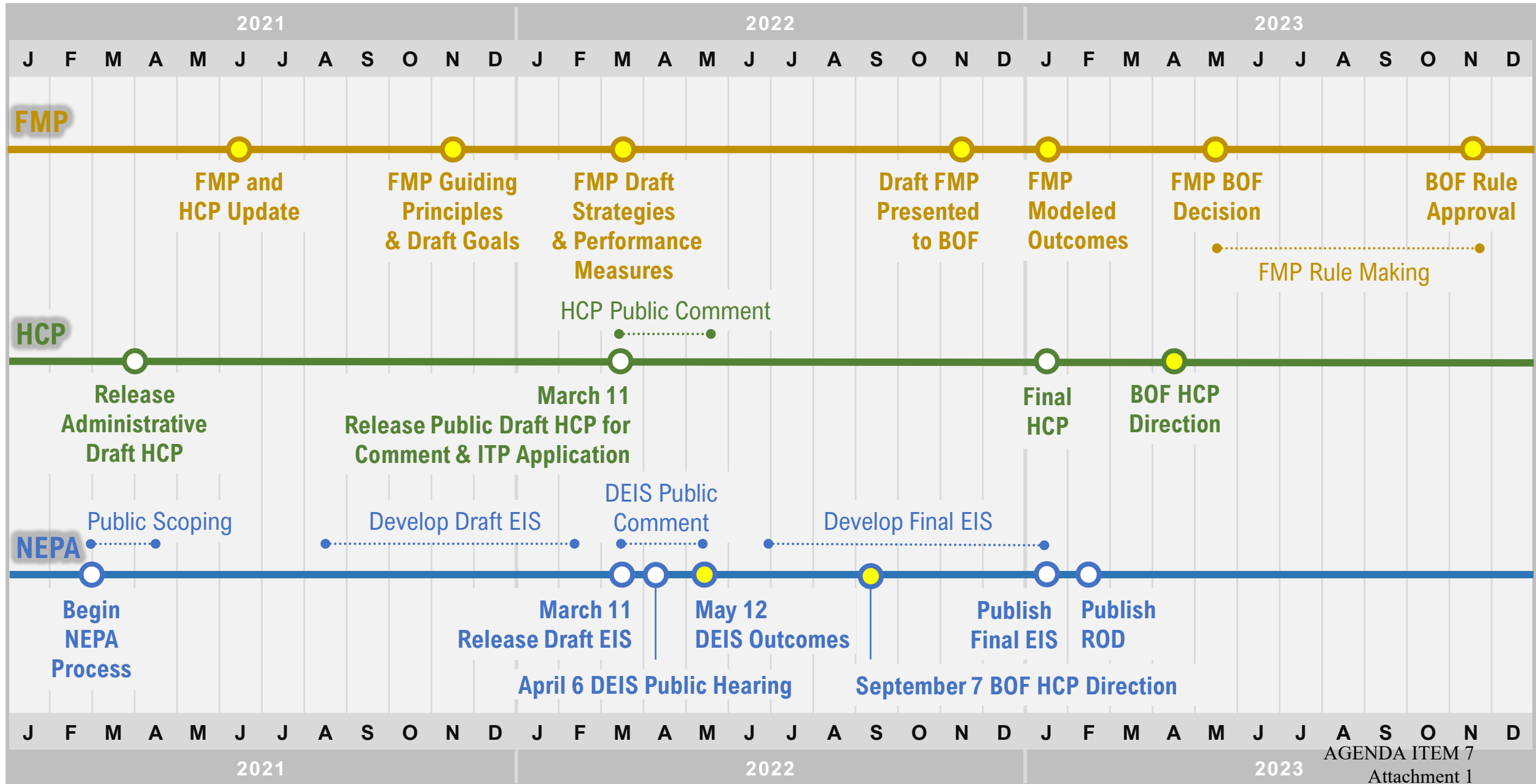
- Continue working with NOAA Fisheries and the USFWS to complete the NEPA process;
- Continue engaging with our state and federal sister agencies, as well as, the county partners, Tribes, interested stakeholders and members of the public on the HCP and draft FMP and IP development projects.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Working FMP, HCP, NEPA Timeline
2. Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies
3. Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary
4. FMP Draft Strategies Email and Letter Comments
5. Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Cultural Resources Goals & Strategies

Working FMP – HCP – NEPA Timeline

● BOF Presentation / Decision



Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

Goals are grouped by GPV type (social, economic, and environmental) found in the Greatest Permanent Value Rule (OAR 629-035-0020(1)) and are listed alphabetically within these groupings. Goals are not listed in order of importance.

Links to required elements in OAR 629-035-0000 (9) are highlighted. "Landscape effect" resource (e) is not well defined, but ties to resource types such as forest health, wildfire, climate change, etc. and has implications for all other resources.

| Resource Type | Goals and Strategies |
|---------------|----------------------|
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Social Goals

| | |
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| Cultural | Goal: Establish strong relationships and mutual trust with communities of place and communities of interest to protect and preserve aspects of their culture and heritage that are tied to Oregon State Forests. |
| | 1. Engage communities that have historical ties to State Forests lands to ensure that historic properties and artifacts are taken into consideration in planning management activities. |
| | 2. Engage communities that have cultural practices tied to State Forest lands to ensure that those practices are taken into consideration in planning management activities. |

Cultural Resources Goals and strategies developed with the 9 federally recognized tribes of Oregon in our Government-to-Government forum will be included in this document in the future. These goals and strategies are being presented to the Board of Forestry separate from the larger list of draft strategies.

| | |
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| Recreation, Education & Interpretation | Goal: Provide 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. (g) Recreation |
| | 1. Develop a Recreation, Education, and Interpretation strategic management plan to guide recreation planning, policy, and program management and development. |
| | 2. Conduct research and monitoring to understand visitor demographics, use, and experience to guide Recreation, Education, and Interpretation planning and management. |
| | 3. Develop and implement a State Forests Interpretive Master Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide a diversity of interpretation and education program types to allow for a range of content, to increase inclusivity, and to expand program participation and reach. |
| | 4. Develop and implement a State Forests Recreation Management Plan to inform future management, maintenance, and development of trail and recreation facility infrastructure. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 5. Update interpretation and education (IE) opportunities to incorporate the Forest Management Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest management activities, and management messages to increase public awareness of ODF's role in the natural resource management spectrum. |
| | 6. Enhance community engagement to foster partnership development investment, and ownership, stewardship, and capacity to advance recreation, interpretation, and education goals. |
| Recreation, Education & Interpretation | 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. (g) Recreation |
| | 1. Periodically review recreation facilities and identify site design modifications and enhancements to minimize impacts on aquatic and wildlife resources from infrastructure and public use. |
| | 2. Develop guidelines, standards, and best management practices for design, construction, and maintenance of recreation facilities and trails. |
| | 3. Develop and implement operational standards that intentionally integrate recreation management activities with timber harvest, road development and management, and reforestation activities to enhance recreation opportunities and to minimize impacts to trail and facility infrastructure, the surrounding forest setting, and visitor experience. |
| Scenic | Goal: Manage forests in ways that value scenery and a range of forested settings |
| | 1. Identify and classify areas, including recreation trails and facilities, for level of visual sensitivity, taking into consideration the surrounding viewshed. |
| | 2. Collaborate with the Oregon Department of Transportation to ensure public safety requirements are met in visually sensitive corridors, including scenic byway corridors. |
| | 3. Collaborate with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to ensure management activities within Designated Scenic Waterways are consistent with the applicable requirements established in OAR 736-040. |
| Special Forest Products | 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.). |
| | 1. Maintain knowledge of general locations where special forest products are likely to be found on a district basis. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 2. Maintain documentation and policies to guide personal and commercial special forest product opportunities in a sustainable manner on State Forests. |
| | 3. Manage special forest products in a manner that reduces conflict with other forest uses and resource goals. |
| Economic Goals | |
| Mining, Ag, Admin Sites & Grazing | Goal: Permit mining, agricultural use, administrative sites and grazing when resource use is compatible with other forest resource goals. (f) Forage and browse for domestic livestock (h) Mining (j) Administrative sites |
| | 1. Mining will be considered (in coordination with the Division of State Lands) on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law. |
| | 2. Agricultural use, communications sites, public water facilities, energy generation sites, grazing, other leases, and forest management administrative sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law. |
| Revenue | Goal: Generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities. |
| | 1. Design timber sales considering timber markets to maximize net revenue and volume. |
| | 2. Seek out and incorporate new revenue streams and market opportunities that maximize net revenue in alignment with greatest permanent value. |
| Timber Production | Goal: Provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provide for economic opportunity, jobs, and availability of forest products. (a) Timber production and harvest |
| | 1. Actively manage lands utilizing a suite of silviculture prescriptions, while integrating protections for resources and other forest uses. |
| | 2. Utilize a mix of contracting services and timber sale project work to meet forest management goals while supporting the local economy. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 3. Develop operations plans for timely response to landscape level disturbances (fires, windstorms, ice storms) to realize revenue from previous investments and maintain forest health. |
| | 4. Align reforestation and young stand management to maintain healthy, diverse, and productive stands for timber production across the landscape. |
| Transportation System | Goal: Manage the transportation system to facilitate the anticipated activities in a manner which provides for resource protection, transportation efficiency, safety, and sound fiscal management. |
| | 1. Ensure the transportation network is aligned to support the planned forest management activities and anticipated public use. |
| | 2. Consider available quantity and cost of aggregate resources to provide a balance for seasonal continuity of operations and resource protection. |
| | 3. Construct, design, improve, and maintain roads to applicable standard to provide for safety and efficiency for the anticipated forest management and public use. |
| | 4. Manage road access to protect resources, ensure safety and support management objectives through signage, gates, short- and longer-term closures. |
| | 5. Manage road infrastructure to reduce costs, wildfire risk, allow for public access, and improve forest health and fish and wildlife habitat. |
| | 6. Construct, improve, and maintain roads using best management practices to minimize erosion potential and meet or exceed applicable water quality standards. |
| | 7. Design, construct, and maintain new roads and improve existing roads to hydrologically disconnect and mitigate to meet water quality standards. |
| | 8. Evaluate and hydrologically disconnect and mitigate all planned commercial haul routes controlled by the Oregon Department of Forestry to meet water quality standards prior to hauling in the wet season. |
| | 9. Design stream crossings for passage of aquatic organisms on new roads and when replacing or upgrading existing stream crossings. |
| | 10. Design, construct, and maintain new roads and monitor and mitigate existing roads using best management practices to minimize potential for road-initiated landslides. |
| | 11. Waste disposal areas will be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize potential for landslide initiation. |
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Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

Environmental Goals

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| Air Quality | Goal: Maintain and protect healthy air quality standards. (c) Soil, air, and water |
| | 1. Comply with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (OAR 629-048-0001 through 629-048-0500) and Visibility Protection Plan (OAR 340-200-0040, Section 5.2). |
| | 2. Use Best Burn Practices (OAR 629-048-210) to minimize the likelihood that emissions will adversely affect air quality. |
| | 3. Use prescribed burning (OAR 629-048-0200) to the extend necessary to meet management objectives. |
| | 4. Use alternatives to reduce the volume of prescribed burning where feasible. |
| | 5. Plan burns to avoid smoke entering Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas described and listed in OAR 629-048-0140. |
| Aquatics & Riparian | 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. (b) Salmonid, and other native fish and wildlife habitats (c) Soil, air, and water (i) Use of water resources (f) Protection against flood and erosion |
| | 1. Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern (SOC). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comply with state and federal ESA requirements and adopt management strategies that contribute to the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species. b. Implement the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategies and associated Conservation Actions targeted to benefit the species covered under the Incidental Take Permit. c. Conduct Species Assessments during Implementation Plan development and related revisions to determine which species warrant special consideration and whether existing conservation measures are adequate. d. Where appropriate for successful habitat management and species' benefit, utilize cross-boundary coordination with neighboring landowners in management practices. |
| | 2. Encourage beaver occupancy of streams and valley bottoms, including dam building and ponding. Identify and minimize barriers to beaver occupancy and incorporate into restoration planning. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 3. Plan for natural disturbances (e.g., landslides) and implement forest management practices that, combined with the disturbance, will create aquatic habitat, and protect water quality. |
| | 4. For slopes that could fail due to canopy removal or natural causes, and deliver to aquatic systems, maintain properly functioning landslide processes including sediment routing, large woody debris supply, and nutrient cycling. |
| | 5. Identify, prioritize, and enhance streams and watersheds that will support cold water refuge, complex and off channel habitats, and climate change resiliency for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates. |
| | 6. Prioritize habitat restoration efforts by utilizing watershed assessments, strategic action plans, and other local knowledge. |
| | 7. Develop and foster partnerships with other agencies, tribes, universities, and NGOs to plan, implement, and monitor aquatic habitats over time, and to conduct research that fills gaps in best available science. Report all aquatic and riparian restoration actions to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. |
| | 8. Maintain the natural functions and attributes of wetlands over time and ensure that no net loss of wetlands occurs as a result of management activities. Allow for the creation of new wetlands to form over time. a) Establish and implement minimum buffer widths, including no harvest and equipment restriction zones, around all wetlands to protect wetland process and function. b) Manage for native plant communities and assemblages within wetlands, and in the surrounding buffer. |
| | 9. Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination and reporting. |
| | 10. Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for water quality and habitat protection. |
| Carbon | Goal: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products. |
| | 1. Identify areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially those that can provide benefits for species of concern habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians. |
| | 2. Identify and implement carbon storage in harvest operations where applicable. Establish a mechanism to maintain forest carbon on the site when stands are harvested by increasing soil carbon with woody debris, including alternative slash disposal methods. |
| | 3. Develop a carbon portfolio that includes forest carbon and timber that is conducive to a final product mix of long-lived harvested wood products. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 4. Implement alternatives to pile burning where feasible. (Examples include biochar, biomass, and air burners) |
| Climate Change | Goal: Lead by example in demonstrating climate smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals. |
| | 1. Implement silvicultural pathways and harvest rotations that increase carbon storage in the forest while maintaining wood fiber flow to the forest products industry. Different tree species, forest types, and ecological zones achieve maximum carbon storage rates at different stand ages. These variations will be accounted for when making silvicultural decisions, including, but not limited to, reforestation and young stand management, mature stand density management, age of final harvest, harvest deferral, and retention of green trees. |
| | 2. Identify climate-sensitive habitats, areas of high conservation value, and areas of cultural significance that are susceptible to climate change. |
| | 3. Determine an internal carbon price for the lands and forests that the State Forests Division manages. |
| Drinking Water | Goal: Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use. |
| | 1) Maintain and protect domestic water sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consult the Water Resources Department database to identify domestic water use permits and registered water use sites within the vicinity of timber sales and forest roads. b. Establish no-harvest buffer standards around domestic water sources within harvest units and apply road strategies to protect water quality. |
| | 2) Early in the planning process, identify the unique combination of current characteristics and proposed management scenarios (stand age and size, geology, topography, ecology, land use history, and expected variability in future climate) at the watershed scale to protect drinking water. |
| | 3) Identify priority transportation and infrastructure features (i.e., roads, recreation trails and facilities, skid roads, culverts, etc.) for assessment, upgrades, relocation, and vacating. |
| | 4) Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination and reporting. |
| | 5) Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for Water Quality protection. |
| | 6) Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use: |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evaluate whether pesticide or fertilizer use is needed to achieve objectives on a site-by-site basis. b. Use pesticides in a manner such that minimize off-target movement through drift, leaching, volatilization, soil erosion, or other transport mechanisms. c. Where operationally effective use mechanical, manual, or “hands-off” approaches to achieve objectives. d. Protect native vegetation as means of competitively inhibiting invasive plant species. e. Maintain early successional vegetation as a tool to meet soil health, wildlife, aquatic/riparian, and drinking water goals. |
| | <p>7) Collaborate with the Protection Division to protect water quality when fire suppression activities occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keep fire chemicals out of waters of the state, especially drinking water sources, whenever possible. b. Preferentially select fire chemicals that are non-toxic to aquatic life and human health and readily break down in the environment. c. Minimize use of phosphorus-based retardants near waterbodies, especially those with recurring harmful algal blooms or risks of Harmful Algal Blooms. |
| | <p>8) Maintain and restore headwaters processes that collectively trap and store sediments and organic matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Large wood retention and recruitment through leave trees within stands and selective slope buffering strategies to create steps and slow flows. b. Leave slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations unless wildfire or silvicultural concerns exist. |
| Forest Resilience | Goal: Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians. |
| | <p>1. Actively manage the forest through the application of science-based silviculture within stands and across the landscape to create a variety of forest conditions and promote diverse plant species that are resilient to disturbance events and climate change.</p> |
| | <p>2. Implement silvicultural practices that ensure successful stand initiation and development with a variety of tree species and densities that are appropriate for site conditions and management objectives.</p> |
| | <p>3. Use integrated pest management (IPM) to suppress or prevent “invasive” species damage in cooperation with other agencies and associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop and maintain an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program to address the introduction of new exotic pests. b. Use aerial and ground surveys to monitor forest health to inform management decisions across the landscape. c. Maintain spatial data for long-term tracking and integrate forest health information into forest management decisions. d. Maintain a training and outreach program to field staff that incorporates existing and new disease agents to help with EDRR and IPM implementation. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 4. Partner with agency and other regional seed orchards to supply a predictable amount of seed for reforestation activities that are site specific for now and under future climate change scenarios for a variety of tree species. |
| | 5. Utilize herbicides to achieve reforestation, young stand management, invasive species control, and other management activities to help establish healthy forests while reducing impacts to other resources. |
| | 6. Use an adaptive management approach to monitor, learn from and improve forest management practices across resource goals. |
| Plants | Goal: Maintain understory vegetation representing a diversity of native vegetation associations and seral stages across the landscape including sensitive and endangered plant populations. |
| | 1. Integrate understory vegetation monitoring into the State Forest Inventory Program. |
| | 2. Associate plant communities to corresponding soil types using a standardized soil survey and programmatically collected soil and vegetation data. Use these associations to predict plant community types on the landscape. |
| | 3. Develop state-and-transition models (STMs) of plant community dynamics in response to disturbance and management actions for each plant community soil association. Use the STM to predict understory vegetation response to proposed management actions to direct understory community along desired successional trajectory. |
| | 4. Develop probability of occurrence maps for sensitive species. Avoid management induced disturbances in areas of high probability of occurrence where possible. |
| | 5. Identify management thresholds for Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) designated noxious weeds, monitor for populations invasiveness, and implement appropriate IPM tactics to reduce populations below impactful densities. |
| Pollinators & Invertebrates | Goal: Provide suitable habitats across the landscape that contribute to maintaining or enhancing native, sensitive, and endangered pollinator and other invertebrate populations. |
| | (b) Salmonid, and other native fish and wildlife habitats |
| | 1. Implement management practices to maintain and promote native plant diversity and pollinator habitat. |
| | 2. Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use. |
| | 3. Include native pollinators in education and interpretation programs to support the agency's pollinator health outreach and education plan. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 4. Pursue opportunities to complement wildlife strategies with habitat enhancements specific to pollinators and other invertebrates. |
| Restoration | Goal: Assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors. |
| | 1. Where feasible, restore Swiss needle cast (SNC) affected stands with tree species that are appropriate for the site now and in future climates. |
| | 2. Work with adjacent landowners to develop and conduct restoration activities across ownership boundaries to maximize effectiveness. |
| | 3. Prioritize restoration in areas with the highest potential to result in recovery, productivity, and forest resiliency in alignment with management objectives. |
| | 4. Allow for endemic levels of native insects and disease and when those levels cross management thresholds conduct restoration activities. |
| | 5. Identify restoration potential for site-specific native oaks, chaparral, meadows, and wetlands. |
| Soil | Goal: Maintain natural soil processes, protect soils from damage and increase soil carbon. |
| | (c) Soil, Air and Water |
| | (f) Protection against flood and erosion |
| | 1. Support and foster healthy and productive soils by leaving slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations. |
| | 2. Implement site preparation techniques for tree planting that maintain organic materials in soils. |
| | 3. Conduct forest operations and projects using methods and types of equipment adapted to local conditions to protect soil. |
| Wildfire | Goal: Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities. |
| | 1. Implement fuels management strategies in the wildland urban interface (WUI) to increase firefighter safety and reduce risks to communities where appropriate. |
| | 2. Implement fuel breaks that leverage natural openings, existing roads, thinned and treated stands, and other landscape features to support aggressive fire suppression efforts. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | 3. Implement treatments and practices that mitigate fire risk and improve fire resilience across the landscape. |
| | 4. Partner with fire managers and landowners to maintain a spatial database of fire suppression water sources and to identify priorities for developing new sources and improving existing sources. |
| | 5. Participate in local and statewide fire planning efforts. |
| | 6. Communicate relevant and timely information about wildfire risk on State Forests to the public. |
| | 7. Proactively manage public access and forest operations to minimize the risk of human caused fires. |
| Wildlife | <p>Goal: 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.</p> <p>b) Salmonid, and other native fish and wildlife habitats</p> |
| | <p>1. Manage for diverse habitats across the landscape and over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Manage for a diverse array of seral stages. b. Protect, maintain, and enhance habitats that account for the range of forest types, topography (slopes, aspects, elevations), and habitat features at the district level. c. Identify and protect rare and unique habitats, particularly those that are fragile, sensitive, or potentially vulnerable to climate change. |
| | <p>2. Manage for complex habitats, of all ages, with the full suite of habitat features within and across watersheds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote structural complexity, compositional diversity, and spatial heterogeneity at stand and landscape scales. b. Adapt standards to regional and stand-level goals (e.g., habitat enhancement, forest restoration, fuels and fire risk, timber production, harvest age), and over time as stand and landscape conditions change. |
| | <p>3. Manage for functional landscapes for native wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Create a variety of patch types, patch sizes, and patch placement over time. b. Provide for adequate interior forest habitats; and c. Maintain connectivity between habitats, and broad landscape permeability, for diverse wildlife species including species of concern. d. Foster and maintain redundancy at various ecological scales (e.g., species, stand types). |
| | <p>4. Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern (SOC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comply with state and federal ESA requirements and adopt management strategies that contribute to the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species. b. Implement the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategy and associated Conservation Actions targeted to benefit the species covered under the Incidental Take Permit. |

Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Conduct Species Assessments during Implementation Plan development and related revisions to determine which species warrant special consideration and whether existing conservation measures are adequate.d. Collaborate across ownership boundaries to meet common wildlife conservation goals. |
| | 5. Use active management to meet habitat objectives over time and across the landscape. |
| | 6. Consider regional and landscape context (e.g., ownership patterns, HCP commitments, and occupancy by species of concern) when implementing above strategies. |
| | 7. Implement an Adaptive Management Plan that evaluates implementation, experiments with techniques, and considers best available science (e.g., trials, monitoring). |



FMP Strategies Feedback

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY | JANUARY, 2022



AGENDA ITEM 7

Attachment 3

Page 1 of 33

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Overview | 2 |
| Forest Resilience | 4 |
| Climate Change | 6 |
| Carbon | 7 |
| Wildfire | 8 |
| Restoration | 10 |
| Pollinators & Invertebrates | 11 |
| Wildlife..... | 13 |
| Plants | 14 |
| Aquatics and Riparian | 16 |
| Drinking Water | 18 |
| Air Quality | 20 |
| Soil | 21 |
| Revenue | 22 |
| Timber Production..... | 23 |
| Transportation | 24 |
| Mining, Ag, Admin Sites, Grazing | 26 |
| Special Forest Products | 27 |
| Recreation, Education, Interpretation..... | 28 |
| Scenic..... | 31 |
| Cultural | 32 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Overview

As part of the FMP development process, ODF worked with stakeholders and partner agencies to develop draft goals that are designed to provide economic, environmental, and social values from state forests. The agency is currently developing draft strategies to support the draft goals. Comments on the draft FMP strategies were received through the following engagement opportunities:

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|  | HCP FMP Meeting Open to the Public December 7, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 attendees |
|  | FMP Joint Stakeholder Meetings December 9 and 13, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 84 attendees, 111 comments received |
|  | FMP Strategies Survey December 7, 2021 – January 7, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,344 responses, 3,322 comments received |
|  | FMP Strategy Feedback December 7, 2021 – January 7, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 318 emails |

Data Collection

ODF collected draft FMP strategy feedback through a meeting open to the public, two joint stakeholder meetings, an online survey, and email. The FMP Strategies Survey asked whether the strategies for a specific resource area are sufficient to meet the goal. The survey also included an opportunity to provide additional comments on strategies for each goal. The results of the survey and key themes from all feedback opportunities are summarized below.

Overall Results

Overall, survey respondents said that the strategies are sufficient or mostly sufficient to meet goals for most resource/goal areas. There were a few strategies that had the most concern, where people said the strategy is only somewhat or not sufficient to meet the goal. These included:

- **Forest Resilience: Strategy 1.5** Utilize herbicides to achieve reforestation, young stand management, invasive species control, and other management activities to help establish healthy forests while reducing impacts to other resources.
- **Climate Change: Strategy 2.1** Implement silvicultural pathways and harvest rotations that increase carbon storage in the forest while maintaining wood fiber flow to the forest products industry.
- **Carbon: Strategy 3.2** Identify and implement carbon storage in harvest operations where applicable. Establish a mechanism to maintain forest carbon on the site when stands are harvested by increasing soil carbon with woody debris, including alternative slash disposal methods.
- **Carbon: Strategy 3.3** Develop a carbon portfolio that includes forest carbon and timber that is conducive to a final product mix of long-lived harvested wood products.
- **Wildfire: Strategy 4.2** Implement fuel breaks that leverage natural openings, existing roads, thinned and treated stands, and other landscape features to support aggressive fire suppression efforts.

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



- **Wildfire: Strategy 4.3** Implement treatments and practices that mitigate fire risk and improve fire resilience across the landscape.
- **Drinking Water: Strategy 10.6** Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use by evaluating whether pesticide or fertilizer is needed to achieve objectives; using pesticides in a way that minimizes off-target movement; using mechanical, manual, or “hands-off” approaches to achieve objectives; protecting native vegetation; and maintaining early successional vegetation.
- **Revenue: Strategy 13.1** Design timber sales considering timber markets to maximize net revenue and volume.
- **Revenue: Strategy 13.2** Seek out and incorporate new revenue streams and market opportunities that maximize net revenue in alignment with greatest permanent value.
- **Timber Production: Strategy 14.1** Actively manage lands utilizing a suite of silviculture prescriptions, while integrating protections for resources and other forest uses.
- **Timber Production: Strategy 14.2** Utilize a mix of contracting services and timber sale project work to meet forest management goals while supporting the local economy.
- **Timber Production: Strategy 14.3** Develop operations plans for timely response to landscape level disturbances (fires, windstorms, ice storms) to realize revenue from previous investments and maintain forest health.
- **Timber Production: Strategy 14.4** Align reforestation and young stand management to maintain healthy, diverse, and productive stands for timber production across the landscape.
- **Transportation: Strategy 15.1** Ensure the transportation network is aligned to support the planned forest management activities and anticipated public use.
- **Transportation: Strategy 15.2** Consider available quantity and cost of aggregate resources to provide a balance for seasonal continuity of operations and resource protection.
- **Transportation: Strategy 15.3** Construct, design, improve, and maintain roads to applicable to provide for safety and efficiency for the anticipated forest management and public use.
- **Mining, Ag, Admin Sites, & Grazing: Strategy 16.1** Mining will be considered (in coordination with the Division of State Lands) on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law.
- **Mining, Ag, Admin Sites, & Grazing: Strategy 16.2** Agricultural use, communications sites, public water facilities, energy generation sites, grazing, other leases, and forest management administrative sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law.

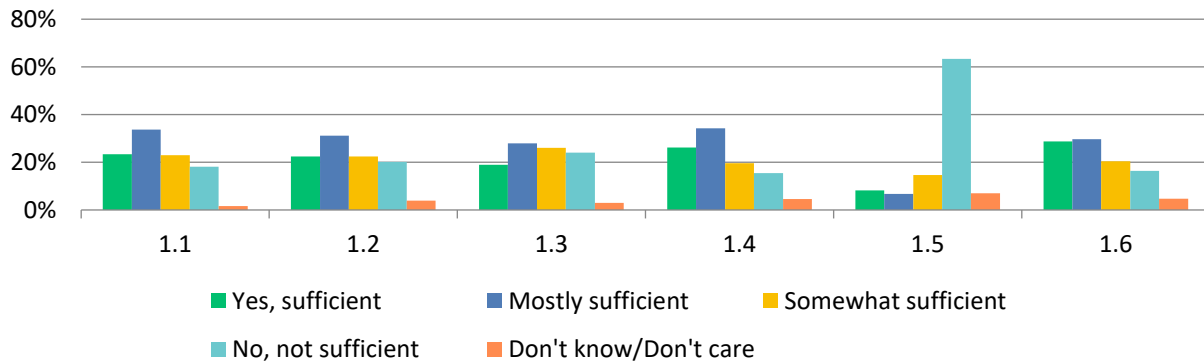
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Forest Resilience Goal 1: Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1.1 Actively manage the forest through the application of science-based silviculture within stands and across the landscape to create a variety of forest conditions and promote diverse plant species that are resilient to disturbance events and climate change. | 23.44% 98 | 33.73% 141 | 22.97% 96 | 18.18% 76 | 1.67% 7 | 418 |
| 1.2 Implement silvicultural practices that ensure successful stand initiation and development with a variety of tree species and densities that are appropriate for site conditions and management objectives. | 22.38% 92 | 31.14% 128 | 22.38% 92 | 20.19% 83 | 3.89% 16 | 411 |
| 1.3 Suppress or prevent "invasive" species damage using a variety of pest management techniques, surveys, spatial data, and training programs. | 18.98% 78 | 27.98% 115 | 26.03% 107 | 24.09% 99 | 2.92% 12 | 411 |
| 1.4 Partner with agency and other regional seed orchards to supply a predictable amount of seed for reforestation activities that are site specific for now and under future climate change scenarios for a variety of tree species. | 26.16% 107 | 34.23% 140 | 19.56% 80 | 15.40% 63 | 4.65% 19 | 409 |
| 1.5 Utilize herbicides to achieve reforestation, young stand management, invasive species control, and other management activities to help establish healthy forests while reducing impacts to other resources. | 8.19% 34 | 6.75% 28 | 14.70% 61 | 63.37% 263 | 6.99% 29 | 415 |
| 1.6 Use an adaptive management approach to monitor, learn from and improve forest management practices across resource goals. | 28.72% 114 | 29.72% 118 | 20.40% 81 | 16.37% 65 | 4.79% 19 | 397 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Key feedback themes (324 comments received):

- Protect and promote mature and old growth forest characteristics
- Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides to protect forest health
- Minimize post-fire logging
- Protect and promote the biodiversity of native species
- Identify and protect climate-sensitive habitats
- Consult and engage with indigenous leaders, forest managers, and communities to incorporate best practices and traditional ecological knowledge into forest management
- Center management practices on forest ecosystem health and natural regeneration
- Aspire to use state forests as models for resilient and sustainable practices

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

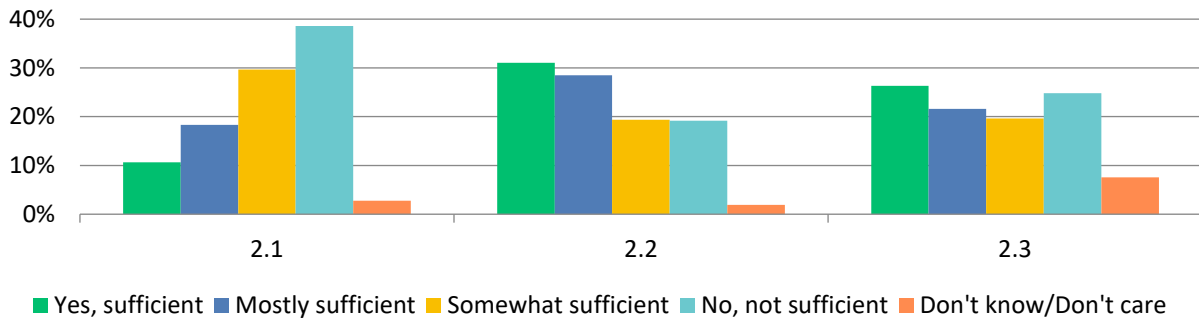
January, 2022



Climate Change

Goal 2: Lead by example in demonstrating climate smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient for ODF to lead by example in demonstrating climate-smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 2.1 Implement silvicultural pathways and harvest rotations that increase carbon storage in the forest while maintaining wood fiber flow to the forest products industry. | 10.66% 50 | 18.34% 86 | 29.64% 139 | 38.59% 181 | 2.77% 13 | 469 |
| 2.2 Identify climate-sensitive habitats, areas of high conservation value, and areas of cultural significance that are susceptible to climate change. | 31.06% 146 | 28.51% 134 | 19.36% 91 | 19.15% 90 | 1.91% 9 | 470 |
| 2.3 Determine an internal carbon price for the lands and forests that the State Forests Division manages. | 26.35% 122 | 21.60% 100 | 19.65% 91 | 24.84% 115 | 7.56% 35 | 463 |

Key feedback themes (476 comments received):

- Increase carbon storage while maintaining wood fiber flow
- Establish a formal process to track greenhouse gas emissions and estimate the transfer of carbon between different carbon pools
- Maximize carbon storage by protecting old growth forests
- Identify and protecting climate-sensitive habitats
- Utilize an internal carbon price to inform management decisions
- Increase the production of locally sourced wood products
- Recognize the role of soil in carbon storage

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

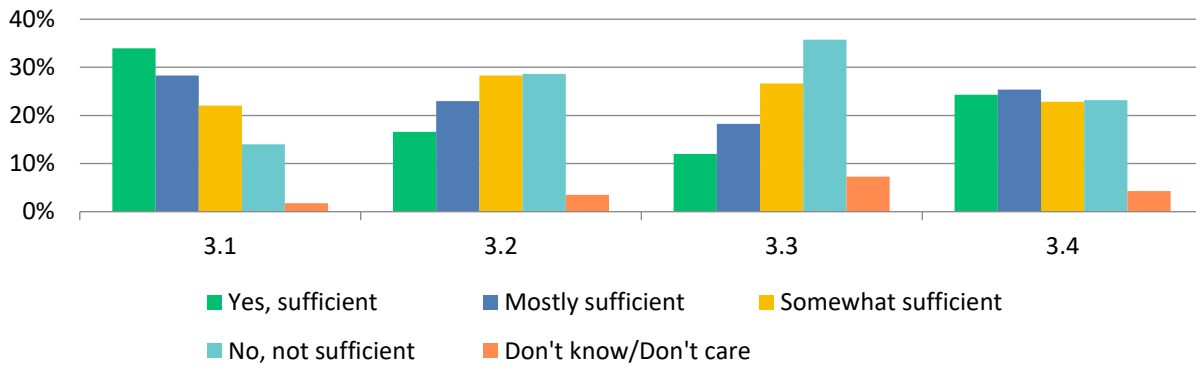
January, 2022



Carbon

Goal 3: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 3.1 Identify areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially those that can provide benefits for species of concern habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians. | 33.92% 97 | 28.32% 81 | 22.03% 63 | 13.99% 40 | 1.75% 5 | 286 |
| 3.2 Identify and implement carbon storage in harvest operations where applicable. Establish a mechanism to maintain forest carbon on the site when stands are harvested by increasing soil carbon with woody debris, including alternative slash disposal methods. | 16.61% 47 | 22.97% 65 | 28.27% 80 | 28.62% 81 | 3.53% 10 | 283 |
| 3.3 Develop a carbon portfolio that includes forest carbon and timber that is conducive to a final product mix of long-lived harvested wood products. | 12.04% 33 | 18.25% 50 | 26.64% 73 | 35.77% 98 | 7.30% 20 | 274 |
| 3.4 Implement alternatives to pile burning where feasible. (Examples include biochar, biomass, and air burners). | 24.29% 68 | 25.36% 71 | 22.86% 64 | 23.21% 65 | 4.29% 12 | 280 |

Key feedback themes (233 comments received):

- Focus carbon sequestration plans on the landscape instead of wood products
- Protect mature and old-growth forests
- Identify and protect a standing inventory of carbon, and establish a baseline for comparison
- Eliminate slash burning
- Avoid clear cutting and use selective logging
- Promote green tree retention, establish riparian buffers, and extend harvest rotations to increase carbon storage
- Use the term “net carbon sequestration” or “carbon neutrality” instead of “carbon storage”

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

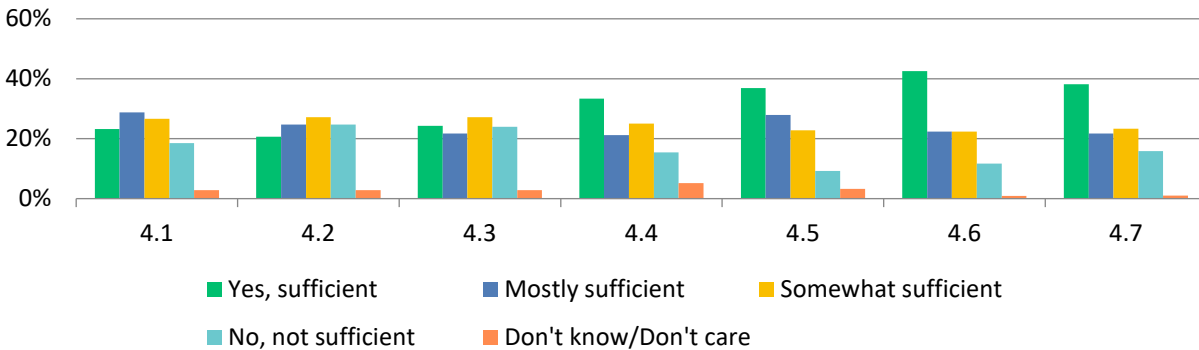
January, 2022



Wildfire

Goal 4: Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 4.1 Implement fuels management strategies in the wildland urban interface (WUI) to increase firefighter safety and reduce risks to communities where appropriate. | 23.22% 75 | 28.79% 93 | 26.63% 86 | 18.58% 60 | 2.79% 9 | 323 |
| 4.2 Implement fuel breaks that leverage natural openings, existing roads, thinned and treated stands, and other landscape features to support aggressive fire suppression efforts. | 20.68% 67 | 24.69% 80 | 27.16% 88 | 24.69% 80 | 2.78% 9 | 324 |
| 4.3 Implement treatments and practices that mitigate fire risk and improve fire resilience across the landscape. | 24.29% 77 | 21.77% 69 | 27.13% 86 | 23.97% 76 | 2.84% 9 | 317 |
| 4.4 Partner with fire managers and landowners to maintain a spatial database of fire suppression water sources and to identify priorities for developing new sources and improving existing sources. | 33.33% 104 | 21.15% 66 | 25.00% 78 | 15.38% 48 | 5.13% 16 | 312 |
| 4.5 Participate in local and statewide fire planning efforts. | 36.86% 115 | 27.88% 87 | 22.76% 71 | 9.29% 29 | 3.21% 10 | 312 |
| 4.6 Communicate relevant and timely information about wildfire risk on State Forests to the public. | 42.59% 135 | 22.40% 71 | 22.40% 71 | 11.67% 37 | 0.95% 3 | 317 |
| 4.7 Proactively manage public access and forest operations to minimize the risk of human caused fires. | 38.19% 118 | 21.68% 67 | 23.30% 72 | 15.86% 49 | 0.97% 3 | 309 |

Key feedback themes (237 comments received):

- Provide education about the role of fire and how to eliminate human caused wildfires
- Focus on protecting homes using fuel reduction strategies
- Improve emergency communication systems, including distributing information in multiple languages and formats

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



- Use natural reforestation techniques to decrease fire severity
- Prioritize inclusion of indigenous communities and climate justice organizations in fire planning efforts
- Retain and maintain old-growth forests
- Avoid post-fire logging except for hazard trees
- Prioritize public safety over public access when conditions are high risk

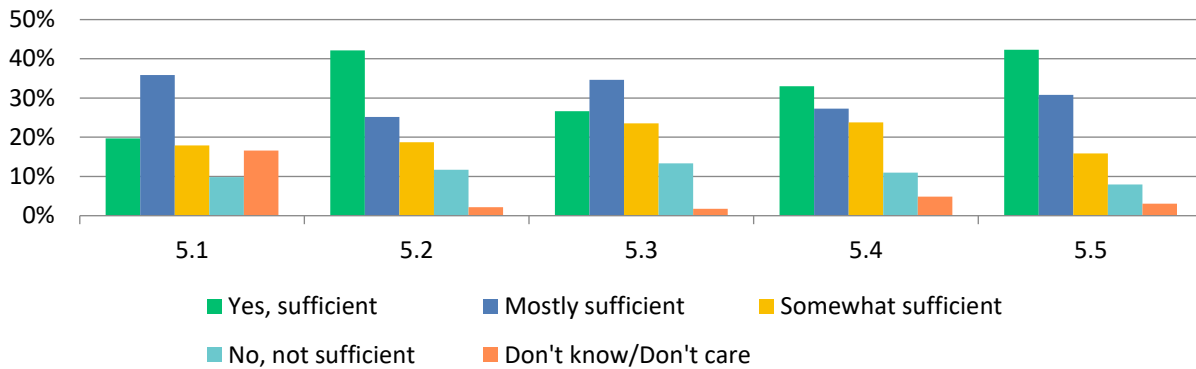
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Restoration Goal 5: Assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 5.1 Where feasible, restore Swiss needle cast (SNC) affected stands with tree species that are appropriate for the site now and in future climates. | 19.73% 44 | 35.87% 80 | 17.94% 40 | 9.87% 22 | 16.59% 37 | 223 |
| 5.2 Work with adjacent landowners to develop and conduct restoration activities across ownership boundaries to maximize effectiveness. | 42.17% 97 | 25.22% 58 | 18.70% 43 | 11.74% 27 | 2.17% 5 | 230 |
| 5.3 Prioritize restoration in areas with the highest potential to result in recovery, productivity and forest resiliency in alignment with management objectives. | 26.67% 60 | 34.67% 78 | 23.56% 53 | 13.33% 30 | 1.78% 4 | 225 |
| 5.4 Allow for endemic levels of native insects and disease and when those levels cross management thresholds conduct restoration activities. | 33.04% 75 | 27.31% 62 | 23.79% 54 | 11.01% 25 | 4.85% 11 | 227 |
| 5.5 Identify restoration potential for site-specific native oaks, chaparral, meadows, and wetlands. | 42.29% 96 | 30.84% 70 | 15.86% 36 | 7.93% 18 | 3.08% 7 | 227 |

Key feedback themes (171 comments received):

- Allow endemic levels of pests and disease
- Focus efforts on restoration of ecosystem functions such as carbon storage, hydrologic function, soil productivity, and biodiversity
- Identify native species and future species that would thrive well in warming climates for restoration activities
- Focus on watershed restoration and longer-rotation forestry
- Concern that restoration activities may lead to logging and replacement
- Focus on thinning and prescribed burns

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

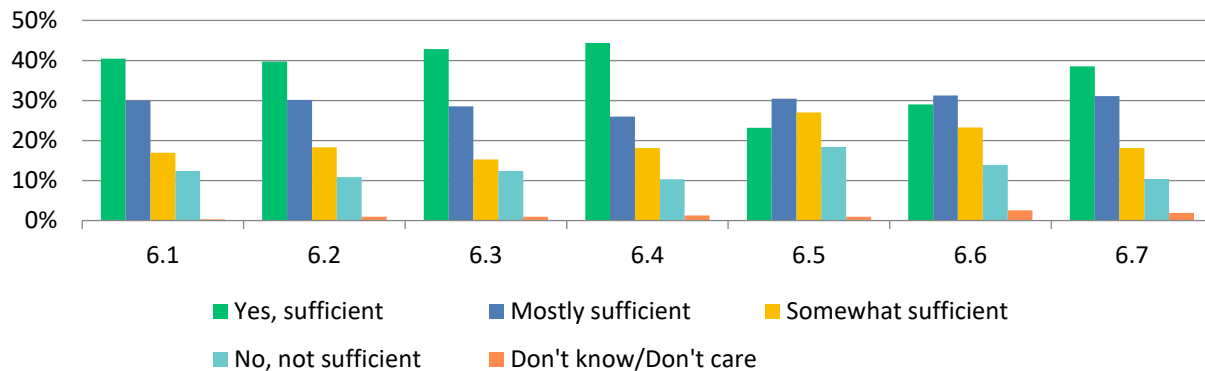
January, 2022



Wildlife

Goal 6: 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.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to maintain, protect, and enhance functional and resilient systems and landscapes that provide the variety of quality of habitat types and features necessary for long-term persistence of native wil



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 6.1 Manage for diverse habitats across the landscape and over time by managing for diverse seral stages; protecting, maintaining, and enhancing habitat; and identifying and protecting rare and unique habitats. | 40.43% 131 | 29.94% 97 | 16.98% 55 | 12.35% 40 | 0.31% 1 | 324 |
| 6.2 Manage for complex habitats, of all ages, with the full suite of habitat features within and across watersheds by promoting complexity and diversity, and adapting standards to regional and state-level goals. | 39.75% 128 | 30.12% 97 | 18.32% 59 | 10.87% 35 | 0.93% 3 | 322 |
| 6.3 Manage for functional landscapes for native wildlife by varying habitat, maintaining connectivity, and broadening landscape permeability. | 42.86% 135 | 28.57% 90 | 15.24% 48 | 12.38% 39 | 0.95% 3 | 315 |
| 6.4 Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern by complying with state and federal requirements, implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan, conducting Species Assessments, and collaborating across ownership boundaries to meet conservation goals. | 44.38% 142 | 25.94% 83 | 18.13% 58 | 10.31% 33 | 1.25% 4 | 320 |
| 6.5 Use active management to meet habitat objectives over time and across the landscape. | 23.17% 73 | 30.48% 96 | 26.98% 85 | 18.41% 58 | 0.95% 3 | 315 |
| 6.6 Consider regional and landscape context (e.g. ownership patterns, HCP commitments, and occupancy by species of concern) when implementing above strategies. | 29.03% 90 | 31.29% 97 | 23.23% 72 | 13.87% 43 | 2.58% 8 | 310 |
| 6.7 Implement an Adaptive Management Plan that evaluates implementation, experiments with techniques, and considers best available science. | 38.51% 119 | 31.07% 96 | 18.12% 56 | 10.36% 32 | 1.94% 6 | 309 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Key feedback themes (197 comments received):

- Utilize passive management in addition to active management
- Provide additional information about how management activities differ in and outside of habitat conservation areas
- Include species of concern as a focus
- Specify management for diverse serial stages
- Interest in reintroducing beavers
- Protect wolf, salmon, and beaver habitat
- Maximize diversity at the regional scale in addition to state lands

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

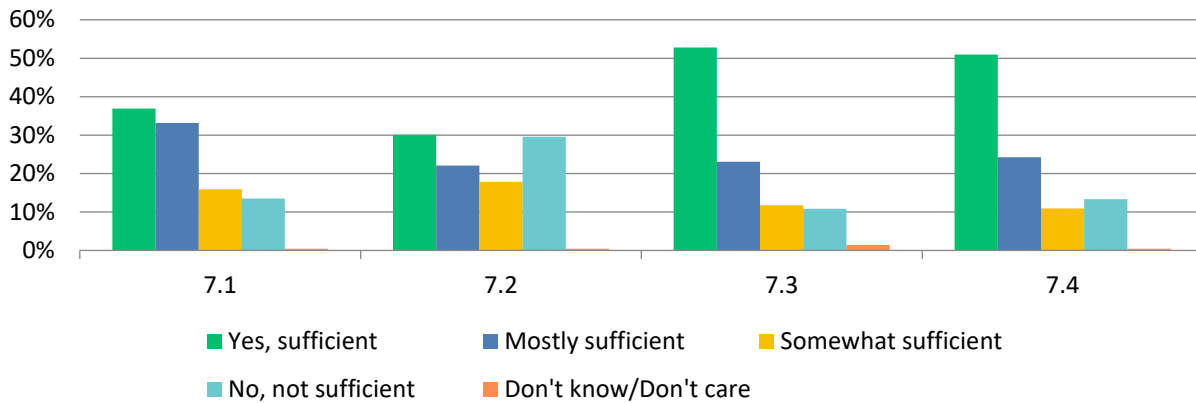
January, 2022



Pollinators & Invertebrates

Goal 7: Provide suitable habitats across the landscape that contribute to maintaining or enhancing native, sensitive, and endangered pollinator and other invertebrate populations.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to provide suitable habitats across the landscape that contribute to maintaining or enhancing native, sensitive, and endangered pollinator and invertebrate populations?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 7.1 Implement management practices to maintain and promote native plant diversity and pollinator habitat. | 36.92% 79 | 33.18% 71 | 15.89% 34 | 13.55% 29 | 0.47% 1 | 214 |
| 7.2 Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use. | 30.05% 64 | 22.07% 47 | 17.84% 38 | 29.58% 63 | 0.47% 1 | 213 |
| 7.3 Include native pollinators in education and interpretation programs to support the agency's pollinator health outreach and education plan. | 52.83% 112 | 23.11% 49 | 11.79% 25 | 10.85% 23 | 1.42% 3 | 212 |
| 7.4 Pursue opportunities to complement wildlife strategies with habitat enhancements specific to pollinators and other invertebrates. | 50.95% 107 | 24.29% 51 | 10.95% 23 | 13.33% 28 | 0.48% 1 | 210 |

Key feedback themes (146 comments received):

- Protect foraging sources and minimize ground disturbances to protect pollinator nesting habitat
- Provide sustainable habitat for pollinators and invertebrates across the landscape
- Minimize or eliminate pesticide use
- Provide educational opportunities about the importance of pollinators and native species
- Provide more information and greater specificity on strategy implementation
- Create inventories for pollinator species

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

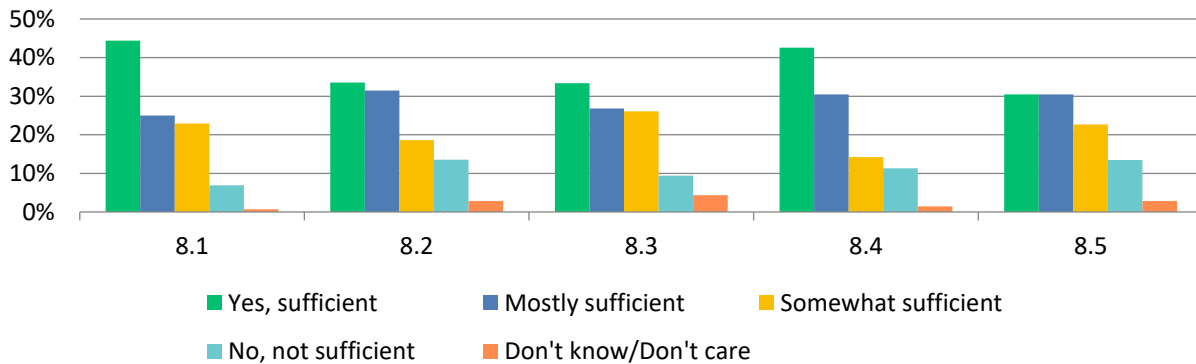
January, 2022



Plants

Goal 8: Maintain understory vegetation representing a diversity of native vegetation associations and seral stages across the landscape including sensitive and endangered plant populations.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to maintain understory vegetation representing a diversity of native vegetation associations and seral stages across the landscape including sensitive and endangered plant populations?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 8.1 Integrate understory vegetation monitoring into the State Forest Inventory Program. | 44.44% 64 | 25.00% 36 | 22.92% 33 | 6.94% 10 | 0.69% 1 | 144 |
| 8.2 Associate plant communities to corresponding soil types using a standardized soil survey and programmatically collected soil and vegetation data. Use these associations to predict plant community types on the landscape. | 33.57% 47 | 31.43% 44 | 18.57% 26 | 13.57% 19 | 2.86% 4 | 140 |
| 8.3 Develop state-and-transition models of plant community dynamics in response to disturbance and management actions for each plan community soil association and use this to predict understory vegetation response to proposed management actions. | 33.33% 46 | 26.81% 37 | 26.09% 36 | 9.42% 13 | 4.35% 6 | 138 |
| 8.4 Develop probability of occurrence maps for sensitive species. Avoid management induced disturbances in areas of high probability of occurrence where possible. | 42.55% 60 | 30.50% 43 | 14.18% 20 | 11.35% 16 | 1.42% 2 | 141 |
| 8.5 Identify management thresholds for designated noxious weeds, monitor for invasiveness, and implement appropriate integrated pest management tactics to reduce populations below impactful densities. | 30.50% 43 | 30.50% 43 | 22.70% 32 | 13.48% 19 | 2.84% 4 | 141 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Key feedback themes (60 comments received):

- Reduce disturbance to areas with substantial native species
- Reduce the use of pesticides in restoration activities
- Eliminate clear cutting
- Establish protocols to reduce the introduction of invasive species from logging and roadways
- Increase plant diversity
- Invest in a high-quality stand level inventory instead of adding additional components like understory monitoring

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

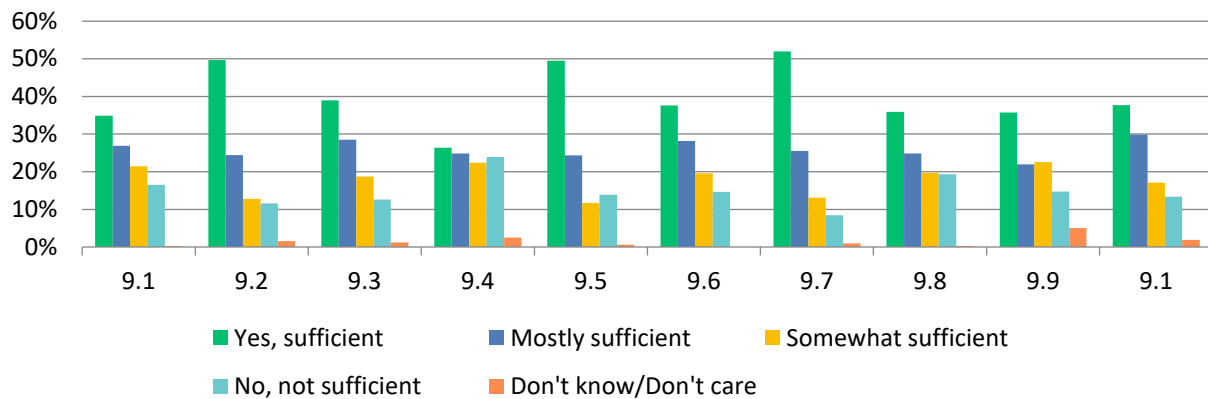
January, 2022



Aquatics & Riparian

Goal 9: 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.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to 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 rip



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 9.1 Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern by complying with state and federal requirements, implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategy, conducting species assessments, and collaborating across ownership boundaries where appropriate. | 34.86% 114 | 26.91% 88 | 21.41% 70 | 16.51% 54 | 0.31% 1 | 327 |
| 9.2 Encourage beaver occupancy of streams and valley bottoms, including dam building and ponding. Identify and remove barriers to beaver occupancy and incorporate into restoration planning. | 49.70% 163 | 24.39% 80 | 12.80% 42 | 11.59% 38 | 1.52% 5 | 328 |
| 9.3 Plan for natural disturbances (eg. landslides) and implement forest management practices that, combined with the disturbance, will create aquatic habitat and protect water quality. | 38.96% 127 | 28.53% 93 | 18.71% 61 | 12.58% 41 | 1.23% 4 | 326 |
| 9.4 For slopes that could fail due to canopy removal or natural causes, and deliver to aquatic systems, maintain properly functioning landslide processes including sediment routing, large woody debris supply, and nutrient cycling. | 26.38% 86 | 24.85% 81 | 22.39% 73 | 23.93% 78 | 2.45% 8 | 326 |
| 9.5 Identify, prioritize, and enhance streams and watersheds that will support cold water refuge, complex and off channel habitats, and climate change resiliency for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates. | 49.54% 161 | 24.31% 79 | 11.69% 38 | 13.85% 45 | 0.62% 2 | 325 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----|
| 9.6 Prioritize habitat restoration efforts by utilizing watershed assessments, strategic action plans, and other local knowledge. | 37.61% 123 | 28.13% 92 | 19.57% 64 | 14.68% 48 | 0.00% 0 | 327 |
| 9.7 Develop and foster partnerships with other agencies, tribes, universities, and non-governmental organizations to plan, implement, and monitor aquatic habitats over time, and to conduct research that fills gaps in best available science. Report all aquatic and riparian restoration actions to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. | 52.02% 167 | 25.55% 82 | 13.08% 42 | 8.41% 27 | 0.93% 3 | 321 |
| 9.8 Maintain the natural functions and attributes of wetlands over time and ensure that no net loss of wetlands occurs as a result of management activities. Allow for the creation of new wetlands to form over time. | 35.89% 117 | 24.85% 81 | 19.63% 64 | 19.33% 63 | 0.31% 1 | 326 |
| 9.9 Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load and coordination and reporting. | 35.74% 114 | 21.94% 70 | 22.57% 72 | 14.73% 47 | 5.02% 16 | 319 |
| 9.10 Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for water quality and habitat protection. | 37.69% 121 | 29.91% 96 | 17.13% 55 | 13.40% 43 | 1.87% 6 | 321 |

Key feedback themes (229 comments received):

- Analyze information at the watershed level and assess existing conditions of a watershed
- Avoid or eliminate the use of pesticides
- Manage for no loss of wetlands and encourage the creation of new wetlands
- Avoid human caused landslides
- Use the best available science for habitat restoration efforts
- Concern about removing canopy and disrupting natural processes
- Enhance and develop high quality fish habitat on state lands
- Increase buffer zones adjacent to streams

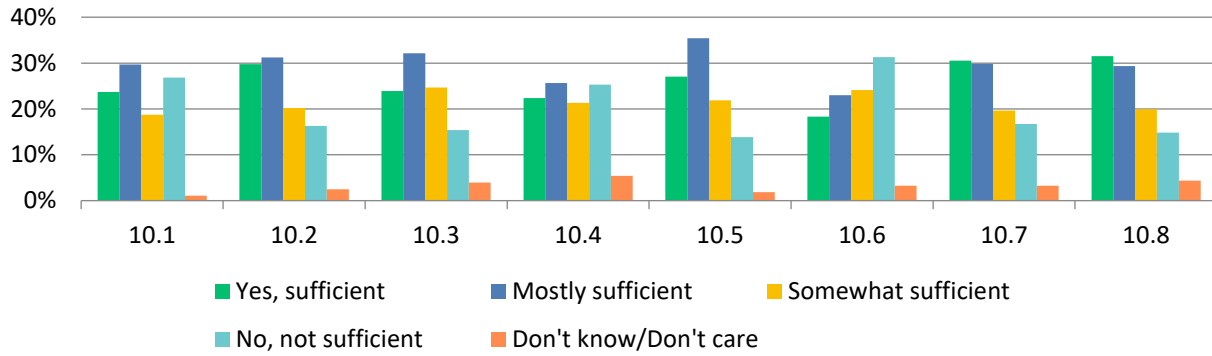
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Drinking Water Goal 10: Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 10.1 Maintain and protect domestic water sources by identifying domestic water use permits within timber sales areas and forest roads and establishing no-harvest buffer standards around domestic sources within harvest units, and applying road strategies to protect water quality. | 23.67% 67 | 29.68% 84 | 18.73% 53 | 26.86% 76 | 1.06% 3 | 283 |
| 10.2 Early in the planning process, identify the unique combination of current characteristics and proposed management scenarios (geology, topography, ecology) at the watershed scale to protect drinking water. | 29.79% 84 | 31.21% 88 | 20.21% 57 | 16.31% 46 | 2.48% 7 | 282 |
| 10.3 Identify priority transportation and infrastructure features (roads, trails, culverts) for assessment, upgrades, relocation, and vacating. | 23.93% 67 | 32.14% 90 | 24.64% 69 | 15.36% 43 | 3.93% 11 | 280 |
| 10.4 Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination and reporting. | 22.38% 62 | 25.63% 71 | 21.30% 59 | 25.27% 70 | 5.42% 15 | 277 |
| 10.5 Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for water quality protection. | 27.01% 74 | 35.40% 97 | 21.90% 60 | 13.87% 38 | 1.82% 5 | 274 |
| 10.6 Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use by evaluating whether pesticide or fertilizer is needed to achieve objectives; using pesticides in a way that minimizes off-target movement; using mechanical, manual, or "hands-off" approaches to achieve objectives; protecting native vegetation; and maintaining early successional vegetation. | 18.35% 51 | 23.02% 64 | 24.10% 67 | 31.29% 87 | 3.24% 9 | 278 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| <p>10.7 Collaborate with the Protection Division to protect water quality when fire suppression activities occur by keeping fire chemicals out of waters of the state, selecting fire chemicals that are non-toxic to aquatic life and human health, and minimizing use of phosphorus-based retardants near waterbodies.</p> | <p>30.55% 84</p> | <p>29.82% 82</p> | <p>19.64% 54</p> | <p>16.73% 46</p> | <p>3.27% 9</p> | <p>275</p> |
| <p>10.8 Maintain and restore headwaters processes that collectively trap and store sediments and organic matter by retaining and recruiting large wood and leaving slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations unless wildfire or silvicultural concerns exist.</p> | <p>31.52% 87</p> | <p>29.35% 81</p> | <p>19.93% 55</p> | <p>14.86% 41</p> | <p>4.35% 12</p> | <p>276</p> |

Key feedback themes (223 comments received):

- Utilize a holistic management approach to improve water quality and quantity
- Monitor water quality and quantity, especially domestic water sources
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide application, especially aerial and broadcast spraying, in watersheds that provide drinking water
- Reduce or eliminate logging in watersheds that provide drinking water
- Collaborate with state agencies, like DEQ and OHA, to monitor and improve drinking water quality
- Manage for mature and old growth forests to improve water filtration and storage
- Minimize new road development and reduce road density in watersheds that provide drinking water
- Involve local communities in decision-making processes related to drinking water

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

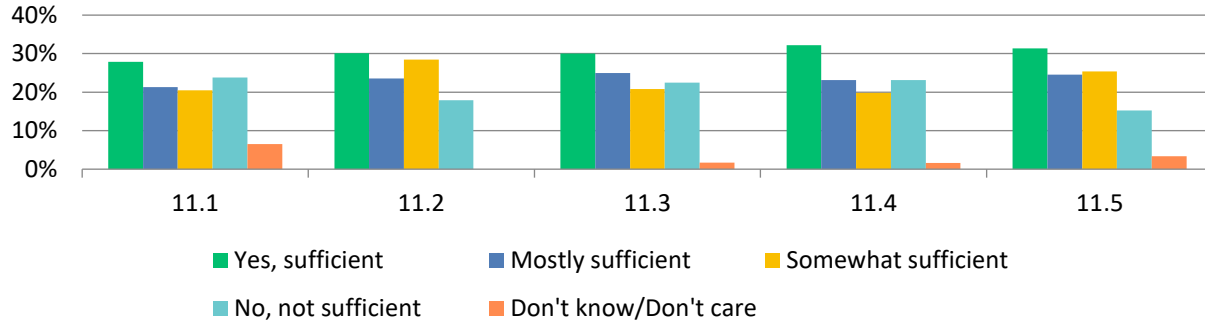
January, 2022



Air Quality

Goal 11: Maintain and protect healthy air quality standards.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to maintain and protect healthy air quality standards?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 11.1 Comply with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and Visibility Protection Plan. | 27.87% 34 | 21.31% 26 | 20.49% 25 | 23.77% 29 | 6.56% 8 | 122 |
| 11.2 Use Best Burn Practices to minimize the likelihood that emissions will adversely affect air quality. | 30.08% 37 | 23.58% 29 | 28.46% 35 | 17.89% 22 | 0.00% 0 | 123 |
| 11.3 Use prescribed burning to the extent necessary to meet management objectives | 30.00% 36 | 25.00% 30 | 20.83% 25 | 22.50% 27 | 1.67% 2 | 120 |
| 11.4 Use alternatives to reduce the volume of prescribed burning where feasible. | 32.23% 39 | 23.14% 28 | 19.83% 24 | 23.14% 28 | 1.65% 2 | 121 |
| 11.5 Plan burns to avoid smoke entering Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas. | 31.36% 37 | 24.58% 29 | 25.42% 30 | 15.25% 18 | 3.39% 4 | 118 |

Key feedback themes (54 comments received):

- Reduce or eliminate burning, and regulate burning more closely
- Identify alternatives to slash burning, like chipping and biochar
- Minimize negative public health impacts from forest management practices
- Interest in tradeoffs with the use of prescribed burning to reduce wildfire risk

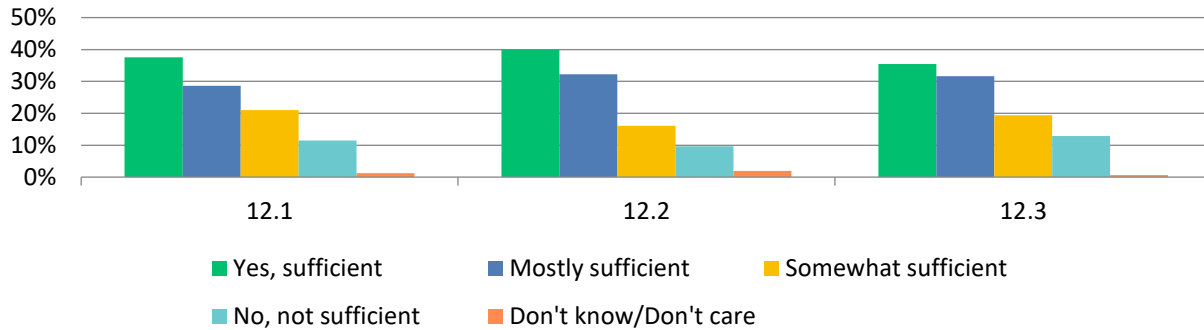
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Soil Goal 12: Maintain natural soil processes, protect soils from damage and increase soil carbon.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to maintain natural soil processes, protect soils from damage and increase soil carbon?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 12.1 Support and foster healthy and productive soils by leaving slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations. | 37.58% 59 | 28.66% 45 | 21.02% 33 | 11.46% 18 | 1.27% 2 | 157 |
| 12.2 Implement site preparation techniques for tree planting that maintain organic materials in soils. | 40.00% 62 | 32.26% 50 | 16.13% 25 | 9.68% 15 | 1.94% 3 | 155 |
| 12.3 Conduct forest operations and projects using methods and types of equipment adapted to local conditions to protect soil. | 35.48% 55 | 31.61% 49 | 19.35% 30 | 12.90% 20 | 0.65% 1 | 155 |

Key feedback themes (118 comments received):

- Protect against soil loss and erosion during logging operations by limiting the use of heavy machinery
- Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides
- Allow second growth forests to transition to old-growth forests
- Utilize selective thinning and allow transition to old-growth forests to protect soil health
- Evaluate the impact of management activities on soil health
- Clean equipment to minimize the spread of invasive species through the soil
- Maintain broad riparian corridors to hold and trap sediment
- Maintain and enhance soil mycorrhizae

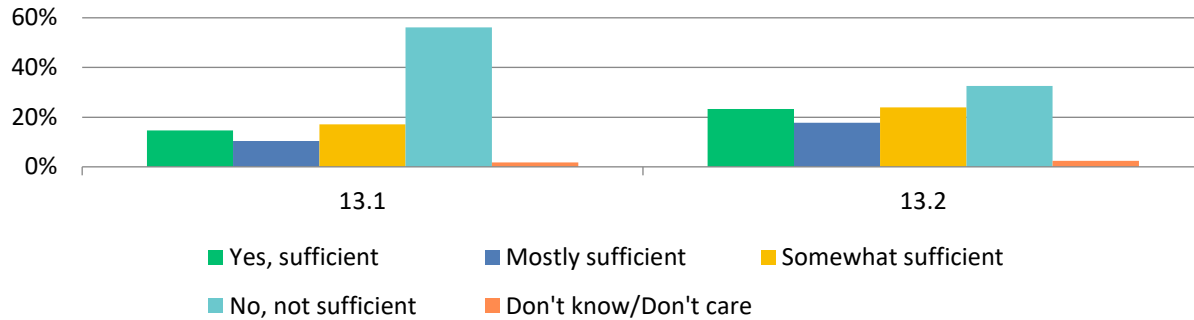
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Revenue **Goal 13: Generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities.**

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 13.1 Design timber sales considering timber markets to maximize net revenue and volume. | 14.63% 24 | 10.37% 17 | 17.07% 28 | 56.10% 92 | 1.83% 3 | 164 |
| 13.2 Seek out and incorporate new revenue streams and market opportunities that maximize net revenue in alignment with greatest permanent value. | 23.31% 38 | 17.79% 29 | 23.93% 39 | 32.52% 53 | 2.45% 4 | 163 |

Key feedback themes (129 comments received):

- Explore revenue streams in addition to timber production
- Reflect the variety of benefits the forest provides, including drinking water, carbon sequestration and storage, recreation, and habitat
- Design timber sales to support longer rotations and the expansion of mature and old growth forests
- Emphasize the importance of providing forest jobs in rural communities
- Maximize revenue from harvest volume for rural communities
- Include securing revenue for public forest management costs

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

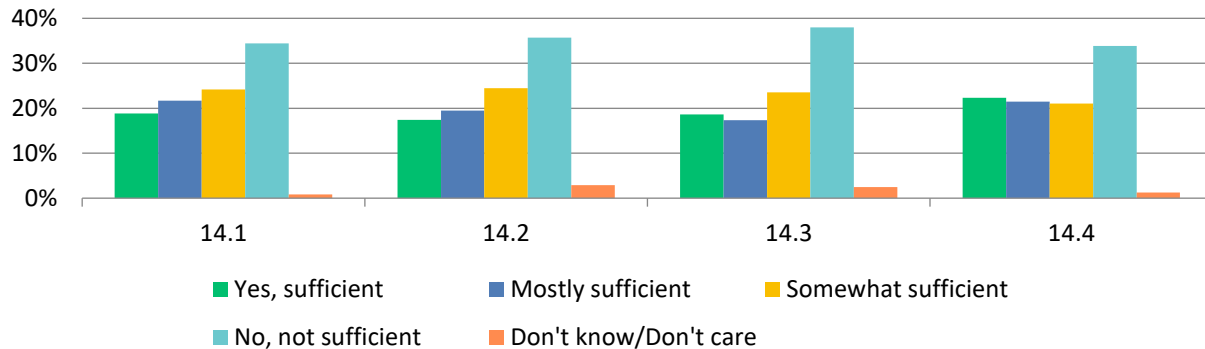
January, 2022



Timber Production

Goal 14: Provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provides for economic opportunity, jobs, and availability of forest products.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provides for economic opportunity, jobs, and availability of forest resources?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 14.1 Actively manage lands utilizing a suite of silviculture prescriptions, while integrating protections for resources and other forest uses. | 18.85% 46 | 21.72% 53 | 24.18% 59 | 34.43% 84 | 0.82% 2 | 244 |
| 14.2 Utilize a mix of contracting services and timber sale project work to meet forest management goals while supporting the local economy. | 17.43% 42 | 19.50% 47 | 24.48% 59 | 35.68% 86 | 2.90% 7 | 241 |
| 14.3 Develop operations plans for timely response to landscape level disturbances (fires, windstorms, ice storms) to realize revenue from previous investments and maintain forest health. | 18.60% 45 | 17.36% 42 | 23.55% 57 | 38.02% 92 | 2.48% 6 | 242 |
| 14.4 Align reforestation and young stand management to maintain healthy, diverse, and productive stands for timber production across the landscape. | 22.31% 54 | 21.49% 52 | 21.07% 51 | 33.88% 82 | 1.24% 3 | 242 |

Key feedback themes (186 comments received):

- Utilize best management practices to protect against soils loss and erosion during logging operations
- Utilize salvage operations, where necessary, to preserve trees
- Develop management plans that allow for natural stand regeneration post-disturbance
- Maintain and improve forest biodiversity
- Minimize logging and clear cutting
- Minimize the impacts of logging activity
- Balance timber harvest with the protection of forest resources
- Preserve old growth forests

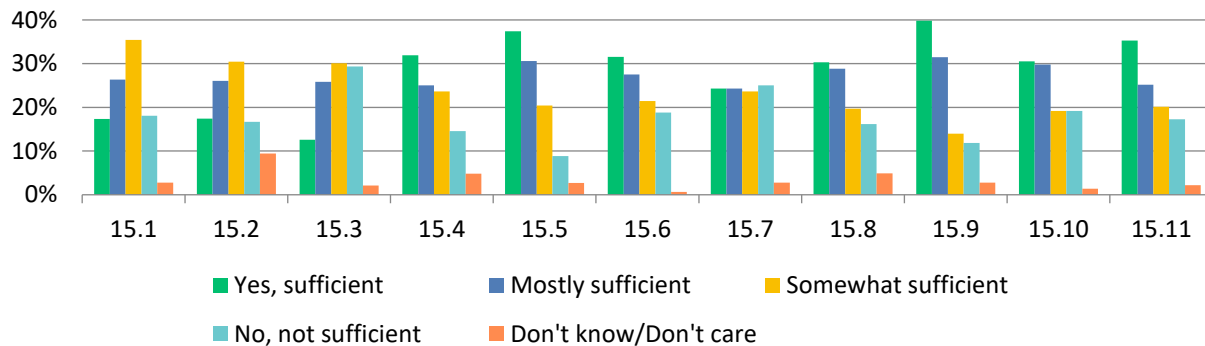
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Transportation System **Goal 15: Manage the transportation system to facilitate the anticipated activities in a manner which provides for resource protection, transportation efficiency, safety, and sound fiscal management.**

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to manage the transportation system to facilitate the anticipated activities in a manner which provides for resource protection, transportation efficiency, safety, and sound fiscal management?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 15.1 Ensure the transportation network is aligned to support the planned forest management activities and anticipated public use. | 17.36% 25 | 26.39% 38 | 35.42% 51 | 18.06% 26 | 2.78% 4 | 144 |
| 15.2 Consider available quantity and cost of aggregate resources to provide a balance for seasonal continuity of operations and resource protection. | 17.39% 24 | 26.09% 36 | 30.43% 42 | 16.67% 23 | 9.42% 13 | 138 |
| 15.3 Construct, design, improve, and maintain roads to applicable to provide for safety and efficiency for the anticipated forest management and public use. | 12.59% 18 | 25.87% 37 | 30.07% 43 | 29.37% 42 | 2.10% 3 | 143 |
| 15.4 Manage road access to protect resources, ensure safety and support management objectives through signage, gates, short and longer term closures. | 31.94% 46 | 25.00% 36 | 23.61% 34 | 14.58% 21 | 4.86% 7 | 144 |
| 15.5 Manage road infrastructure to reduce costs, wildfire risk, allow for public access, and improve forest health and fish and wildlife habitat. | 37.41% 55 | 30.61% 45 | 20.41% 30 | 8.84% 13 | 2.72% 4 | 147 |
| 15.6 Construct, improve, and maintain roads using best management practices to minimize erosion potential and meet or exceed applicable water quality standards. | 31.54% 47 | 27.52% 41 | 21.48% 32 | 18.79% 28 | 0.67% 1 | 149 |
| 15.7 Design, construct, and maintain new roads and improve existing roads to hydrologically disconnect and mitigate to meet water quality standards. | 24.31% 35 | 24.31% 35 | 23.61% 34 | 25.00% 36 | 2.78% 4 | 144 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----|
| 15.8 Evaluate and hydrologically disconnected and mitigated all planned commercial haul routes controlled by the Oregon Department of Forestry to meet water quality standards prior to hauling in the wet season. | 30.28% 43 | 28.87% 41 | 19.72% 28 | 16.20% 23 | 4.93% 7 | 142 |
| 15.9 Design stream crossings for passage of aquatic organisms on new roads and when replacing or upgrading existing stream crossings. | 39.86% 57 | 31.47% 45 | 13.99% 20 | 11.89% 17 | 2.80% 4 | 143 |
| 15.10 Design, construct, and maintain new roads and monitor and mitigate existing roads using best management practices to minimize potential for road-initiated landslides. | 30.50% 43 | 29.79% 42 | 19.15% 27 | 19.15% 27 | 1.42% 2 | 141 |
| 15.11 Waste disposal areas will be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize potential for landslide initiation. | 35.25% 49 | 25.18% 35 | 20.14% 28 | 17.27% 24 | 2.16% 3 | 139 |

Key feedback themes (123 comments received):

- Minimize new road building to reduce carbon loss and erosion
- Decommission roads where possible to restore ecological function
- Minimize the potential for water pollution along roadways
- Ensure transportation strategies are coordinated with other resource areas (aquatics and riparian, and drinking water)
- Keep forest roads open to allow for proper management, fire protection, and recreation access
- Monitor and repair roads causing stream sedimentation
- Control invasive species along roads

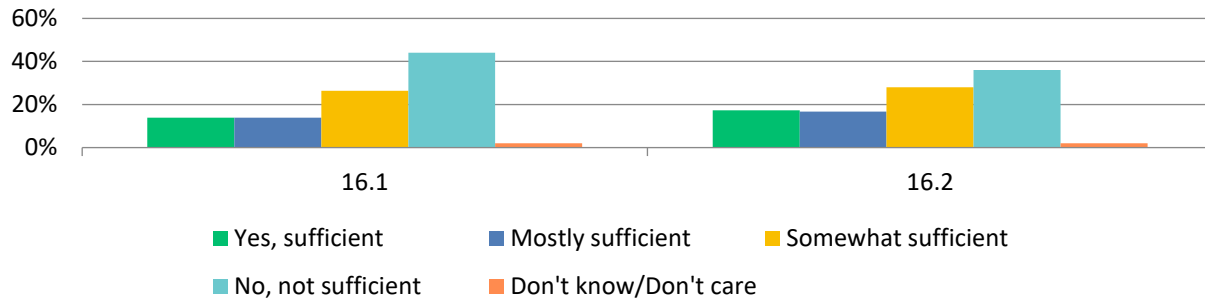
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Mining, Ag, Admin Sites & Grazing **Goal 16: Permit mining, agricultural use, administrative sites and grazing when resource use is compatible with other forest resource goals.**

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to permit mining, agricultural use, administrative sites and grazing when resource use is compatible with other forest resource goals?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 16.1 Mining will be considered (in coordination with the Division of State Lands) on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law. | 13.82% 21 | 13.82% 21 | 26.32% 40 | 44.08% 67 | 1.97% 3 | 152 |
| 16.2 Agricultural use, communications sites, public water facilities, energy generation sites, grazing, other leases, and forest management administrative sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis when such use is not detrimental to the best interest of the state and is allowed by law. | 17.33% 26 | 16.67% 25 | 28.00% 42 | 36.00% 54 | 2.00% 3 | 150 |

Key feedback themes (94 comments received):

- Confusion about why mining and agricultural uses are allowed on State Forest lands
- Concern about the impacts of mining, agricultural uses, and grazing
- Provide clarity on the “best interest of the state” and how activities would be permitted on a case-by-case basis
- Restrict or ban activities that negatively impact water quality, carbon storage, and fish and wildlife habitat
- Connect the strategies to climate change goals

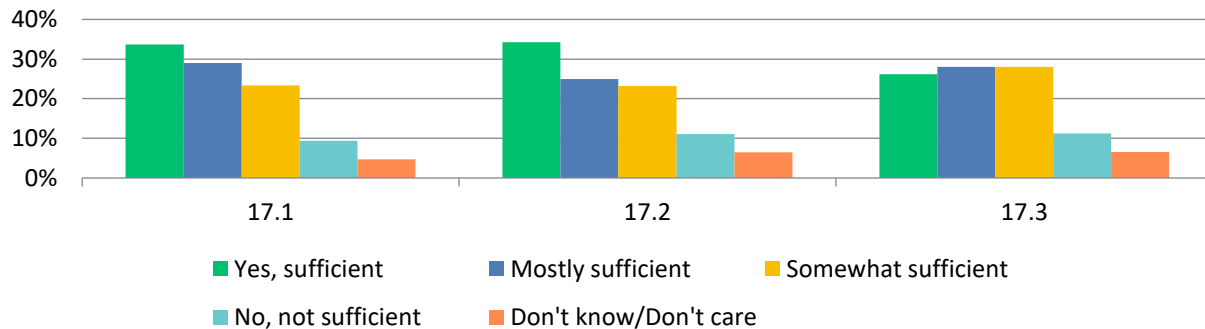
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Special Forest Products **Goal 17: 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.).**

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to 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, m



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 17.1 Maintain knowledge of general locations where special forest products are likely to be found on a district basis. | 33.64% 36 | 28.97% 31 | 23.36% 25 | 9.35% 10 | 4.67% 5 | 107 |
| 17.2 Maintain documentation and policies to guide personal and commercial special forest product opportunities on State Forests. | 34.26% 37 | 25.00% 27 | 23.15% 25 | 11.11% 12 | 6.48% 7 | 108 |
| 17.3 Manage special forest products in a manner that reduces conflict with other forest uses and resource goals. | 26.17% 28 | 28.04% 30 | 28.04% 30 | 11.21% 12 | 6.54% 7 | 107 |

Key feedback themes (50 comments received):

- Develop oversight, regulation, and monitoring protocols to protect special forest products
- Protect rare species in areas where special forest products are harvested
- Develop culturally respectful outreach, engagement, and communication channels with groups that harvest special forest products.
- Confusion about the different types of special forest products

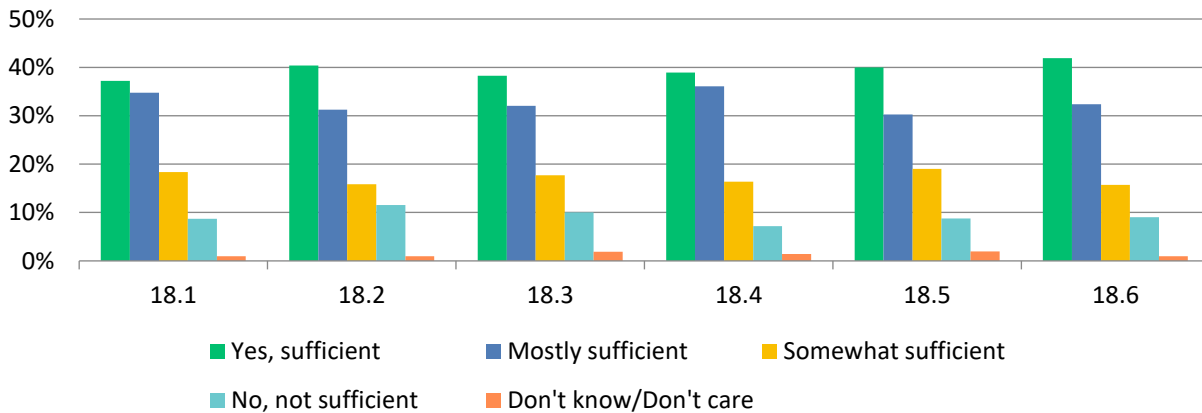
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Recreation, Education & Interpretation **Goal 18: Provide 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.**

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to provide high-quality forest recreation, interpretation, and education opportunities to create meaningful and enjoyable experiences which foster appreciation and understanding of forests and cont



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 18.1 Develop a Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program Strategic Management Plan to guide Program policy, recreation planning, and program management and development. | 37.20% 77 | 34.78% 72 | 18.36% 38 | 8.70% 18 | 0.97% 2 | 207 |
| 18.2 Conduct research and monitoring to understand visitor demographics, use, and experience to guide Recreation, Education, and Interpretation planning and management. | 40.38% 84 | 31.25% 65 | 15.87% 33 | 11.54% 24 | 0.96% 2 | 208 |
| 18.3 Develop and implement a State Forests Interpretive Master Plan and provide a diversity of interpretation and education program types. | 38.28% 80 | 32.06% 67 | 17.70% 37 | 10.05% 21 | 1.91% 4 | 209 |
| 18.4 Develop and implement a State Forests Recreation Management Plan to inform future management, maintenance, and development of trail and recreation facility infrastructure. | 38.94% 81 | 36.06% 75 | 16.35% 34 | 7.21% 15 | 1.44% 3 | 208 |
| 18.5 Update interpretation and education opportunities to incorporate the Forest Management Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest management activities, and management messages to increase public awareness of ODF's role in the natural resource management spectrum. | 40.00% 82 | 30.24% 62 | 19.02% 39 | 8.78% 18 | 1.95% 4 | 205 |
| 18.6 Enhance community engagement to foster partnership development investment, and ownership, stewardship, and capacity to advance recreation, interpretation, and education goals. | 41.90% 88 | 32.38% 68 | 15.71% 33 | 9.05% 19 | 0.95% 2 | 210 |

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



- Track metrics for workforce development, jobs, and revenue related to recreation activities
- Ensure equitable access to recreation, education, and interpretation activities for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, people living with disabilities, and people with low incomes
- Assess the economic benefits of recreation, education, and interpretation programs
- Increase program diversity for educators, rangers, teachers, camp, and program leaders
- Engage local stakeholders in the planning and implementation of goals
- Balance access to the forest with protecting sensitive resources and habitat
- Develop volunteer opportunities to support recreation activities
- Secure additional funding for recreation programs

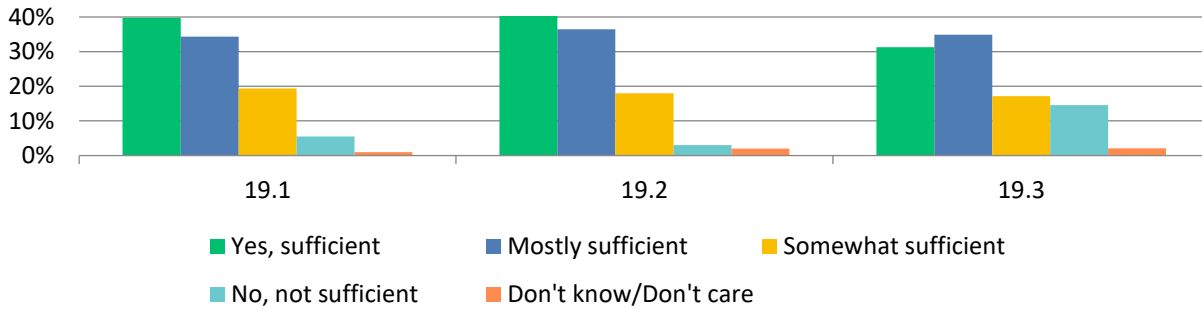
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Recreation, Education & Interpretation **Goal 19: 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.**

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to manage Recreation, Education, and Interpretation infrastructure and recreational use in an environmentally sustainable manner that seeks to minimize adverse impacts to natural resources and fore



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 19.1 Review periodically recreation facilities and identify site design modifications and enhancements to minimize impacts on aquatic and wildlife resources from infrastructure and public use. | 39.80% 80 | 34.33% 69 | 19.40% 39 | 5.47% 11 | 1.00% 2 | 201 |
| 19.2 Develop guidelines, standards, and best management practices for design, construction, and maintenance of recreation facilities and trails. | 40.50% 81 | 36.50% 73 | 18.00% 36 | 3.00% 6 | 2.00% 4 | 200 |
| 19.3 Develop and implement operational standards that intentionally integrate recreation management activities with timber harvest, road development and management, and reforestation activities to enhance recreation opportunities and to minimize impacts to trail and facility infrastructure, the surrounding forest setting, and visitor experience. | 31.25% 60 | 34.90% 67 | 17.19% 33 | 14.58% 28 | 2.08% 4 | 192 |

Key feedback themes (64 comments received):

- Incorporate best available science into best management practices for recreation, education, and interpretation activities
- Identify opportunities to enhance dispersed recreation activities
- Develop volunteer opportunities to support recreation activities
- Focus on low impact development
- Balance access to the forest with protecting sensitive resources and habitat
- Monitor the impact of recreation activities
- Identify partnership opportunities to improve trails
- Provide educational resources about responsible trail and facility use

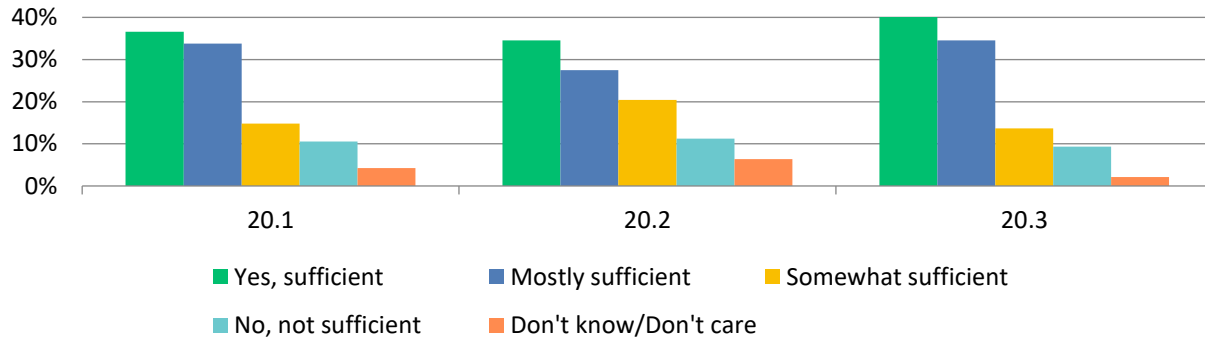
Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

January, 2022



Scenic Goal 20: Manage forests in ways that value scenery and a range of forested settings

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to manage forests in ways that value scenery and forested settings that are visually appealing?



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 20.1 Identify and classify areas, including recreation trails and facilities, for level of visual sensitivity, taking into consideration the surrounding viewshed. | 36.62% 52 | 33.80% 48 | 14.79% 21 | 10.56% 15 | 4.23% 6 | 142 |
| 20.2 Collaborate with the Oregon Department of Transportation to ensure public safety requirements are met in visually sensitive corridors, including scenic byway corridors. | 34.51% 49 | 27.46% 39 | 20.42% 29 | 11.27% 16 | 6.34% 9 | 142 |
| 20.3 Collaborate with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to ensure management activities within Designated Scenic Waterways are consistent with applicable requirements. | 40.29% 56 | 34.53% 48 | 13.67% 19 | 9.35% 13 | 2.16% 3 | 139 |

Key feedback themes (49 comments received):

- Minimize or eliminate clear cutting
- Limit access to popular scenic areas to protect resources
- Identify locations for new trails, viewpoints, and recreation facilities (campsites) to increase the economic value of the forest
- Maintain current trails and recreational areas to increase economic value
- Conserve and restore scenic areas

Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies Feedback Summary

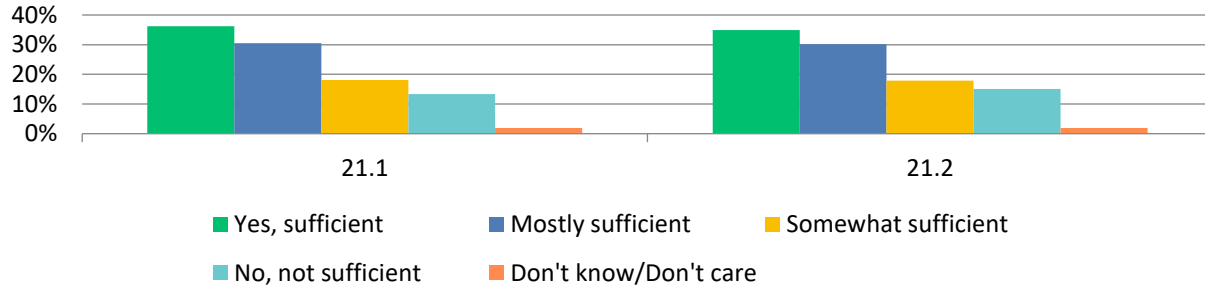
January, 2022



Cultural

Goal 21: Establish strong relationships and mutual trust with communities of place and communities of interest to protect and preserve aspects of their culture and heritage that are tied to Oregon State Forests.

Do you think the following strategy themes are sufficient to establish strong relationships and mutual trust with communities of place and communities of interest to protect and preserve aspects of their culture and heritage that are tied to Oregon State



| | YES, SUFFICIENT | MOSTLY SUFFICIENT | SOMEWHAT SUFFICIENT | NO, NOT SUFFICIENT | DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 21.1 Engage communities that have historical ties to State Forests lands to ensure that historic properties and artifacts are taken into consideration in planning management activities. | 36.19% 38 | 30.48% 32 | 18.10% 19 | 13.33% 14 | 1.90% 2 | 105 |
| 21.2 Engage communities that have cultural practices tied to State Forest lands to ensure that those practices are taken into consideration in planning management activities. | 34.91% 37 | 30.19% 32 | 17.92% 19 | 15.09% 16 | 1.89% 2 | 106 |

Key feedback themes (59 comments received):

- Replace “taken into consideration” with more direct and explicit language
- Engage and collaborate with tribes and impacted communities in management planning, including non-federally recognized tribes with ties to the land
- Define “communities”
- Ensure forest management planning and implementation fully evaluates and redresses environmental justice impacts
- Prioritize the distribution of benefits to historically underserved communities (BIPOC, rural, low-income, and forest labor communities)

Ellen Palmquist

From: Jay Haladay <jayhaladay@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Ellen Palmquist; Ellen Palmquist
Cc: Jason.R.COX@odf.oregon.gov; Liz.F.DENT@oregon.gov
Subject: Comments on water strategy for goal 10

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute. As a representative of 20 families on the North Oregon Coast between Arcadia and Hug Point Recreation Area, we would like to makes sure of the following:

Any plan should consider the GPS locations for State granted water rights in 10.1.a and 10.1.b. All of us have primitive water collection systems that need to be located and considered when making forestry decisions. The watershed areas around these GPS locations should also be noted. We are a microcosm of other rural Oregon residents that collect their water outside the boundaries of larger, established public water districts.

Thanks for adding water quality to your list of goals in the FMP.

Jay Haladay
Friends of Hug Point

Sent from my iPad



81 East 14th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401
(541) 485-0165 www.oracwa.org

January 7, 2022

Bodie Dowding
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Subject: Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies Comments on the Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

Dear Mr. Dowding:

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies. ACWA is a private, not-for-profit organization of Oregon public wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies, along with associated professional consulting firms, which are dedicated to protecting and enhancing Oregon's water quality. ACWA strives to provide high value, science-based practical services for our members, which serve over three million Oregonians and over 70% of Oregon's homes and businesses.

ACWA actively engages with Oregon's state agencies whose regulatory and management activities impact the quality of Oregon's waters. ACWA provides input on how programs administered by the State impact local governments' and service districts' ability to effectively and affordably implement water quality programs to meet federal and state water quality requirements. The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Forest Management Plan (FMP) goals, strategies, policies, and resulting management practices will have water quality impacts on Oregon's watersheds and receiving streams. The resulting water quality impacts will in turn impact downstream communities and their ability to meeting federal Clean Water Act requirements implemented by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Protecting watersheds and preventing negative water quality impacts of forest practices should be goals that are comprehensively addressed in the FMP through strategies, policies and implementation plans. To that end, we submit the following comments and recommendations on the Draft FMP Strategies related to Goals 9 and 10 for ODF's consideration.

Goal 9 (Aquatics and Riparian): 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.

ACWA supports inclusion of all the strategies drafted under Goal 9. However, while “high water quality and healthy stream flows” are specifically called out in Goal 9, strategies that are critically important to achieving this goal are not currently included in the draft. The strategies should be expanded to include the following:

- Explicit coordination and collaboration with DEQ;
- Assessing water quality and determining steps needed to address water quality impairments, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and priority toxins (*please refer to: (1) DEQ Toxics Focus List (2) The inter-agency WQ Pesticide Management Team’s (of which ODF is a member) pesticides of high and moderate concern on this page: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Documents/toxicsFocusListChem.pdf>;*)
- Eliminating use of toxics and other pollutants of concern that can be transported through air deposition, runoff, and erosion/sedimentation;
- Assessing and addressing legacy pesticides;
- Maintaining, restoring, and protecting the natural functions and attributes of riparian areas to protect water quality and habitat; and
- Evaluating infrastructure (such as roads, culverts, trails, and skid paths), and implementing plans to reduce their water quality and habitat impacts.

Specific recommendations for addressing these critical water quality and habitat functions are as follows (added language shown underlined and deleted language shown with ~~strike-through~~).

Revise Strategy 9.3 and add a new 9.3.a and 9.3.b, as follows:

9.3 Plan for natural disturbances (e.g. landslides) and other activities that modify the landscape and implement forest management practices that, combined with the disturbance, will create aquatic habitat and protect water quality.

9.3.a Develop erosion control, sediment prevention, and bank stability plans and specifications targeted at aquatic habitat and water quality protection.

9.3.b Implement training and maintain materials inventories necessary to provide for best management practices (BMPs).

Revise Strategy 9.8 to include riparian functions, as follows:

9.8 Maintain the natural functions and attributes of wetlands and riparian areas over time and ensure that no net loss of wetlands and no deterioration of riparian functions occurs as a result of management activities. Allow for the creation of new wetlands to form and for restoration and enhancement of riparian areas over time.

9.8.a Establish and implement minimum buffer widths, in coordination with DEQ and other partners, including no harvest, no pesticide or chemical applications, and equipment restriction zones, around all wetlands and for riparian areas to protect wetland and riparian processes and functions.

9.8.b Manage for protection and restoration of native plant communities and assemblages within wetlands and in their surrounding buffers, and in riparian areas.

(Note: an alternative approach would be to create a separate strategy dedicated to riparian areas.)

Revise Strategy 9.9, as follows (moving the current draft 9.9 to a new 9.9.d):

9.9 Collaborate (or coordinate) with Oregon DEQ and other partners to conduct water quality assessments, provide for ongoing monitoring, and develop implementation actions targeted at addressing water quality impairments, including meeting TMDL targets and other federal Clean Water Act requirements.

9.9.a Identify priority pollutants of concern (such as temperature, total suspended solids and pesticides) and develop monitoring and data management plans.

9.9.b Identify pollutant sources and develop pollution reduction and mitigation plans.

9.9.c Develop adaptive management strategies for forest management practices on state forest lands where practices are determined to cause or contribute to deterioration of water quality.

9.9.d Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and TMDL coordination and reporting. (note: this existing strategy language may be deleted if the suggested revision to 9.9 is adequately inclusive)

Add a new strategy to address toxics and nutrient reduction strategies, as follows:

9.11 Implement toxics reduction and integrated pest management strategies (as more explicitly described in Strategy 10.6) to decrease water quality impacts of pesticides and establish protected riparian buffer zones for all streams to reduce water quality impacts from pesticides and their degradates as well as nutrients.

Goal 10 (Drinking Water): Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.

ACWA supports inclusion of the strategies drafted under Goal 10. However, the current draft strategies do not go far enough to address water quality impacts to drinking water supplies, both within the forest management areas and in impacted watersheds downstream. The strategies should be expanded to include:

- Explicit coordination and collaboration with DEQ, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and other partners to identify pollutants of concern, assess water quality and determine steps needed to address water quality impairments, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and priority toxins;
- Eliminating or reducing use of toxics and other pollutants of concern that can be transported through air deposition, runoff, infiltration, and erosion/sedimentation; and
- Assessing and addressing legacy pesticides.

Specific recommendations for more comprehensively addressing drinking water quality are as follows (added language shown underlined and deleted language shown with ~~strike through~~).

Revise Strategy 10.1 to include protections for domestic drinking water source areas and consultation with DEQ and OHA as appropriate, as follows:

10.1 Maintain and protect domestic water sources impacted by forest management practices.

10.1.a Consult the Water Resources Department database to identify domestic water use permits and registered water use sites within the vicinity of timber sales and forest roads.

10.1.b Establish no-harvest buffers ~~standards~~ around all domestic water sources within harvest units and apply road strategies to protect water quality-designated drinking water source areas (DWSAs). Ensure at least a 35-foot equipment exclusion zone on seasonal small non-fish-bearing streams in DWSAs and manage land to prevent soil disturbance and retain ground and understory vegetation.

10.1c Consult with DEQ (and OHA as applicable) to conduct water quality assessments, provide for ongoing monitoring, and develop implementation actions targeted at addressing water quality impairments, including meeting TMDL targets and other federal Clean Water Act

requirements. Water quality assessments should include presence and levels of pesticides and their degradants.

Revise Strategy 10.3 more fully address water quality protection objectives, as follows:

10.3 Identify priority transportation and infrastructure features (i.e. roads, recreation trails and facilities, skid roads, culverts, etc.) for assessment, upgrades, relocation and/or vacating based on water quality protection objectives; limit forest road development in DWSAs, and continue to implement road maintenance BMPs to reduce erosion and sediment transport from forest management activities.

Revise 10.6 to address the need to employ toxics reduction strategies where pesticides and/or their toxic degradates are found in concentrations above water quality criteria or benchmarks (note that there are US EPA aquatic life and human health benchmarks for all of them that the state uses as surrogate triggers for voluntary actions. (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/aquatic-life-benchmarks-and-ecological-risk>) in waters impacted by management practices on state managed forests, as follows:

10.6 Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use; eliminate or reduce fertilizer and pesticide use in designated buffers for riparian areas and DWSAs and comply with new statutory requirements related to aerial application of chemicals.

10.6.a Evaluate whether pesticide or nutrient use is needed to achieve objectives on a site-by-site basis, and review water quality monitoring data to ensure that pesticides to be used (or their degradates) are not present at levels that exceed applicable water quality criteria.

10.6.b Develop a robust implementation plan to address statutory requirements included in SB1602 (enacted in 2020) and partner with DEQ to monitor streams and develop outcome measures to ensure protection of water quality.

10.6.c Use pesticides only outside of designated buffer zones, only when water quality criteria or benchmarks will not be exceeded, and only in a manner such that minimizes off-target movement through drift, leaching, volatilization, soil erosion, or other transport mechanisms.

Retain and renumber the remaining 10.6 strategic elements.

Additionally, please address the potential internal inconsistencies between 10.6 (IPM plans) and 1.5 (strategy to apply herbicides) so that decisions to apply herbicides do not negatively impact water quality in DWSAs, or downstream habitats.

Thank you again for inviting ACWA to the stakeholder input discussions and for your consideration of ACWA's comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Susan L. Smith
Executive Director



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

PO Box 12339 • Salem, Oregon 97309-0339 • (503) 364-1330 • Fax (503) 364-0836

January 7, 2022

Calvin Mukumoto
Oregon State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Kate Skinner
Acting State Forests Division Chief
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

In Response to: Draft Forest Management Plan Strategies

Dear Mr. Mukumoto and Ms. Skinner,

Introduction

Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) is a local trade association which represents hundreds of family-owned forest contracting businesses. Our members have been involved in the management of state lands for decades. Our members are essential to conduct any activity in the woods, be that road work for access, timber falling for management and restoration, reforestation for sustainability, trucking for product transportation, and many other services. AOL's members provide a diverse array of services that are necessary for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to conduct all of their forest management activities in order to achieve the goals and objectives of their Forest Management Plan (FMP).

Background

AOL wants to thank ODF for considering public comments in the development of their FMP Strategies. AOL supports a well-reasoned FMP approach that is implementable. In public meetings, AOL commented that FMP strategies should follow S.M.A.R.T goal setting standards. This stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely.

Although ODF has not yet released the performance measures for the FMP, AOL believes that they must be informed by the strategies and that if a strategy does not have a performance measure or cannot be measured, then it should not be an FMP strategy, but instead be identified in a standard practices document for organizational effectiveness. The FMP should not have strategies such as "partnering with other agencies to do XYZ". The Board of Forestry, the legislature and the public must be able to measure success of the agency to achieve the goals and strategies outlined in the FMP.

In general AOL believes the goals and strategies should be brief and implementable with the performance measures being more detailed and measurable. The color commentary currently identified in the strategies should be saved for narrative explanation within the FMP.

Regardless, AOL has taken the time to provide specific comments.

Comments on Specific Strategies

1. Forest Resilience

- 1.1. AOL is in favor of this strategy and suggests the performance measure for this strategy be a range of percentages of different seral classes across state forest lands to achieve the “variety of forest condition” standard. Lands identified as RCAs and HCAs should be included in these calculations.
- 1.2. AOL is in favor of this strategy and suggests the performance measure for this strategy be tied to a maximum % of total reforestation failure across the state forest lands.
- 1.3. IPM is a mechanism to achieve pest management objectives. AOL does not understand how this strategy will be measured. Is ODF to always use IPM, how will this be reported? What if it isn’t used 100% of the time?
- 1.4. This strategy could instead read, “Supply a predictable amount of seed for reforestation activities.” The performance measure could be related to communications with partners and stakeholder that ensure early notification that leads to predictable outcomes.
- 1.5. This strategy could be changed to instead say “when necessary, utilize...” Then the performance measure could be tied to a threshold that is utilized to define what conditions constitute the use of herbicide for reforestation.
- 1.6. An adaptive management plan is discussed in 6.7. AOL believes this plan should be developed as a part of the FMP, but not within the management goals and strategies. It could be an appendix or a specific chapter. This strategy should be deleted.

In general, AOL believes forest resiliency is the most important ecological goals of the FMP and could actually include much of the climate change, carbon, wildfire and restoration goal strategies. AOL suggests either combining these goals and strategies or differentiating them in such a way that they are disentangled from one another.

2. Climate Change

- 2.1. AOL is in favor of this strategy, but would like to see sideboards in the performance measure if reporting shows that wood fiber flow is not being maintained.
- 2.2. It is unclear if these “areas susceptible to climate change” will be their own land use allocation or if they will be managed through mitigation efforts. Also, AOL is unclear how “high conservation value” will be defined. AOL believes conservation is of the utmost importance within the entirety of state forestlands. Conservation efforts do not negate the use of any silvicultural tool, including clear cutting, and as such, conservation should be removed as a strategy, but be incorporated within the FMP as an overarching lens.
- 2.3. AOL does not find it necessary for ODF to determine an internal carbon price as a part of the FMP. This is an entirely separate concept that is inappropriate to have as a management strategy as it does not dictate management efforts.

In general, AOL believes climate change is a severe problem that deserves innovative yet implementable actions. AOL would like ODF to ensure these strategies are in line with the other strategies that ODF has for timber production and revenue. It is well known that the land mass the state manages through ODF is incapable of making any meaningful influence to climate change. As such, AOL suggests this goal and its

strategies be combined with the carbon strategies as forest carbon is a more reasonable goal and strategy topic than climate change.

3. Carbon

- 3.1. AOL is uncertain how “high” is defined in this strategy. AOL believes ODF is conflating carbon storage with wildlife habitat and other goals. This should be disentangled in ensure performance metrics are clear and achievable.
- 3.2. How is ODF defining “carbon storage in harvest operations”. By their nature, harvest operations would be considered a flux of carbon where carbon is being emitted and removed from the landscape. AOL simply suggests removing the first sentence of this strategy.
- 3.3. This strategy is nonsensical. What is ODF developing a carbon portfolio for? We do not have a carbon market in Oregon and will not be getting one any time soon. AOL suggests removing this strategy.
- 3.4. AOL believes this is a fine strategy for the carbon goal, but suggest an in-depth economic analysis is completed to analyze this strategy. In a 2021 article titled, [*Market prospects for biochar production and application in California*](#), the authors state “Among the barriers analyzed, access to capital investment for scale-up is the biggest barrier experienced by a majority of producers, followed by market and demand. [...] Most producers anticipate that revenues from carbon offset credits would help them scale up their facilities and expand the biochar market.” This shows that markets do not yet exists to support alternative practices unless the government steps in. Oregon does not have a carbon market, as noted above, so this strategy is more likely to be infeasible than feasible.

In general, AOL believes carbon in the forested environment needs to be considered in the holistic context of opportunity costs. ODF should be utilizing the rhetoric of net carbon sequestration or carbon neutrality and not simply carbon storage. Multiple stakeholders have brought this up and yet ODF continues to view forest carbon in a vacuum. ODF should be looking at ways to handle biogenic carbon emissions from decay, insect and disease and wildfire in the carbon section along with harvested wood products, market leakage, substitution, harvest emissions and much more if they are to truly inform their management plan on the best available science for forest carbon.

4. Wildfire

- 4.1. ODF’s mission is not community safety. As such, ODF should be prioritizing landscape resilience, no treatments in the WUI. The WUI is clearly a responsibility of OSFM. ODF has a responsibility to utilize its Federal Initiative Unit to work in the WUI, but state lands do not. How will ODF measure the success of increased wildfire safety and risk reduction to communities. Please ensure this strategy is measurable if it remains.
- 4.2. AOL agrees with this strategy, but believe there needs to be a measurable objective. How many miles of fuel breaks will the agency commit to creating/maintaining? This should be the performance measure.
- 4.3. This strategy just reiterates the goal and is unnecessary.
- 4.4. This strategy is good, but should be coupled with a performance measure and objective of annual updates and/or an achievable increase in water sources identified.

- 4.5. This is not a management strategy. This is an organizational strategy. Please remove.
- 4.6. This is not a management strategy. This is an organizational strategy. Please remove.
- 4.7. Would the performance measure be to always lock gates and reduce number of human caused fires? AOL is unclear on how this strategy would be measured for success.

In general, AOL believes wildfire risk reduction is in line with forest resilience goals and would suggest combining them. If it is to remain separate, AOL suggests adding strategies and performance measures around fuel mitigation, prescribed fire objectives and salvage operations to name a few.

5. Restoration

- 5.1. AOL supports this strategy.
- 5.2. AOL believes this strategy is an organizational goal and within the ethos of the Department, not a strategy for managing state lands. It should be removed.
- 5.3. AOL has not seen any management objectives, just goals and strategies. AOL suggests removing this strategy due to its vagueness. AOL also does not understand how probability of recovery, productivity or forest resiliency will be developed to follow this strategy.
- 5.4. AOL has no comments on this strategy.
- 5.5. AOL supports this strategy.

In general, AOL does not see how any of the strategies address ecosystem function. Damage and depredation thresholds have not been addressed through these strategies either. AOL believes ODF should reassess the connection of some of these strategies to the goal. Post-fire restoration could also be included here.

6. Wildlife

- 6.1. This strategy should be combined with 1.1.
- 6.2. This strategy should be combined with 1.1.
- 6.3. AOL supports this strategy but believes an attainable objective needs to be identified in the performance measures.
- 6.4. AOL supports this strategy.
- 6.5. AOL supports this strategy, but believe it is redundant with the GPV management focus and can be deleted.
- 6.6. This is not a management strategy. This is an organizational strategy.
- 6.7. Adaptive management is discussed in 1.6. AOL believes this plan should be developed as a part of the FMP, but not within the management goals and strategies. It could be an appendix or a specific chapter. This strategy should be deleted.

In general, AOL believes ODF should follow the HCP and follow the forest resiliency goals to achieve wildlife goals.

7. AOL has no substantive comments for Goal 7 strategies.
8. AOL has no substantive comments for Goal 8 strategies.

9. Aquatics & Riparian

- 9.1. This strategy is redundant with 6.4. It should be deleted.

- 9.2. This strategy is far too specific. It is really a department wide strategy to encourage beaver occupancy?
- 9.3. This strategy and 9.4 have more to do with soils (landslides and unstable soils/slopes). They should be moved to Goal 12.
- 9.4. See above.
- 9.5. AOL suggests simply changing the wording for the strategy to “Enhance priority streams and watersheds...” AOL assumes this will already be completed through the implementation of the HCP and the identification of the RCAs.
- 9.6. AOL suggests removing this strategy because it implies that ODF will be developing watershed assessments and strategic action plans. The work of identifying habitat restoration needs occurs at the AOP level, not the FMP level. AOL suggest removing this strategy or reframing it in Goal 5.
- 9.7. This is not a management strategy. This is an organizational strategy. Please remove.
- 9.8. AOL supports this strategy.
- 9.9. This is not a management strategy. This is an organizational strategy. Please remove.
- 9.10. AOL supports the development of post-fire disturbance BMPs, but they should be developed to just be applied to state lands, and in a collaborative process.

In general, AOL simply wants to ensure the strategies of Goal 9 do not impede on operational feasibility on state timber sales. Many of the strategies are more detailed than the other strategies in the FMP Draft Goals and Strategies document. Innovative forest technology should also be promoted in Goal 9, such as tether assist technology to reduce round disturbance and sedimentation. It has also been well documented that thinning in dense, uniform forest stands accelerates the stand’s trajectory to produce large conifer trees, vertical diversity and tree-species diversity; all characteristics that we assume are desirable in riparian areas as much as they are desirable in the uplands.

Stream temperature

Janisch, Jack E, Wondzell, Steven M., Ehinger, William J. 2012. Headwater stream temperature: Interpreting response after logging, with and without riparian buffers, Washington, USA. Forest Ecology and Management, 270, 302-313.

Key points of the Janisch paper include:

- The amount of canopy cover retained in the riparian buffer was not a strong explanatory variable to stream temperature.
- Very small headwater streams may be fundamentally different than many larger streams because factors other than shade from the overstory tree canopy can have sufficient influence on stream temperature.

Anderson P.D., Larson D.J., Chan, S.S. 2007 Riparian Buffer and Density Management Influences on Microclimate of Young Headwater Forests of Western Oregon. Forest Science, 53(2):254-269.

Key points of the Anderson paper include:

- With no-harvest buffers of 15 meters (49 feet), maximum air temperature above stream centers was less than one-degree Celsius greater than for un-thinned stands.

Wood Recruitment

Burton, Julia I., Olson, Deanna H., and Puettmann, Klaus J. 2016. *Effects of riparian buffer width on wood loading in headwater streams after repeated forest thinning*. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 372 (2016) 247-257.

Key points of the Burton paper include:

- Wood volume in early stages of decay was higher in stream reaches with a narrow 6-meter buffer than in stream reaches with larger 15- and 70-meter buffers and in un-thinned reference units.
- 82% of sourced wood in early stages of decay originated from within 15 meters of streams.

Benda, L.D. Litschert, S.E., Reeves, G. and R. Pabst. 2015. *Thinning and in-stream wood recruitment in riparian second growth forests in coastal Oregon and the use of buffers and tree tipping as mitigation*. *Journal of Forestry Research*.

Key points of the Benda paper include:

- 10-meter no-cut buffers maintained 93% of the in-stream wood in comparison to no treatment.

Sedimentation

Rashin, E., C. Clishe, A. Loch and J. Bell. 2006. *Effectiveness of timber harvest practices for controlling sediment related water quality impacts*. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. Paper No. 01162

Key points of the Rashin paper include:

- Vegetated buffers that are greater than 33 feet in width have been shown to be effective at trapping and storing sediment.

Collectively, we believe that this literature suggests that there exists a declining rate of returns for “protective” measures such as no-cut buffers beyond 30-40 feet. Resource values such as thermal regulation and coarse wood recruitment begin to diminish in scale as no-cut buffers become much larger. We believe that the benefits in forest health achieved through density management will greatly outweigh the potential minor tradeoffs in stream temperature and wood recruitment, based on this scientific literature.

10. Drinking Water

- 10.1. AOL supports this overarching strategy, but would like to discuss 10.1.b. This sub strategy is prescriptive and develops a mitigation measure that is not site specific. AOL would suggest removing this sub strategy to favor the overarching strategy of general protection.
- 10.2. This strategy is far too detailed and organizational in nature. This process strategy is not a management strategy. Please remove it.
- 10.3. AOL suggests rewording this strategy to say, “Assess, upgrade, relocate or vacate priority transportation and infrastructure features.”
- 10.4. Please delete either this strategy or 9.9 as they are redundant with each other.
- 10.5. Please work this strategy into 9.10. BMPs should relate to aquatic habitat and water quality.
- 10.6. Please delete this strategy in favor of 7.2
- 10.7. AOL supports this strategy in concept, but would defer to the Protection Division on any unintended consequences like delayed suppression activities due to robust analysis needs.

10.8. This strategy is fairly prescriptive and AOL is uncertain weather the FMP strategies are the right place for this type of language. Very few if any other strategies are this prescriptive.

In general, AOL believe that wildfire is the greatest forest threat to drinking water and would suggest that active forest management and Goal 1 are used to promote Goal 10.

11. Air Quality

In general, AOL supports the strategies under Goal 11, but suggest removing 11.4 due to its redundancy with 3.4.

12. Soil

In general, AOL support the strategies under Goal 12. Tethered logging allows ground-based equipment to operate on slopes greater than 35% by decreasing the PSI of the machine and therefore the ground disturbance. Strategy 12.3 seems to include this allowance, although a specific strategy to allow innovative technology could also be added.

13. Revenue

13.1. AOL supports this strategy and suggest having a performance measure tied to having zero no-bid sales.

13.2. AOL supports this strategy.

In general, AOL supports Goal 13. AOL would suggest; however, a strategy be added that reads “Manage state forests increase economic viability of local communities.” A performance measure could be tied to local community unemployment, average wage or another factor. Another strategy could be to “Sell enough timber to support the needs of local government.” This strategy could have a performance measure tied to county revenue, layoffs, shortfalls, or another connected metric.

14. Timber Production

14.1. This strategy is more about ecological processes than it is about timber management. It should probably be moved to an ecological goal.

14.2. AOL is uncertain what other contracting services and project work lead to board feet objectives. This strategy does not seem to help meet the goal.

14.3. AOL supports this strategy.

14.4. AOL supports this strategy.

In general, AOL supports Goal 14. AOL suggests another strategy should read “Seek operational feasibility to reduce damage to residual trees that will provide future timber to the market.” AOL also thinks a strategy should read, “Ensure timber production is a primary goal outside of HCAs and RCAs.”

15. Transportation System

In general, AOL simply wants to ensure the strategies of Goal 15 do not impede on operational and economic feasibility for state timber sales.

16. AOL has no comments on Goal 16.

17. AOL has no comments on Goal 17.

18. Recreation Education & Interpretation

19. Recreation Education & Interpretation

In general, AOL supports the strategies of Goal 18 and 19, but would like to see a goal to minimize user conflict and increase safety where different users may interact (i.e. timber crews and recreationists on roads).

20. AOL has no comments on Goal 20.

21. AOL has no comments on Goal 21.

Conclusion

AOL would like to see a more balanced approach to the FMP where the goals and strategies are balanced between social, economic and ecological concerns. AOL believes the FMP is currently skewed heavily to ecological concerns and that it is not truly consistent with GPV and its Management Focus which states, *“To secure the greatest permanent value of these lands to the state, the State Forester shall maintain these lands as forest lands and actively manage them in a sound environmental manner to provide sustainable timber harvest and revenues to the state, counties, and local taxing districts.* It goes on to say that, *“This management focus is not exclusive of other forest resources, but must be pursued within a broader management context that”* provide a number of other ecological and social benefits. At the very least the FMP should be required to produce enough revenue to fund the division’s activities and local governments. Many in AOL’s membership rely on the forest management opportunities that ODF provide. This work is their livelihood and how they support their families and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment on ODF’s FMP Draft Goals and Strategies for AOL’s members who depend on a sustainable and predictable supply of timber across Oregon.

Sincerely,



Amanda Astor
Associated Oregon Loggers
Forest Policy Manager
aastor@oregonloggers.org

“Representing the Logging Industry since 1969”
www.Oregonloggers.org

Don't let our forests go to waste!

Susan Northern <team@Speak4.co>

Sat 1/8/2022 2:30 AM

To: SFCOMMENTS ODF * ODF <ODF.SFCOMMENTS@odf.oregon.gov>

January 08, 2022 @ 02:27am

Don't let our forests go to waste!

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Dear Oregon.Gov,

As an Oregonian, I treasure our state forests for a number of reasons. They provide a great place to recreate and they bring us clean water.

But it's also important to recognize that they bring economic opportunity for tens of thousands of Oregon workers and for rural communities. These lands are not State Parks, Wilderness areas or Wildlife Refugees, they are working forests that were deeded to the state for management!

As the state Department of Forestry finalizes goals that will guide the management of our state forests for decades to come, it's critical that any management plan recognize and prioritize economic outcomes.

I firmly believe that Oregon can manage our forests for economic, environmental and social benefits for us all. And I worry that any plan that locks up huge swaths of our forests as "reserves" only invites catastrophic wildfire and economic hardship.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Northern

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January 6, 2022

Oregon Department of Forestry
Bodie Dowding
bodie.t.dowding@odf.oregon.gov

RE: Draft Strategies for the Forest Management Plan Companion to the Habitat Conservation Plan for Western Oregon State Forests

These comments are submitted on behalf of 350PDX and its Forest Defense Team. The Forest Defense Team works to fight climate change by advocating for forest management practices that increase carbon sequestration and storage, decrease forestry sector carbon emissions, and improve community and ecosystem resilience in the face of the changing climate.

Goal 1 Forest Resilience.

1.1 Actively manage the forest through the application of silviculture **based on best available science** within stands and across the landscape to create a variety of forest conditions and promote diverse plant species that are resilient to disturbance events and climate change.
[This change ensures that the agency will be responsive to new findings in scientific research]

1.4 Partner with agency and other regional seed orchards to supply a predictable amount of seed for reforestation **for a variety of tree species needed both for current site conditions and** under future climate change scenarios.
[This change clears up a grammatically confusing sentence]

1.5 Add: **“Minimize use of herbicides in conservation areas, especially in Riparian Conservation Areas, to protect drinking water and aquatic species. Use herbicides to control invasive plants only when they negatively impact the desired complex forest structure development.”**
[As written, the draft strategies are very focused on herbicide use]

Goal 2 Climate Change.

2.1 Implement silvicultural pathways and harvest rotations that increase carbon storage in the forest while maintaining **a sustainable amount of wood fiber for** the forest products industry. Different tree species, forest types, and ecological zones achieve maximum carbon storage **potential** at different stand ages. These variations will be accounted for when making silvicultural decisions, including, but not limited to, reforestation and young stand management, mature stand density management, age of final harvest, harvest deferral, and retention

of green trees.

[Replace the word “rates” with “potential”. It is not the *rate* at which carbon is stored, but rather the overall *amount* of carbon stored that matters most to increasing overall forest carbon]

2.2. Identify **and protect** climate-sensitive habitats, areas of high conservation value, and areas of cultural significance that are susceptible to climate change.

[This strategy needs a second action verb! Please add “protect” or “manage for ecological integrity” or similar action to give some teeth to this strategy]

Add 2.4. **Establish a formal process for tracking greenhouse gas emissions from the lands and forests that the State Forests Division manages.**

Goal 3 Carbon. **Improve** carbon sequestration and storage within State Forest lands **and carbon storage** within harvested wood products.

[Replace “Contribute to” with “Improve” to be more in line with the ambitious goals of the CCCP. Also, wood products do not sequester carbon, so this change makes the goal accurate]

3.1 Identify **and protect** areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially those that can provide benefits for species of concern habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians.

[Like 2.2, this needs another action verb!]

Add 3.5. **Extend harvest rotations (as identified in CCCP), especially adjacent to Riparian Conservation Areas, to increase carbon sequestration and storage.**

Add 3.6 **Create a standing inventory of carbon in state forests and annual estimates of fluxes including soil carbon, and carbon stores in wood products, distinguishing short- and long-term wood products.** [see California’s Natural and Working Lands GHG Inventory¹ as an example]

Goal 4: Wildfire. Mitigate the **impacts of** wildland fire on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities.

[Chang “risk” to “impact” as fire risk typically refers to the risk of fires starting, whereas impact more accurately describes this goal’s focus on minimizing the adverse effects of fire]

4.2 **Remove** “thinned and treated stands”.

[The best available science does not support fuel treatments in wet westside forests as means to minimize the effects of wildland fire. The most comprehensive review of whether dry forest fuels treatments worked in wet forests concluded decisively that they did not: “Wet forests with natural stand-replacing fire regimes are inherently resilient to severe wildfires; therefore, it is difficult to “increase” their long-term resilience through vegetation treatments commonly used in dry forests, such as fuel reduction and fire management.”² As such, thinned & treated stands will not improve fire suppression efforts]

4.3 Implement treatments and practices that **reduce** fire risk and improve fire resilience across the landscape, **including diversifying age and tree species within stands.**

¹ An Inventory of Ecosystem Carbon in California’s Natural & Working Lands 2018 Edition. California Air Resources Board. https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/pubs/nwl_inventory.pdf

² Halofsky, J. S., D. C. Donato, J. F. Franklin, J. E. Halofsky, D. L. Peterson, and B. J. Harvey. 2018. The nature of the beast: examining climate adaptation options in forests with stand-replacing fire regimes. *Ecosphere* 9(3):e02140. 10.1002/ecs2.2140

[Change “mitigate” to “reduce”, assuming that fire risk in this context means the risk of fires starting. There are many ways to reduce these risks, e.g. closing roads in peak fire season, that could be included later as tactics. The additional wording refers to the fact that dense/homogenous plantations burn at higher severities than naturally regenerated forests, so the FMP should prioritize natural reforestation, or planting diverse tree varieties, after disturbance to increase fire resilience]

4.6 Communicate relevant and timely information about wildfire risk on State Forests to the public. **Prioritize inclusion of environmental justice communities in fire planning efforts and ensure wildfire risk information is distributed in multiple accessible languages and formats.** [While this could also be read as a tactic, it seems important to move it up into the strategies to ensure inclusion of marginalized peoples in planning and communications]

Add. 4.8 **Include power companies in annual assessment and protection strategies to minimize powerline related fires.**

Goal 12: Soil

12.1 **Develop Best Management Practices** that support and foster healthy and productive soils by leaving slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations.

[This addition creates a measurable outcome for this strategy. It could be applied to all the strategies in this section]

Add 12.4 **Minimize post-fire logging, especially in conservation areas, to protect friable soils and maintain water-holding capacity.**

Add: 12.5 **Evaluate and minimize pesticide use that harms or kills soil invertebrates and degrades soil health.**

Goal 13 Revenue.

Add 13.3: **Account for ecosystem services provided by forests for which no revenue is yet raised: community drinking water, carbon sequestration and storage, public recreation, etc.**

Summary. We appreciate the opportunity to provide edits to the draft strategies for the Forest Management Plan which will be the companion to the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Western State Forests. We appreciate the effort of the staff to develop these goals and strategies for FMP and the opportunity for public input. We look forward to a robust plan that incorporates the CCCP, and implements the HCP, while ensuring that Oregon State Forests are managed for the greatest permanent value for all the Oregonians who depend on them.

Sincerely,



Brenna Bell
350PDX Forest Climate Manager
brenna@350PDX.org

Cc: Board of Forestry, Michael Wilson, Jason Cox, Danny Norlander, Tod Haren, Nick Palazzotto, Sarah Dyrdaahl, Robbie Lefebvre

**Boise Cascade Company
Comments on Department of Forestry's
Land Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies**

Boise Cascade Company has manufacturing facilities throughout the State Forests region covered by the Land Management Plan. Boise Cascade relies on the State Forests for our raw materials to operate our mills which employ hundreds of rural Oregonians. As such, we provide these comments on the LMP's Draft Goals and Strategies.

The Greatest Permanent Value requires ODF to manage State Forests for a high level of timber revenue. This was recently demonstrated in a legal decision in the landmark lawsuit, Tillamook County v. Oregon where the Jury found that ODF has a contractual obligation to Western Oregon Counties that require ODF to manage the former County Trust lands for maximum revenue consistent with state and federal laws.

The Draft Goals and Strategies are inordinately weighted towards facets of State Forests that will impair ODF's ability to maximize revenue from these lands. Boise Cascade recommends dropping some of these strategies. Examples that can be pared back include Forest Resilience-healthy ecosystems (10 Strategies). Science-based forest management produces healthy ecosystems as that is a basic definition of modern forest management.

Another are the 7 strategies regarding carbon and climate change. Active forest management contributes to the generation of carbon sequestration through intensive forest management that produces valuable wood products where the sequestered carbon remains when the wood products are used for long-term storage in houses and building.

These are just two examples of where ODF's Strategies are varying from the legal mandate to produce revenue from state forest land. Boise Cascade appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this phase of the LMP process. We look forward to a more timber/revenue-based strategy in the final LMP.



Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem Oregon

RE: Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC--comments on ODF's FMP Draft Goals and Strategies

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this FMP. First and foremost, it appears that the ODF needs to be reminded it has a legal mandated to produce revenue for the forest trust counties. The Department's FMP goals are dominated by other goals that overwhelmingly outweigh the fiduciary duty that a jury recently has determined that the Department has to the forest trust land counties. It appears that only two goals are related to economics and timber production, and 18 goals related to environmental or recreation outcomes. Furthermore, six strategies relate to economics and 132 strategies relate to environmental protection or recreation. There has clearly been more thought given to the environmental outcomes of Greatest Permanent Value than there has been for the economic importance of our State Forests. This is unacceptable and irresponsible. The goals and strategies related to environmental and recreation values need to be collapsed into fewer goals and strategies, or the economic goals need to be considerably expanded. At a bare minimum, the Department must place an emphasis on ensuring these lands produce enough revenue to balance the Department's budget. I must emphasis that these lands are not state parks, wilderness areas, or state wildlife refuges; they are working forests that were deeded to the state for management. The goals need to reflect the purpose of these lands and should be rewritten to more proportionately reflect the social, economic, and environmental goals of GPV. Over 60,000 Oregonians work in Forest occupations that pay a living wage that is 3% higher than the state average. Many of those workers provide the firefighting force that is present in the forest every day. By concentrating on goals other than timber harvest and economics you will reduce the economic well-being of the state and reduce the firefighting force drastically.

What follows are specific comments on goals and strategies:

Timber Production:

This goal and the subsequent strategies are woefully inadequate. They should speak to some form of target for timber production. This could be done using terms such as maximizing, optimizing, or at least providing sufficient levels to meet revenue goals. At a minimum the viability of the agency should be an obvious goal of the State Forest Program. Ideally the department would concern themselves with maximizing the

financial return for the local counties and taxing districts. As written an extremely low amount of timber production would satisfy this goal and indicate success to staff, even as layoffs and closures were occurring. This is unacceptable.

This goal doesn't specify timber production in RCAs vs general management areas. Clearly the timber production goals of these two areas would be different. Those differences should be reflected in the goals and strategies.

Strategy 14.1: Why is this strategy qualified with "while integrating protections for resources..."? Other goals are not similarly qualified. For example, strategy 10.2 does NOT end with "*while integrating timber production and revenue goals*" nor do any of the wildlife goals or strategies. In as much as timber production goals are qualified, we suggest many other goals be qualified with timber production and revenue outcomes in order to better reflect the true balancing of these goals.

Revenue:

This goal and the subsequent strategies are woefully inadequate. They should speak to some form of target for revenue generation. This could be done using terms such as maximizing, optimizing, or at least providing sufficient levels. At a minimum the viability of the agency should be an obvious goal of the State Forest Program. At a bare minimum, the Department must meet its fiduciary responsibility to the forest trust land counties by maximizing the financial return for the local counties and taxing districts. As written an extremely low amount of revenue would satisfy this goal and indicate success to staff, even as layoffs and closures were occurring. This is unacceptable. And with layoffs how is the Department going to maintain a viable well-trained firefighting leadership group?

Wildfire:

We support the Wildfire goal and recognize its importance. Fuels management, including fuels breaks, are a vital part of responsible climate smart forestry.

Climate Change/Carbon Goals:

These goals are identical, and therefore should be combined to form one overall goal for climate change.

Strategy 2.1: Increasing carbon storage in the forest is not advisable for myriad of reasons including the growing risk of wildfire. Especially given the amount of public use on state forests. Carbon goals are better achieved by maintaining healthy forest stocks in combination with a robust timber harvest program that ensures carbon storage in long-lived wood products. Forests are a great place to capture carbon, but they are not a good place to store it long term.

Strategy 2.3: Selling carbon credits should not be the goal or the strategy for State Forests. These credits produce no jobs and no environmental benefit for Oregon communities, thus the social cost associated with both reduced harvest and increased risk of wildfire overshadow any perceived benefit.

Within this goal there needs to be a strategy here to increase locally sourced wood products to combat climate change. Keep producing the timber that ODF can produce and keep providing the timber Boise Cascade needs to make the engineered wood products that store carbon vastly better than older forests.

Forest Resilience:

We support the sentiments of this goal and subsequent strategies. The use of IPM, including targeted and effective use of herbicides is extremely important to ensure good reforestation, as well as responsible management to prevent and suppress invasive species.

Drinking Water:

Strategy 10.2: This strategy is unnecessary for the protection of drinking water and will only serve to create an overly burdensome constraint across watersheds that further curtails management with no measurable increase in water quality. We strongly recommend against this bureaucratic constraint.

Strategy 10.5 speaks to post-fire disturbance. Any BMPs that are developed must be based in science with measurable short and long-term benefit. Accelerating forest growth through post-fire restoration harvest followed by effective reforestation offers tremendous benefits to short and long-term water quality and wildlife habitat.

Inasmuch as wildfire is arguably the greatest forest threat to drinking water, with affects that far outweigh all other known disturbances within a watershed, there should be a strategy within this goal that seeks to use active management, controlled burning, and effective suppression efforts to minimize the threat of uncontrolled wildfire on drinking water resources.

Aquatic & Riparian:

ODF has no federal requirements under the ESA for species recovery. In the event that the companion HCP does not pass, this entire section will need to be rewritten and all such language removed.

Strategy 9.1.d speaks to conducting “species assessments during Implementation Plan development” then determining if “existing conservation measures are adequate.” That

seems extraordinarily open ended and generous given the massive set asides associated with the draft HCP prescriptions and the expected subsequent issuance of the Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Why would there be another assessment with each IP for species already covered under an ITP? Where is the assurance to the Board and stakeholders? This strategy makes no sense and leaves a huge whole of ambiguity in the potential growth of these already extremely generous set asides.

These strategies seem to be rewriting the HCP prescriptions already articulated in that document. We would urge ODF to delete many of these strategies in this section and, if passed, add language referring to the HCP document for specific strategies related to riparian protection.

Wildlife:

Strategy 6.2 speaks to managing for “complex habitats, of all ages” ... “within and across watersheds”. Some levels of “complexity” may not be advantageous in areas where the goals are to produce high volumes for harvest and revenue purposes. Suggest edits to allow for areas where maximum complexity is not the goal.

Strategies in this section assume that the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will be approved. We would recommend only including these goals and strategies if/ when the HCP is approved. Without the HCP this section will need to be re-written to clearly articulate a take avoidance plan.

ODF has no federal requirement under the ESA for species recovery. As stated before, if the champion HCP does not pass, this entire section will need to be rewritten and all such language removed.

Plants:

Strategy 8.1 speaks to understory vegetation monitoring. ODF has struggled to maintain sufficient stand level monitoring over time that provide confidence to stakeholders and decision makers. Adding more components to the monitoring effort will likely add greater cost and increase the likelihood of less overall data replication. To the extent that happens, the data will be less than desirable. For these reasons we strongly recommend that ODF reinvest in quality stand level inventory, and not add additional components that will slow down or add burden to the program.

Strategy 8.5: We support the use of IPM tactics to reduce noxious weed populations as an important component of good stewardship.

Restoration:

Forest restoration is an important component of sound stewardship, and we support restoration goals.

Strategy 5.1 states “where feasible”, this should be expanded to aim to make every acre possible for restoration- where such efforts are warranted. Anything less would be considered irresponsible to future generations of Oregonians.

This plan as proposed is fraudulent and reminiscent of the US Forest Service management system, which by all accounts is an utter failure that was proven out by the recent wildfires. The USFS failed to fight the fires, they have failed to harvest the timber that was killed. Which is doubly bad when you calculate how much stored carbon was released and how much is going to be release as the dead trees rot. Why would the ODF propose such a similar and ominous plan. The ODF needs to rethink and rewrite this plan and place more emphasis on harvest and economic criteria. In its current state it does not serve Oregonians at all. It will cause more hardship for rural communities, it will raise the price of affordable housing, it will actually store less carbon over the long run. This plan as written will cause more fires of greater size because the ODF will have reduced their firefighting staff (no funding) & remove firefighters (less harvest means less logging crews) from the landscape, it will reduce water quality since fire is the greatest threat to watersheds, reduce the amount of wildlife habitat (vegetation for food and shelter) and severely impact air quality.

Again, the ODF has a legal mandated to produce revenue for the forest trust counties. The Department’s FMP goals are dominated by other goals that overwhelmingly outweigh that fiduciary duty. This is unacceptable and irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Todd Merritt
Manager, NW Oregon Log Procurement
Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC



January 7th 2022

Oregon Department of Forestry

To: **Bodie Dowding, State Forests Division**

Cc: **Oregon Board of Forestry, Michael Wilson, Jason Cox, Danny Norlander,
Nick Palazzotto**

RE: **Draft Strategies for the Forest Management Plan Companion to the Habitat
Conservation Plan for Western Oregon State Forests**

Dear Mr. Dowding,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Oregon Department of Forestry's process of updating and strengthening the Western Forest Management Plan (WFMP). We appreciate your focus on watershed health and community drinking water supplies, which we know will be increasingly challenged by the climate crisis.

The organizations signed on to this letter represent members of the Forest Waters Coalition, a network of conservation groups and grassroots community organizations dedicated to advancing commonsense protections for Oregon's forested watersheds. We recognize that the 613,000 acres in the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Santiam State Forests covered by the WFMP have the potential to be a model of climate-smart, watershed-wise forestry, and ask that the ODF take this opportunity to become a leader in management practices that prioritize the health and security of our forested watersheds in the context of climate change.

Towards that end, we are grateful to see that the ODF included strategies for protecting fish and wildlife, clean and reliable community drinking water, carbon storage and long-term forest resiliency in the updated WFMP. Please ensure that you establish strong strategies that can realistically prevent and reduce the harmful consequences of industrial forest management, including landslides and sedimentation due to clearcutting and road construction, harmful pollution due to chemical spray, and water scarcity due to the proliferation of young, thirsty timber plantations.

The WFMP presents an opportunity to create forward-thinking protections against logging practices that have been proven to harm forested watersheds, and to set a new management direction for Oregon state lands. As climate change and status-quo industrial logging continue to threaten our forested waterways, we ask ODF to do what is necessary and responsible to ensure Oregonians have access to healthy, clean watersheds into the future.

Please consider the below suggested opportunities to strengthen the current draft Strategies under the WFMP. Our suggestions are in bullet form, and we have connected the suggested bulleted language to the specific ODF FMP draft Goal to which it applies.

Forest Resilience Goal 1: Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians.

- Manage to promote mature and old growth forest characteristics that are more resilient to climate extremes, and set aside existing mature and old growth forests as strategic climate reserves where no logging occurs.

Climate Change Goal 2: Lead by example in demonstrating climate smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.

- Manage to protect and promote mature and old growth forests that are more adaptable to heat and drought, and help safeguard forest-water supplies for aquatic species and our communities.

Carbon Goal 3: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products.

- Identify mature and old state forests and protect them from future logging in order to safeguard existing carbon stocks in old trees, shrubs and soil.
- Maximize the amount of carbon that the forests catch and hold by growing and retaining large, old trees throughout the forests and maintaining and enhancing forest understory communities that also catch and hold carbon
- Utilize a selective logging and planting regime to alter single species, single age plantations to develop a mixed species forest, increase carbon sequestration, and reduce long-lasting net emissions from clearcut logging.
- Institute bigger riparian buffers as these ensure more carbon is stored on the landscape and also reduce the risk of long-term damage to watersheds.

Wildfire Goal 4: Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities.

- Establish post-fire disturbance best management practices for water quality protection that avoid post-fire logging which harms water, degrades habitat for aquatic species and hinders natural forest recovery.
- Ensure that any post-fire logging is focused on hazard trees, keeps as many trees on the landscape as possible, and retains all living and green trees.
- As much as possible, allow time for natural forest recovery, especially in sensitive habitat areas, less traveled areas, near waterways and in reserves.
- Prioritize inclusion of environmental justice communities in fire planning efforts and ensure wildfire risk information is distributed in multiple accessible languages and formats, especially to non-English speaking community groups.

Restoration Goal 5: Assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors.

- Managers should focus restoration efforts on restoring healthy watersheds in communities whose drinking watersheds have been degraded by decades of industrial logging.
- In degraded watersheds, management strategies should avoid practices such as clearcutting and tree plantations, which degrade water quality, increase water treatment costs and contribute to drought on the landscape. Reforestation prescriptions should be designed instead for long term sustainable development.
- Prioritize restoration work in watersheds listed as impaired for poor water quality and in watersheds where instream flow/water quantity and availability could be restored.

Aquatics & Riparian Goal 9: 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.

- Analyze, protect, restore, and maintain healthy and functioning aquatic habitats on a watershed-level, not by stream or plot. Early in the planning process, assess the existing conditions in the watershed (stand age and size, geology, topography, ecology, land use history, and expected variability in future climate at the watershed scale).
- Reduce habitat destruction caused by human-induced landslides by avoiding timber management practices that remove the majority of trees on steep slopes.

- Manage for “no loss” of wetlands on state forest lands, and actively support the creation of new wetlands in places that have been degraded.
- Avoid use of pesticides that introduce combinations of chemicals into aquatic habitats, degrade water quality, and harm fish species.
- Implement various measures for road construction, maintenance and abandonment to improve water quality.

Drinking Water Goal 10: Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.

- Ensure the State Forest Division works closely with the Department of Environmental Quality on monitoring and protecting drinking water supplies and identifying potential contaminating nonpoint pollution sources at the watershed scale.
- Establish science-based source water quality monitoring programs within drinking watersheds to assess impacts of any proposed timber operations on water quality.
- Establish no-harvest buffer standards and equipment exclusions around domestic water sources including small headwater streams that feed into community drinking water supplies
- Manage forests in community drinking water supplies for mature and old growth characteristics, which serve as superior natural water filtration and storage systems
- Prohibit aerial and broadcast spraying of pesticides in drinking watersheds, both to protect the water and to protect the workers applying the toxins.
- Reduce road density in the water supply watershed to less than 2 miles of road per square mile of watershed, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries to protect ecosystem function.
- Prohibit logging on steep and/or unstable slopes within community drinking watersheds
- Prioritize protection of summer streamflows in community drinking watersheds by avoiding clearcut-plantation forestry which has been shown to reduce water availability by up to 50% compared to old growth forests.

Revenue Goal 13: Generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities.

-
- ODF’s “Revenue” issue relates to two different but related business model challenges: (a) the County / local revenue issue and (b) the ODF state forest division revenue model issue. This Goal should contain a Part A and Part B. Currently, the Goal language only focuses on the former / county revenue issue, which should be changed to “Generate or

secure revenue that supports (a) supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities , as well as (b) sustains ODF’s state forest division in achieving GPV / broad public values on state forest lands.” New revenue streams are needed for each but strategies for getting there are different.

Signed,

Forest Waters Coalition Member Organizations:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 350 PDX | Oregon League of Conservation Voters |
| Audubon Society of Portland | Oregon Wild |
| Beyond Toxics | Our Forests |
| Cascadia Wildlands | Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s |
| Friends of Breitenbush | Associations |
| Cascades | Rogue Riverkeeper |
| Institute for Fisheries Resources | Trout Unlimited |
| Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands | Tualatin Riverkeeper |
| Metro Climate Action Team | Umpqua Watersheds |
| North Coast Communities for | Wild Salmon Center |
| Watershed Protection | Willamette Riverkeeper |
| Northwest Guides and Anglers | Williams Community Forest Project |

FMP

Jeff Frank <jeff@franklumberco.com>

Thu 1/6/2022 5:25 PM

To: SFCOMMENTS ODF * ODF <ODF.SFCOMMENTS@odf.oregon.gov>

Re: Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies.

As presented, in my opinion, the FMP gives more weight to environmental and recreational goals and strategies and very little to revenue generating. Of the 20 goals set to guide management of the state forest, just 2 speak to the need to make sure our forest provide economic value. These forest are vital in providing family-wage jobs and revenue to support schools, libraries and other local services. ODF is mandated to create revenue from our state forest.

I firmly believe that Oregon can manage our forest for economic, environmental and social benefits for all of us. I worry that any plan that locks up large swaths of our forest as “reserves” only invites catastrophic wildfire and economic hardship. At the bare minimum, the Department must place an emphasis on ensuring these lands produce enough revenue to balance the Department’s budget.

In a recent address to the Board of Forestry, State Forester Mukumoto used the term “working forest” when he spoke of our state forest.

Jeff

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Frank Timber Resources, Inc.

Jeff Frank
Forester

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January 7, 2022

Kate Skinner
Acting State Forest Division Chief
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street, Salem, OR

SENT VIA EMAIL: odf.sfcomments@oregon.gov

RE: Forest management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies

Dear Kate Skinner,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies document. The Oregon Forest & Industries Council (OFIC) is a statewide trade association representing forestland owners and forest products manufacturing firms in Oregon. Its members own more than 90 percent of Oregon's private, large-owner forestland base. OFIC's core mission is to advocate on behalf of its members to maintain a positive, stable business operating environment for Oregon's forest products community that fosters long-term investments in healthy forests; to ensure a reliable timber supply from Oregon's public and private forestlands; and to promote stewardship and sustainable management of forestlands that protect environmental values and maintain productive uses on all forestlands.

We have a few comments and points for your consideration regarding the draft goals and strategies as outlined.

Overarching Comments

The purpose of these state lands as outlined in statute is clear to us; ORS 530.050 specifically lays out 13 actions that can be taken by the Department in managing State Lands. Notably the first is to protect the lands from fire. Of the remaining 12 actions in statute each of them relates to revenue generation from these lands for the benefit of the state and counties. With that in mind, we encourage ODF to be clearer in these goals and strategies that revenue generation is a driving goal of these lands. As currently written these draft goals and strategies are dominated by other goals that overwhelmingly outweigh the fiduciary responsibility that the Department has for these lands. We suggest that the goals and strategies related to environmental and recreation values be collapsed into fewer goals and strategies, and each also include language such as "while also meeting revenue goals". As written, there is far too much emphasis placed on the one leg of the three-legged stool that govern these lands. The goals regarding revenue and timber harvest need to also, at a minimum, place an emphasis on ensuring these lands produce enough revenue to balance the State Forest Division budget.

Specific Comments

Forest Resilience:

- A. We support the sentiments of this goal and subsequent strategies. The use of IPM, including targeted and effective use of herbicides is extremely important to ensure good reforestation, as well as responsible management to prevent and suppress invasive species.

Climate Change:

- B. This goal is identical to the carbon goal, and therefore should be combined with that goal to form one overall goal for climate change.
- C. Strategy 2.1: Increasing carbon storage in the forest is not advisable for myriad of reasons including the growing risk of wildfire- especially given the amount of public use on state forests. Carbon goals are better achieved by maintaining healthy forest stocks in combination with a robust timber harvest program that ensures carbon storage in long-lived wood products. Forests are a great place to capture carbon, but they are not a good place to store it long term.
- D. Strategy 2.3: Selling carbon credits should not be the goal or the strategy for State Forests. These credits produce no jobs and no environmental benefit for Oregon communities, thus the social cost associated with both reduced harvest and increased risk of wildfire overshadow any perceived benefit.
- E. There needs to be a strategy here to increase locally sourced wood products to combat climate change.

Wildfire:

- F. We support the Wildfire goal and recognize its importance. Fuels management, including fuels breaks, are a vital part of responsible climate smart forestry.

Restoration:

- G. Forest restoration is an important component of sound stewardship, and we support restoration goals.
- H. Strategy 5.1 states “where feasible”, this should be expanded to aim to make every acre possible for restoration- where such efforts are warranted. Anything less would be considered irresponsible to future generations of Oregonians.

Wildlife:

- I. Strategy 6.2 speaks to managing for “complex habitats, of all ages” ... “within and across watersheds”. Some levels of “complexity” may not be advantageous in areas where the goals are to produce high volumes for harvest and revenue purposes. Suggest edits to allow for areas where maximum complexity is not the goal.
- J. Strategies in this section assume that the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will be approved. We would recommend only including these goals and strategies if/ when the HCP is approved. Without the HCP this section will need to be re-written to clearly articulate a take avoidance plan.
- K. ODF has no federal requirement under the ESA for species recovery. In the event that the companion HCP does not pass, this entire section will need to be rewritten and all such language removed.

Plants:

- L. Strategy 8.1 speaks to understory vegetation monitoring. ODF has struggled to maintain sufficient stand level monitoring over time that provide confidence to stakeholders and decision makers. Adding more components to the monitoring effort will likely add greater cost and increase the likelihood of less overall data replication. To the extent that happens, the data will be less than desirable. For these reasons we strongly recommend that ODF reinvest in quality stand level inventory, and not add additional components that will slow down or add burden to the program.
- M. Strategy 8.5: We support the use of IPM tactics to reduce noxious weed populations as an important component of good stewardship.

Aquatic & Riparian:

- N. ODF has no federal requirements under the ESA for species recovery. In the event that the companion HCP does not pass, this entire section will need to be rewritten and all such language removed.

- O. Strategy 9.1.d speaks to conducting “species assessments during Implementation Plan development” then determining if “existing conservation measures are adequate.” That seems extraordinarily open ended and generous given the massive set asides associated with the draft HCP prescriptions and the expected subsequent issuance of the Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Why would there be another assessment with each IP for species already covered under an ITP? Where is the assurance to the Board and stakeholders? This strategy makes no sense and leaves a huge whole of ambiguity in the potential growth of these already extremely generous set asides.
- P. All of these strategies seem to be rewriting the HCP prescriptions already articulated in that document. We would urge ODF to delete many of these strategies in this section and, if passed, add language referring to the HCP document for specific strategies related to riparian protection.

Drinking Water:

- Q. Strategy 10.2: This strategy is unnecessary for the protection of drinking water and will only serve to create an overly burdensome constraint across watersheds that further curtails management with no measurable increase in water quality at the tap. We strongly recommend against this bureaucratic constraint.
- R. Strategy 10.5 speaks to post-fire disturbance. Any BMPs that are developed must be based in science with measurable short and long-term benefit. Accelerating forest growth through post-fire restoration harvest followed by effective reforestation offers tremendous benefits to short and long-term water quality and wildlife habitat.
- S. Inasmuch as wildfire is arguably the greatest forest threat to drinking water- with affects that far outweigh all other known disturbances within a watershed, there should be a strategy within this goal that seeks to use active management, controlled burning, and effective suppression efforts to minimize the threat of uncontrolled wildfire on drinking water resources.

Revenue:

- T. This goal and the subsequent strategies are woefully inadequate. They should speak to some form of target for revenue generation. This could be done using terms such as maximizing, optimizing, or at least providing sufficient levels. At a minimum the viability of the agency should be an obvious goal of the State Forest Program. At a bare minimum, the Department must meet its fiduciary responsibility to the forest trust land counties by maximizing the financial return for the local counties and taxing districts. As written an extremely low amount of revenue would satisfy this goal and indicate success to staff, even as layoffs and closures were occurring. This is unacceptable.

Timber Production:

- U. This goal and the subsequent strategies are woefully inadequate. They should speak to some form of target for timber production. This could be done using terms such as maximizing, optimizing, or at least providing sufficient levels to meet revenue goals. At a minimum the viability of the agency should be an obvious goal of the State Forest Program. Ideally the department would concern themselves with maximizing the financial return for the local counties and taxing districts. As written an extremely low amount of timber production would satisfy this goal and indicate success to staff, even as layoffs and closures were occurring. This is unacceptable.
- V. This goal doesn't specify timber production in RCAs vs general management areas. Clearly the timber production goals of these two areas would be different. Those differences should be reflected in the goals and strategies.
- W. Strategy 14.1: Why is this strategy qualified with “while integrating protections for resources...”? Other goals are not similarly qualified. For example strategy 10.2 does NOT end with “*while integrating timber production and revenue goals*” nor do any of the wildlife goals or strategies. In as much as timber

production goals are qualified, we suggest many other goals be qualified with timber production and revenue outcomes in order to better reflect the true balancing of these goals.

Forest Roads

- X. Forest roads are vitally important to allow proper management and fire protection. They also serve as important access point for local recreation and enjoyment of state forests. Keeping roads open and functioning while controlling access to minimize impact to critical resources is an important component of good forest management.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment.



Seth Barnes
Director of Forest Policy



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January 7, 2022

Via Email: bodie.t.dowding@odf.oregon.gov

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

RE: Draft Forest Management Plan Strategies

Dear Chair Kelly and State Forester Mukumoto:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft strategies for the companion Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP). Developing goals and strategies for long-term forest management is a critical step in achieving the balance required under Greatest Permanent Value (GPV). Unfortunately, the goals and strategies as currently drafted are far from balanced. We hope the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Board of Forestry (BOF) will correct this inequity and work to ensure all Oregonians, especially those in natural resource dependent communities, will benefit from the FMP.

Overall Comments and Concerns

➤ *Goals and strategies are excessive in scope and detail*

As we expressed in our comments on the draft goals in September, 2021, the sheer number and extent of these goals and strategies is unmanageable. There are **21 goals** (22 if you count “Community Wellbeing” which was excluded from the draft strategies document) **and 138 corresponding strategies**. This is up from 15 goals in the current FMP and 14 goals in the 2019 draft FMP (see appendix A). No business, organization, or government agency can function, let alone achieve the desired outcomes, with this many goals and strategies. We suggest the department refine and streamline this document to establish a few overarching goals with associated objectives and strategies.

Along similar lines, many of the strategies as drafted are too prescriptive and detailed. A strategic plan should not be a laundry list of all potential prescriptions on a landscape. There are many lists of examples and various management options that should be removed for brevity. There is redundancy and competing objectives identified within the strategies for multiple goals that will result in confusion for ODF, BOF, and stakeholders, especially when prescriptions are drafted and debated during district Implementation Plan development. We understand ODF is working on a “mapping” exercise in an effort to clarify some of these issues, but until that is available, it is

difficult to see how ODF can implement this set of goals and strategies. Refinement suggestions include:

- Combine “Goal 1: Forest Resilience” and “Goal 5: Restoration” and synchronize strategies
- Add “Goal 2: Climate Change” to “Goal 3: Carbon” goal and refine strategies
- Add “Goal 7: Pollinators and Invertebrates” to “Goal 6: Wildlife” goal and refine strategies
- Combine “Goal 4: Wildfire” and “Goal 11 Air Quality” goals and synchronize strategies
- Combine “Goal 13: Revenue” and “Goal 14: Timber Production” goals to acknowledge symbiotic relationship and expand strategies
- Combine the two “REI” goals (Goal 18 and 19), add “Goal 20: Scenic”, and refine strategies

➤ *Plan lacks focus and balance*

Beyond the organizational concerns, it is alarming to see the discrepancies between environmental and economic goals and strategies. Out of the 138 strategies, **only six** apply to economic goals, while 56 apply to water and wildlife. If this is truly a companion FMP that will incorporate ODF’s draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), why is there a need for this much detail in areas covered by the HCP? These strategies seem to be rewriting the HCP prescriptions already articulated in that document. What is the purpose of repeating this extent of prescriptive detail in these goals and strategies, unless the intention is to expand protections beyond what is required under an HCP.

The goals and strategies read as if the FMP is a conservation plan, when in fact, it is a resource management and production plan. There should be an emphasis on forest management and timber production, but this reads as if harvest is an afterthought. Species protection will be covered by the HCP and forest practices rules, and do not need to be covered in this amount of detail in an FMP.

The imbalance of these goals and strategies will eventually handicap timber harvests and revenue generation for ODF and the trust land counties. HCP management strategies should not be applied on acres outside of conservation areas. Overall, timber production and the related benefits should be higher priority and considered within all goals and strategies. ODF can start by acknowledging more directly the State Forests will be managed for timber production and economic benefit, and the HCP will provide necessary protections to the current FMP. Despite misgivings amplified by a small number of constituencies, it is in fact socially acceptable to manage the forest for wood production.

Comments on Specific Goals and Strategies

- **Forest Resilience - Goal 1: Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians.**
 - Combine with “Restoration” goal.
 - The goal mentions the three facets of GPV, but the strategies only seem to address environmental goals.
 - Maximizing site productivity and yield should be overarching strategy to this goal
 - 1.4 – add “maximize growth and yield” for seedbanks.
 - We support the stated utilization of herbicides and IMPs to achieve forest health.

- **Climate Change - Goal 2: Lead by example in demonstrating climate smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.**
 - Should be combined with “Carbon” goal.
 - Climate smart forestry is an approach to help achieve certain environmental outcomes and as such, should be listed as a strategy and not a goal in itself.
 - Climate change and carbon goals are essential, but the result of these strategies cannot be a decrease in timber harvest volume.
 - As we have expressed to ODF many times, harvest deferral and longer rotations won’t address climate change in the long run. It will only shift wood production to other geographies and hamstring local renewable wood product manufacturing. Recognizing the importance of wood products to address climate change should be an overarching theme in these strategies.
 - ODF must recognize the societal cost of deferring or delaying timber harvests. There are real world consequences for not harvesting timber. Rural communities suffered greatly after federal timber harvests were reduced in the 1990s. An increase in unemployment, drug use, and crime were the results of mills shutting down due to a lack of timber supply. This reality needs to be considered when the BOF makes forest management decisions.
 - 2.1 – replace “maintaining” with “increasing” wood fiber flow to compliment the increase in carbon storage.
 - 2.1 – shorten this strategy by removing the sentence “*Different tree species, forest types, and ecological zones achieve maximum carbon storage rates at different stand ages.*” This is part of the narrative, not a strategy. End the last sentence after “decisions” (no need to list examples here).
 - 2.3 – What is the intent of determining an internal carbon price and how will it be applied?

- **Carbon - Goal 3: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products.**
 - Combine with “Climate Change” goal.
 - As mentioned previously, timber harvest, reforestation and renewable wood products are tools to address climate change, not the cause of it. There should be a recognition in the carbon stored in wood products, not just on the stump.
 - Maximizing site productivity and growth, followed by the production of wood products and reforestation, are the means to maximize contributions to carbon sequestration and storage.
 - 3.1 – this is a prime example of combining other resource goals but excluding timber production. What do these other resources have to do with the carbon goal? The sentence should end after the word “potential.”
 - 3.2 – what does the first sentence mean? Is this a quantifiable strategy?
 - 3.2 and 3.4 – these strategies are similar and should be combined. They will also result in a reduction in revenue if purchasers are required to remove slash from harvest units rather than piling. Is this cost recognized, or will ODF work to provide compensation for the extra cost?

- 3.3 – at the end of the sentence, add “while maintaining wood fiber flow.”
- **Wildfire - Goal 4: Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities.**
 - Combine with “Air Quality” goal.
 - Should include a strategy to maintain a robust transportation system for suppression activities.
 - We support the use of fuel breaks across the landscape.
- **Restoration - Goal 5: Assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors**
 - Combine with “Forest Resilience”.
 - Need to include restoration of unproductive “zombie” alder stands.
 - We support including SNC restoration, but this strategy is in the current and 2019 draft FMPs. Far too little acreage in need of restoration has been treated on the ground over the past decade.
 - 5.1 – remove “where feasible”. These sites need to be restored for long term timber harvest and productivity. This is a great example of where the “Timber Production” goal can be attributed to other goals and strategies.
 - 5.4 – frankly, this strategy is out of line. No endemic level should be acceptable.
 - Should “prevent” levels that cross management thresholds, not wait to address until after thresholds are crossed.
 - 2019 draft strategies on this issue didn’t go this far. What has changed in the past two years?
- **Wildlife - Goal 6: 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.**
 - These strategies are restatements of the language in the draft HCP. This is a prime example of the need to streamline and minimize detail in the extent of these strategies.
 - There are a lot of references to seral stages, interior forest habitats, patch types and stand diversity. Not every acre will have these characteristics. Many acres will be explicitly managed in a manner that prioritizes other objectives (e.g., timber production). The FMP narrative will need to distinguish between management priorities for HCA and non-HCA areas.
 - This entire section reads more like a federal forest management plan implementing an interpretation of “ecological forest practices”, which should not be ODF or the BOF’s plan for managing state forests, particularly given that enormous conservation commitments embodied in the draft HCP.
 - The benefits of timber harvest to achieve wildlife and habitat objectives should be recognize and included as a strategy.
 - 6.2 – what is the definition of a watershed? “Within and...” should be deleted. The entire land base could be considered “within a watershed.”

- 6.2b – which regional and state-level goals specifically? The wording of this strategy is confusion and should be rewritten or deleted.
 - 6.3.a – need to define “patch”.
 - 6.4.a – this is written incorrectly per federal law. It should say ...strategies that “do not jeopardize” the survival and recovery...
 - 6.4.c – doesn’t the HCP and incidental take permit reduce or eliminate the need for Species Assessments?
- **Aquatics & Riparian - Goal 9: 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.**
 - As with the wildlife goal, this is another example of strategies being extensive, overly prescriptive, and restatements of the HCP.
 - It is difficult to even provide thoughtful comments due to the extent of details and number of strategies.
 - 9.1.a – same drafting error as 6.4.a. It should say ...strategies that “do not jeopardize” the survival and recovery...
 - 9.1.c – same question as 6.4.c. Doesn’t the HCP and incidental take permit reduce or eliminate the need for Species Assessments?
- **Drinking Water - Goal 10: Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.**
 - Another example of strategies being extensive and overly prescriptive. We disagree with the fundamental premise of these strategies, though it is difficult to provide thoughtful comments due to the extent of details and number of strategies.
 - 10.1.a – need to define “vicinity”.
 - 10.1.b – need to add “... as needed” to protect water quality.
 - 10.3 – this strategy doesn’t refer to drinking water and should be moved to the transportation section.
 - 10.4 and 10.5 – this is redundant to strategies 9.9 and 9.10.
 - 10.6 – this strategy could be simplified to say “Ensure pesticides are applied in compliance with Oregon Department of Agriculture regulations and label laws.
 - 10.6.a – ODF needs to identify what the “objectives” are.
 - 10.8.b – this was struck out in the draft but it’s not clear if that was intentional. It can be removed since it is redundant to other slash strategies.
- **Revenue - Goal 13: Generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities.**
 - The goal and strategies shouldn’t just “generate” revenue but **maximize** revenue from harvest volume for rural communities and ODF.
 - Financial viability of the State Forest Division must be included as a strategy. It would be irresponsible to not consider the financial wellbeing of the division that manages these lands.

- Indirect economic activity and long-term social health should be recognized and included in these strategies.
 - It should be recognized in the narrative that timber sales fund conservation projects, monitoring and research.
 - 13.1 – The planning and implementation of a timber sale is a multi-year process, which limits ODF ability to consider timber markets in the selection and layout of a timber sale unit. A strategy maximizing net revenue should direct a consistent volume of timber offered and sold to meet the log profile demand of timber sale purchasers. A healthy workforce and timber industry are crucial to natural resource dependent communities and the state at large.
 - 13.2 – which new revenue streams are being considered?
- **Timber Production - Goal 14: Provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provides for economic opportunity, jobs, and availability of forest products.**
 - ODF should include a strategy directing financial investment in tree genetics improvement and silviculture treatments to maximize the volume and value of timber grown and harvested on state forests for future generations.
 - Include a strategy to maximize harvest and revenue from all acres, including presently unproductive and underproducing sites, to increase long term productivity and timber harvest. The acres infected with Swiss Needle Cast and the acres of low value Alder identified for treatment in the HCP is a small fraction of the acres in need of treatment to restore those acres to a biological and financially productive condition.
 - ODF must prioritize and invest in an accurate and up-to-date stand level inventory to support active management across the landscape. This should be included as a strategy.
 - 14.1 – the lack of recognition in timber harvest and revenue as a priority is an unfortunate theme throughout the document. Why integrate protections for other resources here, but not include timber production in other goals and strategies?
 - 14.2 –What is the intention behind this strategy? Contracting services outside of timber sales should not be considered an avenue to replace the benefits to communities and local economies provided by timber sale volume. Inclusion of incremental project work and contracted services in timber sale requirements not directly supporting the harvest of that timber will increase purchaser costs and reduce the revenue produced by timber sales.
- **Community Wellbeing: Establish strong relationships and mutual trust with all communities of place and communities of interest who have connections with Oregon State Forests.**
 - This goal was missing from the strategies document. ODF should strive to build strong relationships and mutual trust with communities of place and interest who have unique social and economic connections with state forests. The social and economic impacts of state forest management extend beyond stumpage payments generated by the agency through harvest operations. State forest harvests support livelihoods, family-businesses, and the overall quality of life in surrounding rural communities. This impact should be acknowledged and quantified.

- We suggest adding a strategy for this goal related to tracking the number of local contractors utilized on state forests and the economic activity generated for local businesses from harvest, transportation, reforestation, and related mill activities to illustrate the full social and economic impact of these forests on surrounding communities.

As you can see, the emphasis on restricting management activity across the landscape and the excessive number of the goals and strategies must be addressed. ODF needs to make the necessary improvements to draft goals and strategies before drafting performance measures and modeling outcomes. Those changes should also be released publicly before moving to the next steps. Transparency throughout this process will be imperative for oversight and accountability.

Thank you again for the ability to provide comments and actively engage in this process. We hope that you will take our questions and suggestions seriously and consider them in good faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Wilkeson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Wilkeson
State Forest Policy Director
Hampton Lumber

Appendix A – FMP Goals Comparison

| Current FMP Goals (adopted 2010) | Goals from 2019 Draft FMP (not adopted) | Draft FMP Goals from 2021 (pending) |
|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ag and grazing 2. Cultural resources 3. Energy and minerals 4. Fish and wildlife 5. Forest condition 6. Land base and access 7. Plants 8. Recreation and scenic resources 9. Social and economic resources 10. Soils 11. Special forest products 12. Timber 13. Water quality 14. Water supply 15. Wetlands | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Health 2. Production and harvest of timber and special forest products 3. Wildlife 4. Aquatics, landslides, roads 5. REI 6. Scenic Resources 7. Access and public safety 8. Carbon 9. Cultural Resources 10. Air quality 11. Plants 12. Ag and grazing resources 13. Soils and minerals 14. Land base | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Resilience 2. Climate Change 3. Carbon 4. Wildfire 5. Restoration 6. Wildlife 7. Pollinators & Invertebrates 8. Plants 9. Aquatics & Riparian 10. Drinking Water 11. Air Quality 12. Soil 13. Revenue 14. Timber Production 15. Transportation System 16. Mining, Ag, Admin Sites & Grazing 17. Special Forest Products 18. Recreation, Education, & Interpretation – 1 19. Recreation, Education, & Interpretation – 2 20. Scenic 21. Cultural 22. <i>Community wellbeing (not listed in strategies)</i> |



American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

January 10, 2022

Mr. Bodie Dowding
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Bodie Dowding,

This letter is being sent on behalf of the Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) with respect to the Western State Forest Management Plan Draft Strategies (Strategies).

OWUC is a local affiliation of the American Water Works Association, and we represent nearly 75% of public drinking water providers across Oregon, both small and large, rural, and urban. You have likely received comments from several of our member agencies stressing the importance of source water protection and water quality in the development of the Strategies.

OWUC appreciates the inclusion of both Goal 9 – Aquatics and Riparian and Goal 10 – Drinking Water in the Strategies and would like to emphasize the importance of the stated goals.

While comments received from agencies will differ OWUC is confident you will find common themes from drinking water providers including:

- Establishing minimum no-harvest buffers on seasonal non-fish bearing streams.
- Limiting forest road development in source water areas and continuing to implement BMPs to reduce erosion.
- Including source water areas in district maps to highlight protection zones.
- Decreasing non-target impacts of fertilizer and pesticides and limiting use in designated source water areas.
- Notifying drinking water providers if fire retardants are used in source water areas and providing information on specific chemicals used.

OWUC encourages you to consider the comments submitted with respect to protecting and enhancing water quality and implement these in the Strategies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wally McCullough

Wally McCullough, P.E.
Chair – Oregon Water Utilities Council



American Water Works Association

Pacific Northwest Section



January 6, 2022

Bodie Dowding
Forest Management Plan, Project Manager
Oregon Department of Forestry
bodie.t.dowding@odf.oregon.gov

Re: Comments on Draft Strategies for Companion Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan

Dear Mr. Dowding,

Trout Unlimited (“TU”) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fish (such as trout, salmon, and steelhead) and their habitats. The organization has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide, including over 3,500 members in Oregon. TU and its members are committed to caring for Oregon rivers and streams so future generations can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.

Accordingly, please accept TU’s following comments on the draft strategies in the Oregon Department of Forestry’s “[Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies](#)” (December 2021 version) (the “Draft Strategies”). Our comments below correspond to the respective numbering in the Draft Strategies:

Comments on Draft Strategies

- Strategy 1.5:
 - TU recommends adding language to this Strategy that would limit use of herbicides to the amount reasonably necessary for the relevant objective (similar to our comment below on Strategy 10.6), with regard to both (i) quantity of herbicide used in a single application, and (ii) frequency of herbicide applications over time. This clarification would assist in “reducing impacts to other resources” as stated in the same Strategy by ensuring that unnecessary or excess herbicides are not introduced into the ecosystem.
- Strategy 3.1:
 - TU recommends revising this Strategy to begin “Identify and protect...” Under the current drafting, there is no affirmative obligation or next step for ODF after the areas with “high carbon storage potential” have been identified.
- Strategy 4.7:
 - TU recommends changing “minimize” in this Strategy to “reduce” or “mitigate” because, as another stakeholder commented in a 12/9/21 ODF meeting on the Draft Strategies, “minimize” may imply new broad-brush limitations on public access as a fire prevention method. This does not appear to be the intent of this Strategy, and we request a clarification to that effect because TU’s members highly value the access opportunities

on ODF lands for fishing, spawning surveys, and restoration projects (subject to fire closures, etc.). Accordingly, our suggestion is intended to clarify that this Strategy doesn't contemplate significant new access restrictions or area closures.

- Strategies 5.2 and 5.3:
 - It's not clear from the existing language whether these Strategies relate to restoration of a broad scope of all habitat conditions on ODF lands (and potentially adjacent lands, per Strategy 5.2), or a narrower scope of forest resilience and tree health projects. For example, TU hopes that restoration of riparian habitats (e.g., replacing undersized culverts with bridges that allow fish passage and prevent road blow-outs) would be included in the scope of restoration efforts referenced in the Goal 5 Strategies. However, the current drafting is unclear whether this type of stream or riparian restoration would fall within the scope of the restoration described in Strategies 5.2 and 5.3, or if those types of projects would be considered to only fall under the scope of Strategy 9.6. Therefore, we recommend revising the language in Strategies 5.2 and 5.3 to clarify that the restoration projects referenced include all habitat conditions, including stream and riparian areas.
- Strategy 5.5:
 - TU recommends broadening this Strategy to any "site-specific" habitat by adding the words "including" or "such as..." Under the current language, this Strategy regards only oaks, chapparal, meadows, and wetlands (but not springs, lakes, estuaries, etc.).
- Strategies 9.3 and 9.4:
 - TU recommends revising these Strategies to address prevention of harvest-related landslides. We understand that some slopes may fail regardless of timber harvest, and that landslides can introduce important woody debris to salmon-bearing streams. But these Strategies should expressly state a requirement to determine slopes that are likely to fail if logged, and for ODF to consider that risk in the decision-making process on whether to allow timber harvest operations in an area.
- Strategy 9.5:
 - This Strategy is missing "protect" or a similar verb (similar to our comment above on Strategy 3.1). As drafted, this Strategy states only the obligations to "identify" and "enhance," but not a similar conservation obligation where ODF identifies functioning cold water habitats.
- Strategy 9.8.a:
 - TU recommends stating the proposed minimum buffer widths for wetlands referenced in this Strategy (if known at this time). If unknown, TU recommends adding detail on the benchmarks or criteria that ODF proposes to use in establishing those wetland buffers.

- Strategy 10.6.
 - TU recommends adding language in Strategy 10.6 that places an obligation to minimize pesticide use or use only the quantity reasonably necessary for the applicable objective. For example, Strategy 10.6.a requires an evaluation of whether “pesticide or fertilizer use is needed” and if it is, Strategy 10.6.b requires such applications to minimize “off-target movement...” However, there should also be a requirement in 10.6.b to use only the quantity reasonably necessary for the relevant objective (similar to our comment above on Strategy 1.5).
 - TU also recommends that ODF staff review the terminology for chemicals used throughout the Draft Strategies (i.e., pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer), and revise that language for consistency throughout. We point this out in Section 10.6 specifically as an example because sub-Strategy 10.6.a regards “fertilizer” use in a Strategy that – by its terms – regards only “impacts of pesticide use...” Similarly, because the Draft Strategies use the term “herbicide” in Strategy 1.5, it seems ODF should add “herbicide” terminology in the Goal 10 Strategies regarding drinking water source protection.
- Strategies 15.3 and 15.8 and 15.11:
 - Some of the strategies in Goal 15 need re-drafting for clarity. Strategies 15.3 and 15.8 are especially unclear and appear to have some “leftover” words from previous editing. Also, Strategy 15.11 is written in passive voice and would be clearer (and consistent with the other Strategies in Goal 15) if revised to the active voice as “Design, construct, and maintain waste disposal areas to minimize potential for landslide initiation.”

Conclusion

TU appreciates the level of detail that ODF has provided in many of the Draft Strategies, as well as the forward-thinking nature of many of the Draft Strategies. In effort to make our comments above as useful as possible, we have endeavored to limit our comments on specific areas of the Draft Strategies that can be improved. However, there are certainly areas of the Draft Strategies that we applaud as important and well-crafted components (including but not limited to, the Goal 6 Strategies regarding wildlife species generally, Strategy 9.2 regarding beavers, and the Goal 19 Strategies regarding recreation and education). We commend ODF staff for the work they have already completed in preparing those Draft Strategies, and look forward to staying involved in this process.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Strategies, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Fraser
Oregon Policy Advisor
Trout Unlimited
james.fraser@tu.org

To: Bodie Dowding, State Forests Division
Cc: Danny Norlander, Tod Haren, Nick Palazzotto, Sarah Dyrdaahl, Robbie Lefebvre
Date: 1/7/2022
RE: Draft Goals and Strategies, Western Forest Management Plan

Dear Mr. Dowding,

We appreciate the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF's) desire to expand and modernize the Western Forest Management Plan (WFMP), especially in light of the climate crisis Oregon is facing. The 613,000 acres covered by the WFMP have the potential to be a model for how the State approaches public forest management. These forests, including the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Santiam State Forests, can and should become a gold standard for how Oregon manages forestlands for clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and climate change response.

The organizations signed on to this letter are members of the Forest Policy Table of the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) Coalition. The Forest Policy Table works to ensure the strongest possible outcomes for our forests, climate, wildlife, water, and communities. We believe ODF can and should develop a climate-smart forestry model that other states look to for how to best use our forests as a critical natural climate solution that supports carbon storage, biodiversity, and clean water. The WFMP represents a critical step in achieving that goal.

The below recommendations highlight opportunities for strengthening the current draft strategies under the WFMP. Red text offers suggested changes to the current draft strategies and green text provides additional context and background information.

Feedback on Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 (Carbon and Climate Change)

Feedback on Goals 6, 7, 8, & 9 (Supporting Biodiversity) 7

Feedback on Goals 10, 11, 12, & 15 (Protecting Drinking Water, Clean Air, and Soil) 10

Feedback on Goals 13 & 14 (Logging and Revenue)14

Feedback on Goals 18 & 19 (Recreation and Education) 15

Feedback on Goal 21 (Protecting Oregon's Culture and Heritage) 16

Forest Resilience Goal 1: Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help achieve environmental, social, and economic goals to benefit all Oregonians.

- 1.1 Actively manage the forest through the application of science-based silviculture within stands and across the landscape to create a variety of forest conditions, including through managing state forests for old growth forest characteristics, strictly limiting clear-cutting

practices, increasing riparian buffers, increasing green tree retention, and promoting diverse plant species that are resilient to disturbance events and climate change. ODF should manage to promote mature and old growth forest characteristics as these have higher genetic, species, and ecosystem diversities, resilience to climate extremes, and increased water availability ([Law et al. 2021](#)).

- 1.2 Implement silvicultural practices that ensure successful stand initiation and development with a variety of tree species, prioritizing native species and increased biodiversity, and densities that are appropriate for site conditions and management objectives. Promote plant species diversity as forest resilience and adaptive capacity increase with increasing plant species richness ([Morin et al. 2018](#), [Watson et al. 2018](#)).
- Minimize post-fire logging to keep as many trees on the landscape as possible (and retain green trees that survive). Post-fire logging hinders natural recovery and increases the risk of erosion and flooding, retaining burned trees on the landscape can keep carbon on the landscape for decades.
- 1.3 Use integrated pest management (IPM) to suppress or prevent “invasive” species damage in cooperation with other agencies and associations.
 - 1.3.a Develop and maintain an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program to address the introduction of new exotic pests.
 - 1.3.b Use aerial and ground surveys to monitor forest health to inform management decisions across the landscape.
 - 1.3.c Maintain spatial data for long-term tracking and integrate forest health information into forest management decisions.
 - 1.3.d Maintain a training and outreach program to field staff that incorporates existing and new disease agents to help with EDRR and IPM implementation.
- 1.4 Partner with agency and other regional seed orchards to supply a predictable amount of seed for reforestation activities that are site specific for now and under future climate change scenarios for a variety of tree species.
- 1.5 Utilize herbicides to achieve reforestation, young stand management, invasive species control, and other management activities to help establish healthy forests while reducing impacts to other resources. Minimize use of herbicides in conservation areas, especially RPAs, to protect drinking water and aquatic species, utilizing herbicides to control invasive plants only when they negatively impact the desired complex forest structure development. This strategy needs to be updated to avoid contradicting Strategy 1.3. In IPM, the ultimate goal is to avoid pesticide use. Pesticides are used only when needed and in combination with other approaches for more effective, long-term control. Pesticides are selected and applied in a way that minimizes their possible harm to people, nontarget organisms, and the environment.
- 1.6 Use an adaptive management approach to monitor, learn from, and improve forest management practices across resource goals.

Climate Change Goal 2: Lead by example in demonstrating climate smart forest management that supports climate adaptation, mitigation, and the achievement of forest resource goals.

- 2.1 Implement silvicultural pathways and longer harvest rotations that increase carbon storage in the forest while maintaining wood fiber flow to the forest products industry. Different tree species, forest types, and ecological zones achieve maximum carbon storage rates at different stand ages. These variations will be accounted for when making silvicultural decisions, including, but not limited to, reforestation and young stand management, mature stand density management, age of final harvest, harvest deferral, and retention of green trees, and riparian buffers.
- 2.2 Identify climate-sensitive habitats, areas of high conservation value, and areas of cultural significance that are susceptible to climate change. Manage to ensure these areas maintain ecological integrity. (Strongly support)
- 2.3 Determine an internal carbon price for the lands and forests that the State Forests Division manages. (Strongly support)
- Establish a formal process for tracking GHG emissions from State Forest lands and estimating transfer of carbon between different carbon pools. Without this baseline, ODF will not be able to track progress on reducing carbon emissions. Account for:
 - Carbon transferred from live biomass to dead biomass due to insect, disease, windthrow, and fire,
 - Carbon transferred to the atmosphere from wildfire,
 - Carbon transferred to the atmosphere from timber harvest (tree planting, site preparation, operation of harvesting equipment, transportation of logs to sawmills, road building),
 - Carbon transferred to the atmosphere from soil disturbance, including as a result of harvest and road building
 - Carbon emitted from milling, processing and manufacturing of timber products.
 - Carbon emitted from burning woody biomass for electricity.
- Recommend including also an annual estimate of “unrealized sequestration” — an estimate of what sequestration/emissions would have been without harvest that year. These estimates could be helpful for near-term cost benefit analyses that wouldn't require long-term simulations to account for natural disturbance.
- Prioritize restoration and management of forested drinking watersheds as a climate adaptation strategy to preserve drinking water (quality and quantity) for communities.

Carbon Goal 3: Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products.

- 3.1 Identify and protect areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially those that can provide benefits for species of concern habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians. These areas should be managed as natural climate solutions that increase carbon stored on the landscape and increase the adaptive capacity (climate resilience) of numerous plants, fish, and wildlife.
- 3.2 Identify and implement strategies to protect critical carbon sinks carbon storage in harvest operations where applicable. Establish ecologically appropriate practices using best available

science a mechanism to maintain forest carbon on the site when stands are harvested by increasing soil carbon with woody debris, including alternative slash disposal methods.

- ~~3.3 Develop a carbon portfolio that includes forest carbon and timber that is conducive to a final product mix of long-lived harvested wood products.~~ According to the Congressional Research Service, the majority of forest carbon was stored in the forest ecosystem pools (95%); the remainder was stored in the product pool (i.e., harvested wood products). The largest pool of carbon was forest soils, which contained approximately 53% of total forest carbon in 2020. The next-largest pool was aboveground biomass, which contained approximately 26% of the total. Each of the other pools stored less than 6% of the total carbon. These statistics highlight why most of the carbon value of forests lies on the landscape in mature and old growth forests, and not in harvested wood products ([Congressional Research Service 2021](#)). ODF's carbon sequestration plans should be focused on the landscape rather than wood products as the associated carbon storage in products is beyond the scope of ODF's control and authority.
- 3.4 Implement alternatives to pile burning where feasible, **so long as alternatives do not contribute to climate pollution or air quality degradation.** (Examples include biochar, biomass, and air burners.) Biomass combustion is not a carbon neutral alternative and releases harmful pollutants (particulate matter and carcinogens) into the surrounding environment, disproportionately harming communities located near incinerators. ODF must consider the scale, evaluate potential impacts to vulnerable communities, and ensure pollution control technology is utilized when implementing alternatives to pile burning. Substituting one source of harmful emissions for another threatens to perpetuate existing inequities in pollution exposure in Black, brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities.
- **Protect mature and old growth forests and manage forests for old growth characteristics, as these forests store the most carbon in biomass and soils and are the most resistant to the impacts of climate change.**
- **Minimize post-fire logging to ensure carbon is retained on the landscape** (co-benefits include enhanced wildlife habitat and reduced risk of erosion/ landslides)
- **Estimate standing inventory of carbon in State Forests.** This baseline will be needed to grow the State Forests carbon stock (live and dead plant materials and their roots and soil carbon). This standing inventory would be a subset of the process for tracking GHG emissions.
 - Forests and other natural lands (woodland, shrubland, grassland, and other lands with sparse vegetation): live and dead plant materials and their roots
 - Soil Carbon: organic carbon in soils for all land types, and inorganic carbon stocking can be significant, particularly in drier soils (e.g., precipitated salts)
 - Carbon stored in wood products: short term products (and associated carbon loss on different timelines); long term wood products

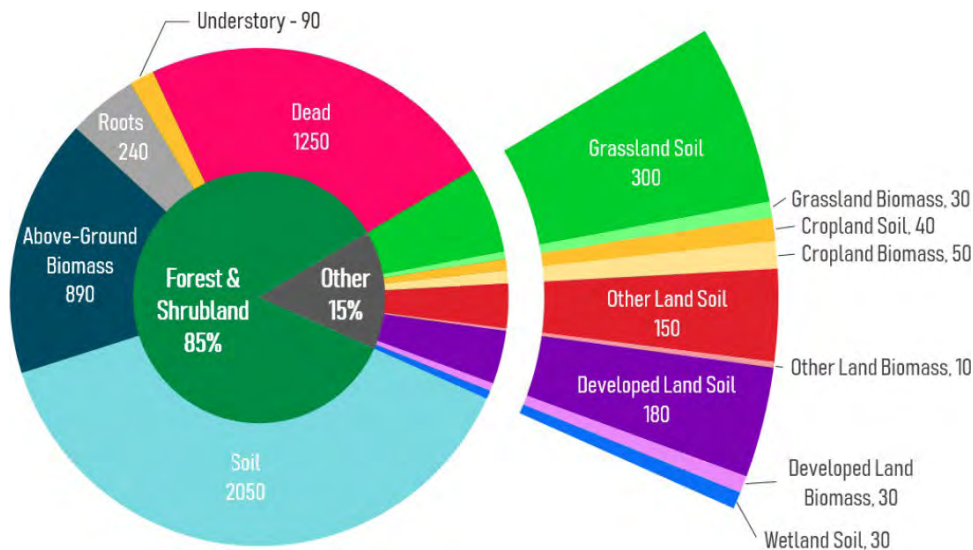


Figure 1: As an example of the type of Natural Lands Inventory we would like to see, here is a 2014 distribution of biomass and soil carbon stocks on the California landscape in MMT carbon (rounded to the nearest 10 MMT). There was approximately 5,340 MMT of carbon in California’s carbon pools for the year 2014. (An Inventory of Ecosystem Carbon in California’s Natural & Working Lands 2018 Edition. California Air Resources Board. https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/pubs/nwl_inventory.pdf)

Wildfire Goal 4: Mitigate the risk of wildland fire effects on forest production, wildlife habitat and landscape function and support wildfire resilience of local communities.

- 4.1 Implement fuels management strategies in the wildland urban interface (WUI) to increase firefighter safety and reduce risks to communities where appropriate. If ODF’s goal is to keep people, homes and communities safe, the most proven approach is to focus from the home outward.
- 4.2 Implement fuel breaks that leverage natural openings, existing roads, thinned and treated stands, and other landscape features to support aggressive fire suppression efforts. Recommend the ODF not propose “fuel breaks” as, even if topographical conditions are considered in detail, “fuel breaks” are largely ineffective unless both weather and site conditions are “right”, which cannot be guaranteed or even controlled. In these moist forests, vegetation regrowth in fuel breaks is typically quick and dense, giving their already unlikely effectiveness a very short time frame. Instead, ODF should focus resources on developing an outreach and education program for communities that live in close proximity to state forests, and teach property owners how to practice home defense and smart evacuation plans.
- 4.3 Implement treatments and practices that mitigate fire risk and improve fire resilience across the landscape. These are very different between dry and wet forests (east of the Cascades vs. west of the Cascades). Fires in west side rainforests are driven by weather and climate, and fuel

treatments are not an effective strategy for reducing the risk of these fires. [Zald et al. 2018](#) findings suggest intensive plantation forestry characterized by young forests and spatially homogenized fuels, rather than pre-fire biomass, were significant drivers of wildfire severity.

- 4.4 Partner with fire managers and landowners to maintain a spatial database of fire suppression water sources and to identify priorities for developing new sources and improving existing sources. This should be rolled into a much larger outreach and education program targeting communities in close proximity to state forest lands.
- 4.5 Participate in local and statewide fire planning efforts. ** Again, this should be rolled into a much larger outreach and education program targeting communities in close proximity to state forest lands.
- 4.6 Communicate relevant and timely information about wildfire risk on State Forests to the public. ** Again, this should be rolled into a much larger outreach and education program targeting communities in close proximity to state forest lands.
- 4.7 Proactively manage public access and forest operations to minimize the risk of human caused fires. ** Again, this should be rolled into a much larger outreach and education program targeting communities in close proximity to state forest lands
- **Develop a new Firewise Outreach and Education Program within the State Forest Department as follows:**
 - ODF will develop an outreach and education program for communities that live in close proximity to state forests, and teach and support property owners in:
 - accessing state and federal education materials and financial resources,
 - developing smart evacuation plans,
 - practicing annual fuels treatments around structures,
 - utilizing prescribed fire and burning permits.
 - Partner with fire managers and landowners to maintain a spatial database of fire suppression water sources and to identify priorities for developing new sources and improving existing sources.
 - Communicate relevant, **accessible**, and timely information about wildfire risk on State Forests to the public. **Wildfire risk information needs to be accessible through multiple languages and formats and distributed widely, especially to non-English-speaking communities.** ODF should coordinate with community-based organizations working with migrant families and workers, immigrant communities, and other vulnerable populations who have been historically underserved to ensure they receive the information and support they need.
 - Participate in local and statewide fire planning efforts, and **ensure planning efforts account for preparation as well as post-fire needs.** Communities struggle with air and water quality degradation following fires and may need support in monitoring and responding to short- and long-term impacts.
 - **Educate the public and** proactively manage public access and forest operations to minimize the risk of human caused fires.

Restoration Goal 5: Assist in the restoration of ecosystem function across the landscape in areas that have been degraded or damaged due to biotic or abiotic factors.

- 5.1 Where feasible, restore Swiss needle cast (SNC) affected stands with tree species that are appropriate for the site now and in future climates.
- 5.2 Work with adjacent landowners to develop and conduct restoration activities across ownership boundaries to maximize effectiveness.
- 5.3 Prioritize restoration in areas with the highest potential to result in recovery, productivity and forest resiliency in alignment with management objectives.
- 5.4 Allow for endemic levels of native insects and disease and when those levels cross management thresholds conduct restoration activities.
- Important role for dead wood/ burned forests on the landscape (post fire logging dramatically increase risk of erosion)
- 5.5 Identify restoration potential for site-specific native oaks, chaparral, meadows, and wetlands.
- Managers should focus efforts on the restoration or maintenance of essential ecosystem services, especially in conservation lands (HCAs and RCAs) such as:
 - Carbon storage and sequestration (e.g., promoting old growth forest characteristics),
 - Hydrologic function — Water quality and quantity (e.g., preventing soil erosion and avoiding tree plantations),
 - Soil productivity (e.g., ensure burned vegetation remains on the landscape), and
 - Biodiversity (e.g., preserving habitat for at risk wildlife).
- Restrict post-fire logging within conservation lands. Soil disturbance impacts friable burned soils, and impacts natural regeneration.
- Incorporate beaver occupancy, as stated in Aquatics & Restoration 9.2.

Feedback on Goals 6, 7, 8, & 9 (Supporting Biodiversity)

Wildlife Goal 6: 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.

- 6.1 Manage for diverse habitats across the landscape and over time. (Strongly support)
 - 6.1.a Manage for a diverse array of seral stages.
 - 6.1.b Protect, maintain, and enhance habitats that account for the range of forest types, topography (slopes, aspects, elevations), and habitat features at the district level.
 - 6.1.c Identify and protect rare and unique habitats, particularly those that are fragile, sensitive, or potentially vulnerable to climate change.
- 6.2 Manage for complex habitats, of all ages, with the full suite of habitat features within and across watersheds. (Strongly support)
 - 6.2.a Promote structural complexity, compositional diversity, and spatial heterogeneity at stand and landscape scales.

- 6.2.b Adapt standards to regional and state-level goals (e.g., habitat enhancement, forest restoration, fuels and fire risk, timber production, harvest age), and over time as stand and landscape conditions change.
- 6.3 Manage for functional landscapes for native wildlife.
 - 6.3.a Create a variety of patch types, patch sizes, and patch placement over time;
 - 6.3.b Provide for adequate interior forest habitats; and (Strongly support)
 - 6.3.c Maintain connectivity between habitats, and broad landscape permeability, for diverse wildlife species including species of concern. (Strongly support)
 - 6.3.d Foster and maintain redundancy at various ecological scales (e.g., species, stand types).
- 6.4 Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern (SOC).
 - 6.4.a Comply with state and federal ESA requirements and adopt management strategies that contribute to the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
 - 6.4.b Implement the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategy and associated Conservation Actions targeted to benefit the species covered under the Incidental Take Permit.
 - 6.4.c Conduct Species Assessments during Implementation Plan development and related revisions to determine which species warrant special consideration and whether existing conservation measures are adequate.
 - 6.4.d Collaborate across ownership boundaries to meet common wildlife conservation goals.
- 6.5 Use **passive and** active management to meet habitat objectives over time and across the landscape.
- 6.6 Consider regional and landscape context (e.g. ownership patterns, HCP commitments, and occupancy by species of concern) when implementing above strategies.
- 6.7 Implement an Adaptive Management Plan that evaluates implementation, experiments with techniques, and considers best available science (e.g., trials, monitoring).

Pollinators & Invertebrates Goal 7: Provide suitable habitats across the landscape that contribute to maintaining or enhancing native, sensitive, and endangered pollinator and other invertebrate populations.

- 7.1 Implement management practices to maintain and promote native plant diversity, **foraging sources**, and pollinator habitat, **including minimizing ground disturbances to protect nesting habitat**.
- 7.2 Follow an integrated pest management plan to decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use.
- 7.3 Include native pollinators in education and interpretation programs to support the agency's pollinator health outreach and education plan.
- 7.4 Pursue opportunities to complement wildlife strategies with habitat enhancements specific to pollinators and other invertebrates.

Aquatics & Riparian Goal 9: 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.

- 9.1 Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for Species of Concern (SOC).
 - 9.1.a Comply with state and federal ESA requirements and adopt management strategies that contribute to the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
 - 9.1.b Implement the Habitat Conservation Plan Strategies and associated Conservation Actions targeted to benefit the species covered under the Incidental Take Permit.
 - 9.1.c Conduct Species Assessments during Implementation Plan development and related revisions to determine which species warrant special consideration and whether existing conservation measures are adequate.
 - 9.1.d Where appropriate for successful habitat management and species' benefit, utilize cross-boundary coordination with neighboring landowners in management practices.
- 9.2 Encourage beaver occupancy of streams and valley bottoms, including dam building and ponding. Identify and minimize barriers to beaver occupancy and incorporate into restoration planning. *We would like to see in the FMP three items, which might appear in the strategies, or as tactics to implement this strategy:*
 - a) Prohibition of trapping and hunting of beaver in State Forests covered by this FMP.
 - b) Inventory of present and potential beaver habitat within the FMP watersheds, likely during Implementation Plan development
 - c) Facilitation of relocation of “problem” beavers from other Oregon sites to appropriate but unoccupied habitat within the FMP watersheds.
- 9.3 Plan for natural disturbances (e.g., landslides) and implement forest management practices that, combined with the disturbance, will create aquatic habitat and protect water quality.
- 9.4 For slopes that could fail due to canopy removal or natural causes, and deliver to aquatic systems, maintain properly functioning landslide processes including sediment routing, large woody debris supply, and nutrient cycling.
- 9.5 Identify, prioritize, and enhance (and protect) streams and watersheds that will support cold water refuge, complex and off channel habitats, and climate change resiliency for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates.
- 9.6 Prioritize habitat restoration efforts by utilizing watershed assessments, strategic action plans, and other local knowledge.
- 9.7 Develop and foster partnerships with other agencies, tribes, universities, and NGOs to plan, implement, and monitor aquatic habitats over time, and to conduct research that fills gaps in best available science. Report all aquatic and riparian restoration actions to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
- 9.8 Maintain the natural functions and attributes of wetlands over time and ensure that no net loss of wetlands occurs as a result of management activities. Allow for the creation of new wetlands to form over time.
 - 9.8.a Establish and implement minimum buffer widths, including no harvest and equipment restriction zones, around all wetlands to protect wetland process and function.
 - 9.8.b Manage for native plant communities and assemblages within wetlands, and in the surrounding buffer.

- 9.9 Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination, reporting, and compliance.
- 9.10 Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for water quality and habitat protection.
- Add: Reduce reliance on pesticides that introduce combinations of chemicals into aquatic habitats, degrade water quality, and potentially harm fish species.

Feedback on Goals 10, 11, 12, & 15 (Protecting Drinking Water, Clean Air, and Soil)

Drinking Water Goal 10: Protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources that provide high quality drinking water and predictable water quantity for private and domestic use.

- 10.1 Maintain and protect domestic water sources, their source watersheds, and potential risks to water sources on all State forest lands.
 - 10.1.a Consult the Water Resources Department database to identify domestic water use permits and registered water use sites within the vicinity of timber sales and forest roads.
 - 10.1.b Early in the planning process, assess the existing conditions in the watershed (stand age and size, geology, topography, ecology, land use history, and expected variability in future climate) at the watershed scale
 - 10.1.c Consult Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Assessments to identify potential contaminating sources to the domestic water supply and the watershed's vulnerability to risk.
 - 10.1.d Establish no-harvest buffer standards around domestic water sources within harvest units and apply road strategies to protect water quality.
- 10.2 Early in the planning process, identify the unique combination of current characteristics and proposed management scenarios (stand age and size, geology, topography, ecology, land use history, and expected variability in future climate) at the watershed scale to protect drinking water.
 - 10.2.a Prescribe a management regime to achieve an average stand age of at least 80 years to restore mature forests which serve as superior natural water filtration and storage systems.
 - Long-term effects of forest harvesting on summer low flow deficits in the Coast Range of Oregon ([Segura et al. 2020](#)). Streamflow was 50% lower in a 40–43-yr-old plantation relative to 110-yr-old forest. Summer low flow deficits persisted over six or more months of each year. Contemporary forestry practices produced persistent, large summer low flow deficits
 - Summer streamflow deficits from regenerating Douglas-fir forest in the Pacific Northwest, USA ([Perry et al. 2016](#)) Analysis of 60-year records of daily streamflow from eight paired-basin experiments in the Pacific Northwest of the

United States (Oregon) revealed that the conversion of old-growth forest to Douglas-fir plantations had a major effect on summer streamflow.

- 10.2.b. Prohibit aerial, broadcast or backpack spraying of pesticides in watersheds supplying domestic water.
- 10.3 Identify priority transportation and infrastructure features (i.e., roads, recreation trails and facilities, skid roads, culverts, etc.) for assessment, upgrades, relocation, and vacating.
 - 10.3.a Reduce road density in the water supply watershed to less than 2 miles of road per square mile of watershed, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries to protect ecosystem function.
- 10.4 Collaborate with Private Forests Division on Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load coordination and reporting.
 - 10.4.a. Establish science-based source water quality monitoring programs within drinking watersheds to assess impacts of any proposed timber operations on water quality.
- 10.5 Establish post-fire disturbance Best Management Practices for Water Quality protection that recognize the adverse impacts of post fire logging for drinking water supplies .
 - 10.5.a. Avoid whenever possible post-fire logging that degrades water quality by increasing sedimentation and runoff in drinking water streams. (James R. Karr, Jonathan J. Rhodes, G. Wayne Minshall, F. Richard Hauer, Robert L. Beschta, Christopher A. Frissell, David A. Perry, The Effects of Postfire Salvage Logging on Aquatic Ecosystems in the American West, BioScience, Volume 54, Issue 11, November 2004, Pages 1029–1033; Reeves, Gordon & Bisson, Peter & Rieman, Bruce & Benda, Lee. (2006). Postfire Logging in Riparian Areas. Conservation biology : the journal of the Society for Conservation Biology. 20. 994-1004. 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00502.x.
- 10.6 Follow an integrated pest management plan to avoid or aim to eliminate the use of chemical pesticides, minimize risks to human health and the environment, and decrease non-target impacts of pesticide use:
 - 10.6.a. Evaluate and prioritize alternatives to whether chemical spray pesticide or fertilizer needed to achieve objectives on a site-by-site basis. Prohibit aerial and broadcast spraying of pesticides in drinking watersheds, both to protect the water and to protect the workers applying the toxins.
 - 10.6.b. Use pesticides in a manner that minimizes off-target movement through drift, leaching, volatilization, soil erosion, or other transport mechanisms.
 - 10.6.c. Where operationally effective use mechanical, manual, or “hands-off” approaches to achieve objectives.
 - 10.6.d. Protect native vegetation as means of competitively inhibiting invasive plant species.
 - 10.6.e Maintain early successional vegetation as a tool to meet soil health, wildlife, aquatic/riparian, and drinking water goals.
 - 10.6.f Avoid whenever possible using pesticides, to protect fungi and other organisms in the soil needed for soil productivity, and to protect fish, elk, and other living beings.

- 10.7 Collaborate with ODF's Protection Division to protect water quality when fire suppression activities occur:
 - 10.7.a. Keep fire chemicals out of waters of the state, especially drinking water sources, whenever possible.
 - 10.7.b. Preferentially select fire chemicals that are non-toxic to aquatic life and human health and readily break down in the environment.
 - 10.7.c. Minimize use of phosphorus-based retardants near waterbodies, especially those with recurring harmful algal blooms or risks of Harmful Algal Blooms.
- 10.8 Maintain and restore headwaters processes that collectively trap and store sediments and organic matter.
 - 10.8.a. Prohibit logging on steep and/or unstable slopes.
 - 10.8.b. Large wood retention and recruitment through leave trees within stands and selective slope buffering strategies to create steps and slow flows.
 - 10.8.c. Leave slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations unless wildfire or silvicultural concerns exist.

Air Quality Goal 11: Maintain and protect healthy air quality standards.

- 11.1 Comply with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (OAR 629-048-0001 through 629-048-0500) and Visibility Protection Plan (OAR 340-200-0040, Section 5.2).
- 11.2 Use Best Burn Practices (OAR 629-048-210) to minimize the likelihood that emissions will adversely affect air quality.
- 11.3 Use prescribed burning (OAR 629-048-0200) to the extent necessary to meet management objectives.
- 11.4 Use alternatives to reduce the volume of prescribed burning where feasible.
- 11.5 Plan burns to avoid smoke entering Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas described and listed in OAR 629-048-0140.
- Thoroughly evaluate and minimize negative public health impacts associated with forest management practices that degrade air quality and disproportionately impact vulnerable and rural communities in Oregon. Air toxics and particulate matter produced by forest operations such as slash burning contribute to poor air quality in general which in turn impacts public health and livability, especially for rural communities. The combustion of woody biomass for energy production emits pollutants that jeopardize public health, and biomass power plants are often located near environmental justice communities, further burdening underserved and under-resourced populations. Thus, ODF should include public health considerations in its forest management decisions.

Soil Goal 12: Maintain natural soil processes, protect soils from damage and increase soil carbon.

- 12.1 Support and foster healthy, productive, and stable soils by leaving slash, cull logs, downed wood, and snags following harvest operations.
- 12.2 Implement site preparation techniques for tree planting that maintain organic materials in soils.

- 12.3 Conduct forest operations and projects using methods and types of equipment adapted to local conditions to **protect against soil loss/ erosion.**
- **Evaluate and minimize pesticide use that harms or kills soil invertebrates and degrades soil health. Diverse soils teeming with life are key for carbon sequestration, pest control, water retention, etc.**
- **Prohibit steep slope logging as this practice can increase risk of erosion and landslides.**
- **Maintain and improve water-holding capacity of soils (e.g. minimize soil disturbance post fire).**

Transportation System Goal 15: Manage the transportation system to facilitate the anticipated activities in a manner which provides for resource protection, transportation efficiency, safety, and sound fiscal management.

- **Strongly recommend that these strategies be reviewed and revised by the staff working on the Wildlife and Aquatics & Riparian Goals.**
- ~~15.1 Ensure the transportation network is aligned to support the planned forest management activities and anticipated public use.~~
- ~~15.2 Consider available quantity and cost of aggregate resources to provide a balance for seasonal continuity of operations and resource protection.~~
- 15.3 Construct, design, improve, **decommission** and maintain roads to ~~be applicable~~ to provide for safety and efficiency for the anticipated forest management and public use.
- 15.4 Manage road access to protect resources, ensure safety and support management objectives through signage, gates, short and longer term closures.
- 15.5 Manage road infrastructure to reduce costs, wildfire risk, allow for public access, and improve forest health and fish and wildlife habitat.
- 15.6 **Decommission**, construct, improve, and maintain roads using best management practices to minimize erosion potential and meet or exceed applicable water quality standards.
- 15.7 **Decommission**, design, construct, and maintain new roads and improve existing roads to hydrologically disconnect and mitigate to meet water quality standards.
- 15.8 Evaluate and hydrologically disconnected and mitigated all planned commercial haul routes controlled by the Oregon Department of Forestry to meet water quality standards prior to hauling in the wet season.
- 15.9 Design stream crossings for passage of aquatic organisms on new roads and when replacing or upgrading existing stream crossings.
- 15.10 Design, construct, and maintain ~~new~~ roads and monitor and ~~mitigate~~ **decommission** existing roads using best management practices to minimize potential for road-initiated landslides.
- 15.11 Waste disposal areas will be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize potential for landslide initiation.
- **Evaluate roads for decommissioning, especially within conservation areas where timber harvest will no longer occur.**
- **Minimize and new road building to avoid carbon loss (from biomass and soils) and increased risk of erosion.**

- Commit to reducing the current road density on state forests so as to (a) promote Aquatic, Water-Quality or other goals, and (b) ensure the road system is better scaled to the costs associated with maintaining it.
- Strategies 15.3, 15.6, 15.7, 15.10 “Construct, design, improve, and maintain roads....,” should include the practices of decommissioning roads wherever possible to restore ecological function.

Feedback on Goals 13 & 14 (Logging and Revenue)

Revenue Goal 13: Generate revenue that supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities.

- 13.1 Design timber sales considering timber markets to maximize net revenue and volume.
- 13.2 Seek out and incorporate new revenue streams and market opportunities that maximize net revenue in alignment with greatest permanent value.
- Amend the Goal language for revenue to include revenue for the State Forest Division tied to public forest management costs (not just a revenue goal for counties, schools, and taxing districts).
- Include a strategy tied to securing new revenue for ODF’s State Forest Division from non-timber sources that is tied to the non-timber values produced by state forest lands.
- Incorporate valuation of drinking water (this is a value to Oregon’s communities)
- Incorporate valuation of carbon storage (this is a value to Oregon’s communities)

Timber Production Goal 14: Provide a sustainable and predictable supply of timber that provides for economic opportunity, jobs, and availability of forest products.

- 14.1 Actively manage lands utilizing a suite of silviculture prescriptions, while integrating protections for resources and other forest uses.
- 14.2 Utilize a mix of contracting services and timber sale project work to meet forest management goals while supporting the local economy.
- 14.3 Develop operations plans for timely response to landscape level disturbances (fires, windstorms, ice storms) to realize revenue from previous investments and maintain forest health.
- 14.4 Align reforestation and young stand management to maintain healthy, diverse, and productive stands for timber production across the landscape.
- Utilize precautionary principles and best management practices to protect against soil loss and erosion during logging operations, especially where risk of landslides or erosion is high.
- Ensure timber production does not decrease forest inventory and is not detrimental to achievement of climate, carbon, wildlife, aquatic and drinking water values.
- Aim to move timber production on state lands towards Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. Utilize longer logging rotations.
- Research and encourage the development of local FSC markets.

Feedback on Goals 18 & 19 (Recreation and Education)

Recreation, Education & Interpretation Goal 18: Provide 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.

- 18.1 Develop a Recreation, Education, and Interpretation strategic management plan to guide recreation planning, policy, and program management and development.
- 18.2 Conduct research and monitoring to understand visitor demographics, use, and experience to guide Recreation, Education, and Interpretation planning and management.
- 18.3 Develop and implement a State Forests Interpretive Master Plan.
 - 18.3.a Provide a diversity of interpretation and education program types to allow for a range of content, to increase inclusivity, and to expand program participation and reach.
- 18.4 Develop and implement a State Forests Recreation Management Plan to inform future management, maintenance, and development of trail and recreation facility infrastructure.
- 18.5 Update interpretation and education (IE) opportunities to incorporate the Forest Management Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest management activities, and management messages to increase public awareness of ODF's role in the natural resource management spectrum.
- 18.6 Enhance community engagement to foster partnership development investment, and ownership, stewardship, and capacity to advance recreation, interpretation, and education goals.
- Establish performance measures for REI opportunities. Include an inventory on the landscape of the recreation opportunities and demands to identify growth opportunities and determine what they are not suited for. Track workforce information, job creation, and revenue received from recreation opportunities.
- Ensure equitable access (safe, widely-accessible, and affordable) to REI opportunities, especially for those who have traditionally been excluded from and discriminated against in these spaces.

Recreation, Education & Interpretation Goal 19: 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.

19.1 Review periodically recreation facilities and identify site design modifications and enhancements to minimize impacts on aquatic and wildlife resources from infrastructure and public use.

19.2 Develop guidelines, standards, and best management practices for design, construction, and maintenance of recreation facilities and trails. When developing guidelines, standards, and best management practices, ODF should account for a wide array of abilities and access needs to ensure infrastructure supports equitable access to REI opportunities on state forestlands.

19.3 Develop and implement operational standards that intentionally integrate recreation management activities with timber harvest, road development and management, and

reforestation activities to enhance recreation opportunities and to minimize impacts to trail and facility infrastructure, the surrounding forest setting, and visitor experience.

Feedback on Goal 21 (Protecting Oregon's Culture and Heritage)

Cultural Goal 21: Establish **and maintain** strong relationships and mutual trust with communities of place and communities of interest to protect and preserve aspects of their culture and heritage that are tied to Oregon State Forests.

- 21.1 Engage communities that have historical ties to State Forests lands to ensure that historic properties and artifacts are taken into consideration in planning management activities.
- 21.2 Engage communities that have cultural practices tied to State Forest lands to ensure that those practices are taken into consideration in planning management activities.
- Forest management decisions should be based on respect for a variety of knowledge forms, including traditional ecological knowledge.
- ODF should evaluate environmental justice impacts of forest management decisions (see ORS 182.545(1); [Senate Concurrent Resolution 17 \(2021\)](#)).
- ODF should provide cultural education and training to increase staff cultural knowledge and competency in forest management planning and decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback.

Sincerely,

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December 23 2021

Oregon Dept of Forestry
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**RE: Draft Strategies for the Forest Management Plan
Companion to the Habitat Conservation Plan for
Western Oregon State Forests**

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Cascade-Volcanoes chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, whose mission is protection of public lands. We advocate for protection of public forests for public values of wildlife habitat, drinking water, recreation, and for the carbon sequestration and storage values of forests to mitigate climate change impacts.

We have been following the Habitat Conservation Plan process for the Oregon Western State Forests since its inception, and have had representatives at the public meetings and stakeholder meetings for the goals and strategies for development of these draft strategies. We find the “lumping” of Forest Management Plan (FMP) strategies for the conservation lands (proposed Habitat Conservation Areas—HCAs, and Riparian Conservation Areas—RCAs) and timber production lands difficult, as the management of these lands should be different in many respects. We request that you specify where management differs in conservation and production lands. We look for the incorporation of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP) recently approved by the Board of Forestry throughout the goals and strategies for the FMP, not solely in the Climate Change and Carbon goals/strategies. Some of the goals have detailed strategies in the current draft document, and others are extremely general. Some of our suggestions may be more appropriate as tactics which might be incorporated in the FMP to implement strategies, rather than strategies at this big picture level.

Goal 1 Forest Resilience. 1.1 We request inclusion of “Manage for mature and old growth forest characteristics, complex forest structure and species diversity, and carbon sequestration and storage, and allow for natural processes, more of a “hands off” approach, within conservation lands.”

1.1 Add “variety of **NATIVE** tree species..”

Forest resilience and adaptive capacity increase with increasing plant species richness (Buotte et al.)¹

1.5 Add: “Minimize use of herbicides in conservation areas, especially RPAs, to protect drinking water and aquatic species, utilizing herbicides to control invasive plants only when they negatively impact the desired complex forest structure development.”

As written, the draft strategies are too pesticide-centric.

Add “1.6 Manage conservation areas (HCP and RCA) to reach complex forest structure with mature trees and species as canopy diversity. Such forests are more resistant to fire.”

Goal 2 Climate Change. 2.1 Add “**and riparian buffers**”.

2.2. Add “Manage these areas to ensure ecological integrity.”

Add “2.4 Extend harvest rotations (as identified in CCCP), especially adjacent to Riparian Conservation Areas, to protect stream flows and drinking water quality and quantity while increasing carbon sequestration and storage. See drinking water section comments.

¹ [Carbon sequestration and biodiversity co-benefits of preserving forests in the western United States - Buotte - 2020 - Ecological Applications - Wiley Online Library](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eap.2039#eap2039-bib-0055)

<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eap.2039#eap2039-bib-0055>

Account for GHG emissions from forests, including wildfires, timber operations, timber harvest, post-fire logging, emission from burning biomass for electricity sources from the project area forests.

Add “2.5 Avoid post-fire harvest of trees in conservation.”

Wet riparian buffers can act as natural fire breaks, as well as refugia for wildlife during wildfires. Beaver dams expand the wetland and thus the extent of wet riparian buffer. See Goal 9.2 in Goal 9, Aquatics and riparian. Water quantity (baseline flow as it relates to rotation age) is important for climate resilience (VELMA Model would help here)².

Goal 3 Carbon. Contribute to carbon sequestration and storage both within State Forest lands and in harvested wood products. *Note: No carbon sequestration occurs in dead trees, whether left in the forest or harvested, so wording of the goal is a bit odd.*

3.1 Identify **and protect** areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially those that can provide benefits for species of concern habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians.

Add “3.5 Manage conservation areas, HCA and RCA, as carbon reserves, in addition to primary benefits to HCP covered species.”

As unstable slopes are identified as no cut zones (likely during future Implementation Plans), add to the Carbon Reserve inventory.

Add “3.6 In Conservation areas, restrict post-fire logging to hazard trees, keep as many trees on the landscape as possible. If trees are felled, or cut to shorter snags near where people congregate, such as trailheads and pull-outs, leave trees on the ground for carbon storage and to minimize soil disturbance. Ensure green tree and snag retention during post-fire logging operations (production lands).”

Accurate measurement of carbon stored and sequestered is essential to this goal. We request that the FMP directs estimation of **standing inventory of carbon in state forests** (and annual estimates of fluxes). As an example, see California’s Natural and Working Lands GHG Inventory³. While difficult to estimate, we’d like to see estimates of soil carbon, and carbon stores in wood products, distinguishing short- and long-term wood products.

Goal 4: Wildfire. We concur with 4.1, for fuels management adjacent to communities and forest structures (WUI). However, 4.2 fire breaks, and extensive fuels management in forests distant from human occupation is relatively ineffective and ecologically damaging in the west side moist forest with high productivity. Dr Beverly Law stated in 2021: “If your goal is to keep people, homes and communities safe, the most proven approach is to focus from the home outward. In western Oregon’s Cascade forests, there is no scientific basis to attempt to reduce fuels, as they just grow back rapidly and it is not possible to reduce their flammability.” We believe that protection of people and structures should be the goal of fuels management. Halofsky et al state: “In forests where large stand-replacing fire patches are a primary component of natural disturbance regimes, we propose that climate adaptation options prior to wildfire are generally fewer than in other forest types, in part because common approaches to mitigating fire severities will likely be riskier, ineffective in the long-term, or even counterproductive to many management objectives.”⁴

²https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-09/documents/508_velma_fact_sheet_revised_6-21-16.pdf

³An Inventory of Ecosystem Carbon in California’s Natural & Working Lands 2018 Edition. California Air Resources Board. https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/pubs/nwl_inventory.pdf

⁴Halofsky, J. S., D. C. Donato, J. F. Franklin, J. E. Halofsky, D. L. Peterson, and B. J. Harvey. 2018. The nature of the beast: examining climate adaptation options in forests with stand-replacing fire regimes. *Ecosphere* 9(3):e02140. 10.1002/ecs2.2140

Goal 5 Restoration. The draft strategies for the Restoration goal are very pest and pesticide-centric. “The FMP should focus efforts on the restoration or maintenance of essential ecosystem services, especially within conservation lands (HCAs and RCAs) such as:

- a) Carbon storage and sequestration (e.g. promoting old growth forest characteristics),
- b) Hydrologic function — Water quality and quantity (e.g. preventing soil erosion and avoiding tree plantations),
- c) Soil productivity (e.g. ensure burned vegetation remains on the landscape), and
- d) Biodiversity (e.g. preserving habitat for at risk wildlife).
- e) Restrict post-fire logging within conservation lands. Soil disturbance impacts friable burned soils, and impacts natural regeneration. See Carbon proposed 3.6.
- f) Incorporate beaver occupancy, as stated in Aquatics & Restoration 9.2.”

Goal 6 Wildlife. We support the proposed strategies for the Wildlife goal, the level of detail is appreciated, and encourage comparable detail for other goals. Note our comments about beavers under 9.2.

Goal 9 Aquatics & Riparian. We appreciate the level of detail and content of the strategies for the Aquatics & Riparian goal, with a few requested changes.

9.2 “Encourage beaver occupancy of streams and valley bottoms, including dam building and ponding. Identify and minimize barriers to beaver occupancy and incorporate into restoration planning.” We would like to see in the FMP three items, which might appear in the strategies, or as tactics to implement this strategy:

- a) Prohibition of trapping and hunting of beaver in the State Forests covered by this FMP.
- b) Inventory of present and potential beaver habitat within the FMP watersheds, likely during Implementation Plan development
- c) Facilitation of relocation of “problem” beavers from other Oregon sites to appropriate but unoccupied habitat within the FMP watersheds.

9.5” Identify, prioritize, and enhance (add) and protect streams and watersheds that will support cold water refuge, complex and off channel habitats, and climate change resiliency for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates. “

Add “9.11 Reduce reliance on pesticides that introduce combinations of chemicals into aquatic habitats, degrade water quality, and potentially harm fish species, especially within RCAs and HCAs.

Goal 10 Drinking Water. We support the strategies for the Drinking Water goals, and provide comments for improvement. A major concern is the reduction of streamflow associated with timber harvest, and decreasing summer water from climate change as more precipitation falls as rain and less as snow.

A long-term OSU study in the Oregon Coast Range demonstrated streamflow that was 50% lower in a 40-43-year-old plantation relative to 110-yr-old nearby forest, and contemporary forestry practices produced persistent, large summer low flow deficits.⁵ We strongly urge that extended harvest rotations (as approved in CCCP) be initiated first in the production areas adjacent to riparian buffers (RCAs). The creation of a mosaic of harvest aged stands, some retained for 80-year harvest, with eventual staggered 80-year harvest adjacent to RCAs would seem to best protect water quantity and quality for aquatic species and downstream drinking water users, in addition to optimizing carbon sequestration and storage in the production lands.

10.1 Maintain and protect domestic water sources, (add) their source watersheds, and all other water sources on all State forest lands covered by this FMP.

10.1 a As presented.

Add “10.1.b Early in the planning process, assess the existing conditions in the watershed (stand age and size, geology, topography, ecology, land use history, and expected variability in future climate) at the watershed scale.”

Add “10.1.c Consult Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Assessments to identify potential contaminating sources to the domestic water supply and the watershed’s vulnerability to risk.”

⁵Segura, C et al. Long-term effects of forest harvesting on summer low flow deficits in the Coast Range of Oregon, Journal of Hydrology. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022169420302092>

Change numbering of 10.1.b to “10.1.d” Retain “Establish no-harvest buffer standards.....” as presented.
10.2 Add: “**10.2.a** Prescribe a management regime to achieve complex mature forest stands within conservation lands (RCAs and HCAs)s which serve as superior natural water filtration and storage systems.

Add “10.2.b. Limit aerial, broadcast and backpack spraying within drinking water watersheds, and monitor stream water to detect herbicides, and utilize adaptive management to protect and improve water quality.”

10.3 Roads. “Reduce road density in the water supply watershed to less than 2 miles of road per square mile of watershed, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries to protect ecosystem function. Prioritize road decommissioning within protected areas, where harvest will generally not be permitted.”

10.4 Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load.

Add “10.4.a. Establish science-based source water quality monitoring programs within drinking watersheds to assess impacts of any proposed timber operations on water quality.”

10.5 RE post-fire disturbance BMPs for water quality, include “**restrict post-fire logging to hazard trees within RCAs and HCAs. If trees are felled, leave in place, which minimizes soil disturbance and sedimentation into streams, degrading water quality.**”^{6,7}

10.7 Fire Suppression. State ODF’s Protection Division.

Add “10.7.c Minimize ground-based fire suppression activities within conservation areas.”

10.8 Maintain and restore headwaters processes that collectively trap and store sediments and organic matter. Add: “10.8.a. Prohibit logging on steep and/or unstable slopes.”

Goal 12 Soil.

12.2 Implement site preparation techniques for tree planting that maintain organic materials in soils. Add “Evaluate and implement biochar burning of slash where appropriate to improve forest carbon for increased water retention, productivity of planted trees, and climate mitigation from increased soil carbon.”

Add: “12.4 Protect against soil loss/erosion.”

Add “12.5 Minimize post-fire logging, especially in conservation areas, to protect friable soils, maintain water-holding capacity”.

Add: “12.6 Evaluate and minimize pesticide use that harms or kills soil invertebrates and degrades soil health.”

Add: “12.7 Steep slope logging can lead to erosion and bad air quality when the wind blows.”

Goal 13 Revenue. Incorporate ecosystem services provided by forests for which no revenue is raised: community drinking water, carbon sequestration and storage, as examples.
Incorporate the increased timber value of longer rotation harvest, recognizing the delay in income production.

Goal 14 Timber Production. Aim to move timber production on FMP state forests towards Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. Utilize longer logging rotations. Will increase the value of the harvest.

14.3 Revenue from landscape level disturbances such as fires, windstorms, ice storms. Note: this is *not* to be applied to conservation lands, where any downed trees should be left on the ground, and any hazard trees felled and left on the ground.

Goal 15 Transportation System. Add: “15.12 Evaluate roads for possible abandonment and restoration, and implement recommendations, especially within conservation areas where timber harvest will no longer occur.”

Goal 16 Mining, Ag, Admin Sites & Grazing. Add: “16.2 Extractive activities such as mining, grazing and agriculture, are not to be permitted in conservation areas.”

⁶James R. Karr, Jonathan J. Rhodes, G. Wayne Minshall, F. Richard Hauer, Robert L. Beschta, Christopher A. Frissell, David A. Perry, The Effects of Postfire Salvage Logging on Aquatic Ecosystems in the American West, *BioScience*, Volume 54, Issue 11, November 2004, Pages 1029–1033. (Read study [HERE](#));

⁷Reeves, Gordon & Bisson, Peter & Rieman, Bruce & Benda, Lee. (2006). Postfire Logging in Riparian Areas. *Conservation biology* : the journal of the Society for Conservation Biology. 20. 994-1004. 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00502.x. (Read study [HERE](#))

Summary. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategies for development of the Forest Management Plan which will be the companion to the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Western State Forests. We appreciate the effort that staff has put in in development of the goals and strategies for FMP, and opportunities for public input. We look forward to a robust plan that implements the HCP, and incorporates the CCCP, while providing more predictability for sustainable timber harvest from the Oregon State Forests.

Sincerely,

Darlene Chirman

Darlene Chirman
M.S. Ecology, University of Davis
Leadership Team, Cascade-Volcanoes Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

January 07, 2022



Bodie Dowding
Project Lead, Western Oregon Forest Management Plan
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Via electronic submission: bodie.t.dowding@odf.oregon.gov

RE: Input on Draft Strategies for the Western Oregon Forest Management Plan

Dear Mr. Dowding and ODF's FMP Revision Team:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) revision effort for the Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP). A new, revised FMP presents an opportunity to create forward-thinking protections and management strategies for western Oregon's state public forest lands to address past and ongoing threats, meet current needs and anticipated future pressures, and integrate other planning efforts including ODF's Climate Change and Carbon Plan and ongoing Habitat Conservation Plan efforts.

We appreciate the context of this planning effort within the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) directive for these lands, and ODF's recognition that GPV requires a balancing of broad public values. These state forest lands are not tree farms and provide great value to the public beyond wood fiber and revenue. The multifaceted draft FMP Goals reflect this breadth of values in a manner consistent with the 1998 GPV Rule language. We ask ODF and the Board to advance this FMP revision effort towards outcomes that improve watershed and ecosystem health as well as related protections or direction that secures clean water, great fish and wildlife habitat, quality outdoor recreational opportunities, carbon sequestration, and resilience to climate change.

Input below is based on ODF's December 2021 "Forest Management Plan Draft Goals and Strategies" document. The feedback below focuses primarily on draft Strategy language, but given that the agency has indicated input on overall FMP content would remain iterative until Board decisions on the draft product and related rulemaking, the feedback below starts with some additional input on goals.

As a general matter, we believe that goals should be translatable to clear strategies with associated measurable performance metrics. If it is unclear how the agency would measure success or realistically account for and track progress related to a given goal or strategy, we feel that it argues for revision or deletion of that language. We feel more work is needed in honing performance measures and metrics for the FMP goals and strategies, or revising goal and strategy language so that specific metrics and measurables can be clearly attached. In addition, The Board, ODF, and legislature need to make concerted effort to change and enhance the business model for state forest lands in order to assure that achieving broad FMP goals (and monitoring performance) is possible. We would welcome work with the Board and ODF on this as part of its 2023 legislative session legislative concept and budget work. This could also include a potentially new governance structure for how ODF and the Board relate to the various affected interests and communities linked to state forest management and associated commitments (e.g., HCP, FMP, jobs and revenue), which could not only improve accountability and collaboration but also efficiency, partnerships, and cost management.

Goals:

Changes to the FMP goal structure and language to date have been largely positive, including the re-labeling or clearer identification of certain goals (e.g., distinguishing Carbon from Climate Change, and Timber Production from Revenue, as well as calling out Drinking Water as distinct from Aquatics & Riparian). The Goals remain numerous, and we feel there is room for potential consolidation, especially if helpful to the department's workload, setting realistic expectations for the public, and recognizing the significant degree of overlap between various resource values. This could potentially include integration of the Scenic goal with Recreation, Education and Interpretation, as well as the creation of one instead of two Cultural and/or Recreation goals. Related to that, we feel specific goals need further work and modification as follows:

- **Forest Resilience Goal 1**—while we appreciate the existence of this goal, it is very lofty and broad, and potentially redundant with other goals or difficult to reduce to specific strategies. That said, the current goal language continues to promote tension within itself. It should be about achieving resilience, not about achieving “environmental social, and economic goals”. In addition, it should indicate whether the current situation on state forests is resilient, or whether change is needed. We suggest a re-statement as follows: “Ensure healthy, sustainable, and resilient forest ecosystems that over time help *promote environmental, social, and economic benefits tied to moving the state forest landscape towards more resilient conditions. This includes working in concert with other goals to address wildfire risk, climate change, and the loss of species diversity (trees, wildlife, pollinators, other plants), habitat structural diversity (old growth, complex early seral, wetland, riparian), and human community resilience that has arisen from management to date or anticipated future changes.*”
- **Cultural goal:** the goal language tied to what was labeled as the Social Justice goal in the parking lot of ODF's October 2021 draft FMP Goals document should be developed into language for the

Cultural goal, or at the very least integrated into the strategies. That language recognized both communities of color as well as rural communities within the context of culture and social justice. We believe social justice and culture are appropriate headers for issues and needs related to rural communities. In addition, providing specific recognition and attention to tribes within this goal context is possible. Further, we encourage the Board and ODF to engage the state's Environmental Justice Task Force, Sustainability Commission, as well as the environmental equity committee of the Racial Justice Council in further vetting and engagement around this goal, along with the several tribal governments whose people have used today's state forest lands for millennia.

- **Revenue goal:** The overall revenue issue for state forests relates to two different but related business model challenges: (a) the County / local revenue issue and (b) the ODF state forest division revenue model issue (financial viability). Currently, the FMP Revenue Goal language only focuses on the former and should be changed as follows: “Generate or secure revenue that (a) supports public services provided by the state, schools, counties, and taxing districts to rural communities, as well as (b) sustains ODF’s state forest division and achievement of GPV on state forest lands.”

Strategies:

As ODF recognizes, the draft Strategies are intended to provide specific direction for the management of state forests. Some goals in the Dec. 2021 document contain numerous bulleted strategies, and even sub-tiers. Others are more limited. While some strategy consolidation is likely possible, we appreciate the effort to make the strategy language as specific (and thus measurable) as possible and encourage further revisions along these lines. Input below partly reflects that encouragement.

Further, many strategies would, if advanced on the ground, affect various different outcomes or goals. We appreciate that ODF is currently undertaking a “strategy mapping” exercise to better identify which strategies potentially address multiple goals. We encourage this effort as it will likely help identify congruencies and potential redundancies. It is an important part of next steps on the FMP work.

Lastly, given that achieving each goal or strategy on every acre of state forest land is unrealistic, and that some goals and strategies involve cross-tension, we encourage ODF to begin to develop a map and/or related geographic clarity indicating where on the landscape various strategies would be applied (or applied more robustly) relative to other locations. This is especially relevant to the FMP’s connection to the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and areas it maps for conservation as well as timber emphasis, but the need goes beyond just the HCP. The HCP is an Endangered Species Act (ESA) construct, and simply dividing the landscape into ESA-species emphasis vs. intensive timber production areas does not reflect either the diversity of public values tied to state forest lands or the ability of certain parts of the landscape to achieve these values relatively better than others.

The following is more specific input related to the draft Strategies.

Forest Resilience Goal 1—related strategies:

- Strategy 1.1 and 1.2 seem redundant or potentially redundant. ODF should clarify the distinction. It seems 1.2 could possibly be eliminated for streamlining purposes.
- In addition, in addressing the Forest Resilience goal through strategy language related to silvicultural practices, we feel ODF should:
 - Keep this goal and strategies in the relative context—i.e., in the third line of Strategy 1.1, say “... that are *more resilient to ...*” or “*relatively resilient*” instead of just saying “resilient to”. This reflects that absolute armoring against disturbance or climate change probably isn’t possible, so the objective is more about relative degree and/or change from current conditions.
 - Revise the strategy language in a way that lends itself to not just implementation monitoring (i.e., what practices have been implemented) but effectiveness monitoring (i.e., how are those practices moving the needle on stand condition, species diversity, and resilience improvement). Along these lines, a sentence should be added to the end of the Strategy 1.1 language (or, modify the Strategy 1.6 language), saying, “*Monitor changes in forest conditions (habitat types, structural stages) and species diversity (plant types, locations) over the current baseline in assessing whether resilience to disturbance and climate change is improving.*” This should include achieving and tracking changes in complex / late old structure, complex early seral, species other than douglas fir, as well as forest health issues such as swiss needle cast or alder-dominated stand conditions.
- Strategy 1.5 expressly states herbicides should be utilized for certain purposes. This strategy is in the context of a Forest Resilience goal (as opposed to the Timber Production goal), so we suggest revising the strategy language to clarify how herbicide use will promote the resilience goal. Again, we understand that not every acre will have every strategy applied to it. But for a Resilience Goal such as this, we suggest modifying or adding the following to Strategy 1.5: “*Minimize use of herbicides in conservation areas (HCAs, RCAs) and drinking water source areas, utilizing herbicides to control invasive plants only when they negatively impact the desired complex forest structure development.*”

Climate Change Goal 2—related strategies:

- Strategy 2.2—this strategy should speak not just to the identification of areas but commit to how these areas would be managed once identified (i.e., state that they would be “*managed to maintain or improve their integrity*”). In addition, the strategy is framed in a protective lens (i.e., areas susceptible to / to protect from climate impacts). It should be modified to also include identification of areas that have advantages in improving resilience to climate change. This would include areas known to be of high value to aquatic species where longer rotations would be most likely to improve baseline stream flows and/or temperature over time.
- The above suggestion related to improving resilience to climate change (not just protecting certain areas) could be addressed by ODF adding another strategy or strategies to Goal 2. We suggest this. It could be crafted along the lines of prioritizing restoration of forested watersheds

as a climate adaptation strategy and managed in concert with Goal 5 on Restoration. This strategy should state that watersheds or subwatersheds with relatively high biodiversity and carbon potential would be managed for development of old growth forest characteristics (or longer rotations if located outside a Habitat Conservation Area). Specifically, ODF should include strategy language indicating the importance of water quantity / baseline flow in the context of climate resilience, and based on this, commit to identifying opportunity areas on the landscape for achieving improvement in water quantity (and quality / temperature) through longer rotation forestry. The VELMA model is directly relevant to a relative comparison exercise in this regard, and we would be willing to assist in this modeling work.¹

- Strategy 2.3—is this more appropriately tied to Goal 3 instead of Goal 2?

Carbon Goal 3—related strategies.

- As part of this Goal, ODF should include a strategy that creates and tracks the inventory of carbon in or on state forests (including annual estimates of flux / variation, in order to track trends, measure goal success). This would include standing carbon (trees, shrubs), and while perhaps harder to measure, some approach to tracking carbon stored in soils, down wood, and wetlands. It could also be synched with a method for tracking state forest contribution to carbon stored in wood products (which should be differentiated between short-term products with associated carbon loss timelines and long-term products).
- Related to the above, the FMP should contain a strategy for ODF and Board development of an objective (quantifiable level) for stored carbon tied to state forest lands, with related metrics and performance measures. We are concerned over existing data indicating declining trends in forest carbon on at least three of the state forest districts.
- Missing from existing strategies for Goal 3 (but related to Goal 2, Strategy 2.3—internal carbon price) is anything related to the financial side of carbon storage. ODF should include a strategy stating something along the lines of *“Identify and pursue viable opportunities to incent or convert stored carbon into revenue that could benefit the State Forest Division as well as counties, local governments, and taxing districts.”*

Restoration Goal 5—related strategies:

- Overall, strategy language should be incorporated into this goal (stand alone strategy or otherwise) that more specifically points to what values, attributes or objectives ODF is looking to restore, recognizing that these attributes may not be pursued or achievable across every acre. This would entail ODF informally assessing where the status quo is weak and where the greatest opportunities are for increasing the restoration of ecological processes or habitat types on state forest lands, and then more specifically mentioning them in a strategy.
- Strategy 5.2—given the recent Private Forest Accord agreement and underlying efforts (and partnerships) tied to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds as well as federal agency

¹ https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-09/documents/508_velma_fact_sheet_revised_6-21-16.pdf

collaboration, this strategy should be modified and made somewhat more specific. We suggest, *“Work with adjacent landowners to integrate partnership and funding opportunities aimed at developing and conducting restoration activities across ownership boundaries to maximize effectiveness. This includes incentives, programs, and partnerships related to aquatic habitat, roads, beaver and other ecological values promoted by the Private Forest Accord, Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, federal infrastructure or other funding, and state or federal species recovery plans.”*

- Strategy 5.3—clarify whether this is tree-recovery focused or species-recovery, or both. We suggest modifying the language to say, *“Prioritize restoration in areas with the highest potential to result in species recovery, habitat productivity and forest resiliency in alignment with management objectives.”*
- Strategy 5.4 is more applicable to Goal 1 (Forest Resilience), not Restoration. We suggest moving it there. For example, we question whether any management activity to reduce levels of insect and disease (as mentioned in this strategy) is a “restoration” treatment as opposed to a treatment designed to promote resilience of certain stands that are perhaps tied to a timber objective rather than a restoration objective. In addition to re-locating this strategy, we also suggest modifying it with an additional sentence, saying, *“Management thresholds for insect and disease response will vary based on landscape location and management objectives (e.g., post-fire logging will be restricted within dedicated conservation areas).”*
- Add a strategy to this goal that links to social and economic values. Specifically, a strategy should exist directing ODF to, *“track the funds, jobs, and economic benefits produced by restoration work tied to state forest lands and/or partnership efforts with adjacent landowners. Integrate this information into a common database that also contains information on these benefits stemming from silvicultural management activities (and related contracts), timber production, and recreation.”*

Wildlife Goal 6—related strategies:

We appreciate the robust attention given to these strategies. What seems most useful for strategies under this goal as well as Goal 9 (Aquatics & Riparian), however, is a clearer indication of what strategies are already effectively covered by the proposed HCP (and would be carried into the FMP if the HCP is adopted) versus those that are in addition to the HCP. We suggest stratifying and/or segregating strategies under this goal so as to clarify this.

Aquatic & Riparian Goal 9—related strategies.

We reiterate the above comment on stratifying or segregating strategies under this goal so as to clarify what will be covered by the HCP strategies, and what would be in addition.

- Strategies 9.3 and 9.4 seem to involve redundancy. We suggest that 9.3 be maintained as a strategy that speaks to natural disturbances (including landslides). The “maintain properly functioning landslide processes including sediment routing, large woody debris supply, and nutrient cycling” language currently in 9.4 could be moved into 9.3 if helpful. As for Strategy 9.4,

we suggest focusing this strategy just on “slopes that could fail due to canopy removal”. And as to that, we suggest crafting strategy language stating *“forest management will be designed to avoid these areas or avoid slope failure due to canopy removal, road, or other forest management work.”*

- Strategy 9.5—we feel enough information should already exist to identify the stream / habitat types mentioned in this strategy language on state forests as part of the FMP process (as opposed to after the FMP is adopted). Please clarify what more is needed or if / why this would not be possible up front in the FMP drafting. Also, we suggest either changing the word “prioritize” to “**protect**” or “**prioritize for protection**”. Finally, we suggest adding “**including lamprey**” to the current language on fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates.
- Strategy 9.7—we suggest modifying the language to state “Develop and foster partnerships **across ODF Divisions as well as with other ...**”. This would reflect the cross-boundary need and nature of much restoration work, and that ODF will likely be gaining capacity on this front related to the recent Private Forest Accord agreement. And, we believe a word is missing or the current language could be made less confusing by stating “... to plan **and** implement **aquatic habitat projects**, monitor aquatic habitats over time, and ...”
- Strategy 9.8—this strategy carves out a “no net loss” objective for wetlands on state forests. That sounds like mitigation language more appropriate for situations where wetlands may be impacted by development projects typical of private land situations. There seems little reason why wetland loss on state forests should occur. For a wetland-related FMP strategy, ODF should aim higher, remove the word “net”, and use the language of “... and ensure that no loss of wetlands occurs as a result of management activities. **Plan for and** allow for the creation of new wetlands over time.”
- Strategy 9.9—the objectives of TMDLs is to undo and cure water quality standard violations. This strategy should be modified to state “... coordination, **compliance**, and reporting.”

Soil Goal 12—related strategies:

Strategies for the soil goal should add the following

- Evaluate and minimize pesticide use that harms soil invertebrates and degrades soil health.
- As with the Aquatics & Riparian strategy input, the soils strategies should contain language stating *“forest management will avoid areas likely to cause slope failure or be designed to avoid slope failure due to canopy removal, road, or other forest management work.”*

Revenue Goal 13—related strategies:

As stated in the Goals section of these comments, the issue facing ODF and Oregon as a whole is a revenue issue related to two different but related business model challenges: (a) the County / local revenue issue and (b) the ODF state forest division revenue model issue. This FMP Goal currently relates to only one and should contain both a Part A and Part B. Strategies related to finding new revenue sources are relevant to both ODF and county / local governments, although the pathways and strategies needed to achieve new revenue may differ between them. We suggest revising the Goal language as

suggested earlier above. As to the strategy bullets here, we suggest adding: *“Evaluate the contribution state forest lands make to carbon sequestration, recreation, and drinking water sources in Oregon.”* Having this data would promote ODF’s ability to arrive at potentially new revenue sources based on connecting revenue sources with benefits ODF lands provide.

Transportation System Goal 15–related strategies:

The strategies tied to this goal are numerous, and while we appreciate the thoroughness, could likely be consolidated. In addition, lacking in these strategies is that the current state forest transportation system is vast and likely unsustainable in terms of maintenance costs consistent with ensuring consistency with water quality, aquatic, and other objectives. A strategy should exist (new strategy or incorporated within existing language) making a commitment to reducing road density on state forest lands and related transportation system management costs. This strategy could be focused on areas of high aquatic or conservation importance, including the proposed Habitat Conservation Areas. It need not come at the cost of over-exposing state forests to wildfire response needs.

Recreation, Education & Interpretation Goal 18–related strategies:

Recreation is a growing use and the REI program is a significant future opportunity area on state forest lands. The FMP should recognize the the diversity of recreation-related businesses and industries supported by activity on or natural assets derived from state forests–hunting, fishing, camping, running, (raves), and more. In addition to use, many recreational users are advancing project work that adds benefits to state forests and the public (trail infrastructure, clean-ups, other projects). Data related to who is using the forest lands, how much, where, in which ways, and what benefits are being produced, however, seems inadequate. We suggest adding the following to the existing strategies:

- Track recreational use on state forest lands and specifically track workforce, jobs, revenue, and economic benefits associated with recreation tied to state forests.
- Enhance recreation-related revenue sources and partnerships.
- Integrate recreation data (workforce, jobs, revenue, etc.) into a database that also tracks such information related to silvicultural management, timber, and restoration work.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and your ongoing work on the FMP effort.

Sincerely,

Brett Brownscombe,
On behalf of the Wild Salmon Center

Julia DeGraw,
On behalf of OLCV

Joint Water Commission



January 3, 2022

Mr. Bodie Dowding
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Subject: Public Comments on the Forest Management Plan for Western Oregon State Forests

Dear Mr. Bodie Dowding:

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) is the primary drinking water supplier for over 450,000 people in Washington County, Oregon and made up of four member agencies: the Cities of Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Beaverton, and the Tualatin Valley Water District. The JWC's water supply comes from surface water sources: the Tualatin River including its tributaries Sain Creek and Scoggins Creek, and the Middle Fork of the North Fork of the Trask River. In addition to diverting water directly from these sources, in the summer months the JWC uses water from storage supplies in Barney Reservoir, on the Middle Fork of the North Fork of the Trask River, and Scoggins Reservoir (Hagg Lake) on Scoggins Creek, a tributary of the Tualatin River.

Nearly twenty percent of the JWC's drinking water source area (DWSA) encompasses state forests. The JWC is most concerned with the upper Trask River watershed around Barney Reservoir, and the Upper Tualatin River watershed, especially the Scoggins Creek drainage. These areas are sensitive and vital resources, and the water quality in these areas impact the JWC's ability to provide drinking water to our customers.

Thank you for working with stakeholders and partner agencies to add Goal 10 to protect, restore, and maintain forest drinking water sources to your draft goals and strategies.

Please consider the following recommendations on Goal 10 as you develop the Forest Management Plan:

- 10.1.b – Establish no-harvest buffers around all water sources within DWSAs.
- Ensure at least a 35-foot equipment exclusion zone on seasonal small non-fish-bearing streams in DWSAs and manage land to prevent soil disturbance and retain ground and understory vegetation.
- 10.3 – Limit forest road development in source water areas, and continue to implement road maintenance BMPs to reduce erosion from forest management activities.
- Include DWSAs in district maps to highlight riparian protection zones.
- 10.4 – Institute water quality thresholds and monitoring that can be adapted as new techniques and data become available.
- 10.6 – Eliminate or reduce fertilizer and pesticide use in DWSAs, and if used, notify drinking water providers.
- 10.7 – Notify drinking water providers if fire chemicals are used in DWSAs.
- Include public drinking water systems in wildfire communications and post-wildfire water quality plan development.
- Recognize that forest health, especially soil quality, plays an import role in regulating water quantity in the watershed, and include a strategy that addresses water quantity as it is referenced in Goal 10.

General Manager

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Board of Commissioners

City of Hillsboro

John Godsey
David Judah
Deborah Raber

City of Forest Grove

Rod Fuiten
Carl Heisler
Peter Truax

City of Beaverton

Lacey Beaty
Mark Fagin
Allison Tivnon

Tualatin Valley Water District

Dick Schmidt
Jim Doane
Bernice Bagnall



- Provide metrics for strategies to allow for more substantive review and to be able to track progress.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Forest Management Plan Goals and Strategies. The JWC values our strong working relationship with the Forest Grove District that has supported high-quality and reliable drinking water supplies for decades. We would like to continue that strong partnership in order to protect drinking water supplies for future generations by working together to address water quality impacts associated with land management activities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Dorsey
Water Resources Manager
Joint Water Commission
150 E. Main Street
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Ellen Palmquist

From: SFCOMMENTS ODF * ODF <ODF.SFCOMMENTS@odf.oregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 3:50 PM
To: DOWDING Bodie T * ODF; Sylvia Ciborowski; WILSON Michael * ODF; Ellen Palmquist; KOLOMECHUK Cindy * ODF
Subject: FW: Don't let our forests go to waste!

FYI, feedback received outside survey on the Draft Strategies. Looks like it was generated by a email campaign form, which means we may have more coming down the line.

-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle Williams <team@speak4.co>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 2:00 PM
To: SFCOMMENTS ODF * ODF <ODF.SFCOMMENTS@odf.oregon.gov>
Subject: Don't let our forests go to waste!

December 17, 2021 @ 09:57pm
Don't let our forests go to waste!
Public Lands and Natural Resources

Dear Oregon.Gov,

I am writing to make sure that any long-term Forest Management Plan for Oregon State Forests is truly balanced in its goals and outcomes.

That means making sure that the plan protects the family-wage jobs and logging revenues that rural communities depend upon for schools, libraries and local services.

As the goals are set out today, the state would put huge swaths of Oregon's forests off-limits and make these lands more prone to wildfire. It would take away jobs and threaten rural economies. Why is it that only TWO of the 20 goals currently set out address economic outcomes? These lands are not State Parks, Wilderness areas or Wildlife Refugees, they are working forests that were deeded to the state for management!

Please adopt goals and strategies for a Forest Management Plan that keep our children and grandchildren in mind. Let's make sure that our forests and communities nearby are healthy and thriving decades from now.

Sincerely,
Michelle Williams

22066 SW Grahams Ferry Road,
Tualatin, OR 97062
michellecolewilliams@gmail.com
503-277-0940

Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan

Cultural Resources Goals & Strategies

Developed in coordination with the nine federally recognized Tribal governments of Oregon

Goal: In coordination with federally recognized Tribal governments of Oregon, provide access, availability, and enhancement of cultural resources and natural resources for their membership on State Forests¹.

Strategies

- Engage Tribal partners² in State Forests planning processes and provide opportunities for implementation of cultural and natural resources stewardship practices appropriate to location and habitat.
- Coordinate with Tribal partners to develop an ethnobotanical³ strategy that is adaptive to the effects of climate change and ensures self-sustaining populations of culturally significant species are abundant and available on State Forests.
- Collaborate with Tribal partners on native seed source recommendations that consider appropriate habitat in planting regimes, climate resiliency, and legacy seed source information that contributes to a storied landscape understanding⁴.
- Work with Tribal partners to develop and administer processes that facilitate unimpeded⁵ access, with protected allowances for their membership to access, utilize, and manage cultural and natural resources (e.g., cedar bark peeling, bear grass collection, etc.) on State Forests.

Goal: Take an inclusive and proactive approach to working with Tribes to identify, record, preserve, protect, and keep confidential⁶ culturally significant resources, including but not limited to archaeological and historic sites and objects considerations for human remains, historic artifacts, and real property.⁷

Strategies

- Develop and maintain relationships with Tribal partners to facilitate consistent information sharing and collaboration on state forest management activities which may affect cultural resources, including timber harvest and related activities, wildfire suppression and recovery, habitat restoration, etc.
- Develop a comprehensive and ongoing cultural resources survey and inventory strategy to increase our understanding of culturally significant archaeological, historical, and cultural sites and objects on State Forests and implement the strategy in coordination with Tribal partners over time.

¹ State Forests include all lands managed by the ODF State Forests Division.

² Tribal partners are representatives of one or more of the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon. ORS 182.162 - 168 defines state agencies relations with federally recognized Tribes in Oregon when an agency develops or implements programs that may affect Tribes.

³ The scientific study of the traditional knowledge and customs of a people concerning plants and their medical, religious, and other uses.

⁴ Within Tribal contexts, "Storied Landscape" refers to a multitude of intrinsically linked and deeply held understandings, relationships, and actions between indigenous cultures and the landscapes with which they interact throughout time, including but not limited to creation stories, landscape features and wildlife attributes that signal hunting, gathering, planting, and other seasonal use patterns.

⁵ Provide reasonable opportunity for access, considering public safety, infrastructure, and topographic constraints.

⁶ Includes culturally sensitive locations in SHPO and tribal databases, and places known by affiliated Tribes.

⁷ EO 96-30; EO 17-12; ORS 358.640 and 358.653, ORS 97.740 to 97.760; 358.905 to 358.955; and 390.235

Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan

Cultural Resources Goals & Strategies

Developed in coordination with the nine federally recognized Tribal governments of Oregon

- Coordinate with Tribal partners to identify Tribes that have direct ties to State Forests (by location, materials, knowledge, practice, etc.), determine the level of significance of archaeological, historical, and cultural sites and objects, and solicit recommendations for protection and preservation thereof.
- Increase internal and external cultural awareness, understanding, and accountability for cultural resources protection through regular training focused on prioritizing, recognizing, and protecting cultural resources.
- Utilize intergovernmental agreements⁸ with federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to facilitate cooperation, information, and cost sharing.

⁸ ORS 190.110, NHPA 106, ORS 358.653, OAR 736.050.0230

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No.: | 8 |
| Work Plan: | Fire Protection |
| Topic: | Bureau of Land Management |
| Presentation Title: | Western Oregon Operating Plan |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Mike Shaw, Interim Chief – Fire Protection Division 503-945-7204, Michael.H.Shaw@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the Board of Forestry (BOF) on the status of the Western Oregon Operating Plan (WOOP) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to provide base level fire protection on 2.3 million acres of The Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands and The Coos Bay Wagon Road commonly referred to as O & C Lands. The current WOOP expires on June 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection on 2.3 million acres of O&C lands in western Oregon managed by the Bureau of Land Management. In May 2019, a new five-year agreement, WOOP was signed and is effective July 2019 – June 2024. In this agreement, BLM is no longer eligible for large fire costs in Oregon’s funding system. Over the past 10 years, BLM large fire costs account for approximately \$10 million per year or 36% of ODF’s net large fire costs. The BLM has been paying the full cost of fire suppression, the actual costs for base fire protection and large fire cost, as required by the WOOP.

In July of 2020, the BLM removed approximately 55,000 acres from ODF protection in Klamath-Lake District. This action resulted in a reduction of ODF revenues by approximately \$195,000. Additionally, recent correspondence with the BLM suggests there is a desire to change the existing agreement to offer reduced costs for BLM for fire protection or possibly removing additional acres from the protection system.

BLM revenues into Oregon’s base level fire protection system are approximately \$10.5 million of the west side district’s total budget of \$41.9 million. If BLM removed all acres (2.3M) from Oregon’s protection system, it would place these acres under BLM fire protection and remove \$10.5 million from ODF’s budget, including a reduction in \$1.3 million in agency administration.

The BLM has consistently stated an interest in reducing their costs by half. This can be accomplished in a couple of different ways. The first is the BLM reduces acres from ODF protection and provides their own protection on those acres. Another option would entail ODF reducing the base preparedness cost for the BLM by considering in-kind services or other methods. The first option would create a different level of fire protection readiness and response on BLM protected acres due to the fact the BLM relies on the national system

and the second option would create a fund shift from the BLM to others within the traditional Oregon base funding model.

ODF and BLM leadership have been working through these and other potential solutions for the past few years to avoid the scenario under which BLM would establish its own protection system for some of its lands. Having two separate protection systems would be inefficient, add complexity to the operational environment in western Oregon, which has 14,000 miles of shared boundaries between ODF-protected and BLM lands, and result in fewer protection resources available throughout western Oregon (Attachment 1). BLM's preferred solution is renewed access to the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF) for large fire costs, which is administered by the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC). Large fire costs on ODF-protected lands are divided in equal parts between the OFLPF and the state's General Fund for the first \$20M of large fire suppression costs. Therefore, access to the OFLPF should be considered by state policymakers, including the Board of Forestry and EFCC, Governor's Office, and Oregon Legislature. Conversations with said policymakers are ongoing.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will continue conversations with BLM and executive leadership and bring potential solutions forward to the Board at a future meeting.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Executive Briefing Paper



Executive Briefing Paper

BLM / ODF / CFO / CFPA: Protection Agreement Current Status

Date: September 1, 2021
To: Jason Minor, Berri Leslie, Renee Klein, Annie McColaugh
From: ODF / CFPA

Background

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection on 2.3 million acres of Oregon & California Railroad (O&C) lands in western Oregon managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The previous Governor's office briefing on this topic is detailed in [Attachment 1](#).

[Attachment 2](#) highlights the BLM protected lands in brown on the map. [Attachment 3](#) provides the details on the state's efforts towards procuring appropriations through congressional delegation since our last briefing on this topic in February of 2020. Lastly, this language was placed in the [DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2022](#) (page 16): "**Fire protection: The Committee directs the Bureau to refrain from any actions that would withdraw the Bureau from its fire protection agreement with the State of Oregon.**"

Issues

Since our February 2020 briefing, BLM has been paying all bills as per required by our current actual-cost agreement (West Oregon Operating Plan) which is effective from July 2019 – June 2024. However, recent correspondence with BLM suggests that there is a desire to change the existing agreement to offer reduced costs for BLM for fire protection or possibly removing additional acres from the protection system. [Attachment 4](#) is a letter sent by BLM in June with specific timelines and expectations.

Expect changes this Fiscal year. BLM proposed new language in the WOOP that would be in effect this Fiscal Year. ODF has not signed proposed changes to the current WOOP, due to the added financial risks and ODF understands BLM's concern around their own budget authority. We expect BLM to reduce acres effective July 1, 2022.

Expect further changes to achieve alignment with BLM's Budget appropriation authority. BLM has made it very clear they will continue to reduce costs to align with their budget authority. Klamath acres were reduced in FY 2020.

BLM leadership values the partnership with the State of Oregon/ODF and has clearly communicated they are planning on their own alternative if ODF does not provide a long -term durable solution that reduces their cost to align with their budget authority.

Implications

BLM revenues into Oregon's base level fire protection system are approximately \$10.5 million of the west side districts total budget of \$41.9 million, or 25% of ODF's revenues for fire preparedness and prevention west of the cascades. If BLM removed all acres from Oregon's protection system, we would

have a \$10.5 million gap in our adequate level of protection, that includes a reduction in \$1.3 million in agency administration. Operationally, this reduction equates to the loss off the following west side district fire protection resources.

- 34 engines
- 125 fire fighters
- 23 fire line leaders
- 5 Wildland Fire Supervisors
- 4 Unit Supervisors
- 18 Dispatchers
- 4 helicopters
- 1 fixed wing aircraft

BLM has consistently stated that they are interested in reducing their costs by half, thus reducing our gap of current adequate protection funding by \$5 million or half the resources identified above. They would in turn provide fire protection on acres they remove. Given their communication about reducing costs, we would expect a different level of fire protection readiness and response (initial attack through large fire support) due to the fact they would be relying on the national system).

Further challenges to this issue are the reality that two different protection systems across the same checkerboard landscape would be inefficient. While this the obvious, there are numerable other risks associated with these changes to natural resources protected and downstream impacts to communities; and an increased risk to fire fighters (ground to aerial) with dispatch and response responsibilities changing on every mile of a fire in the O&C ownership. This is a financial issue with significant operational and safety concerns.

Aligned strategy forward

- Assure full awareness of the risks.
- Provide facts related to our understanding of BLM's position and implications for ODF. Barry Bushue, BLM State Director is available to visit with you/us on this topic.
- Develop timely strategy for addressing the challenge and agree on the communication and sequencing of the plan forward.

Impacts

- ODF budget/adequate level of protection/LO & GF costs (up or down).
- Relationships with Governor's Office, BLM, landowners, Legislature, Congressional Delegation, O&C Counties, community leaders, the public, etc.



Executive Briefing Paper

BLM / ODF: Protection Agreement Current Status

Date: February 24, 2020

To: Jason Minor

From: Doug Grafe

Background

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection on 2.3 million acres of Oregon & California Railroad (O&C) lands in western Oregon managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Issues

A temporary, one-year (West Oregon Suppression Agreement) was established for FY19 fire protection. Governor Brown's letter (**Attachment 1**) helped to secure this agreement. Unfortunately, BLM has expressed their intent not to pay approximately \$1.2 million in protection costs for this year. Note: this was the 2018 fire season, which was very complex. If BLM does not pay their bill, legal action will be taken. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has been involved with the agreement from the beginning, in preparation for this possibility given BLM's track record of not paying their fair share in past agreements.

In May 2019, a new five-year agreement (West Oregon Operating Plan) was signed and is effective July 2019 – June 2024. In both of these agreements, it is important to note that BLM is no longer eligible for large fire costs in Oregon's funding system. In a 10-year look-back, BLM large fire cost accounts for approximately \$10 million per year or 36% of ODF's net large fire costs.

In this agreement, BLM pulled out approximately 55,000 acres of protection in Klamath starting July 2020, reducing ODF revenues by approximately \$195,000.

BLM plans to remove additional acres in the northwest and possibly southwest by July 2021, translating to another \$2 million reduction in ODF revenues.

Implications

Ultimately, BLM's target is to reduce their protection cost to ODF from approximately \$9 million down to \$5 million by 2024. This reduces ODF protection on O&C lands down to about 1.2 million acres from our current 2.3 million acres of protection.

This creates many challenges, the primary being:

- Two different protection systems across the same checkerboard landscape is inefficient; and
- BLM would reduce protection capacity from what is offered now through ODF. *Does that mean the state will pick up that difference (additional General Fund and landowner cost), or will the state settle for less fire protection during a time of increased fire complexity?*

Resolution

A coalition is forming to seek resolution to this issue with a visit to Washington, DC March 30th – April 3rd, 2020, with a goal to establish funding in BLM's budget and reinforce policy language in O&C laws that ensures ODF is adequately funded to provide fire protection on these lands, including the Klamath acres. (**Attachment 2: existing policy language that authorizes ODF's current fire protection partnership**). The coalition at this time includes the following members:

- Forest Landowners: Pete Sikora - Gustina Resources, Brennan Garrelts - Lone Rock, and Cameron Krauss – Seneca Jones. There is significant concern on this topic from the private landowner community - they own lands bordering the O&C and understand the increased risk, less fire protection, and the redundant protection systems offer on this topic.
- O&C counties: David Yamamoto, Commissioner from Tillamook County, landowners, and counties are very closely aligned on this topic and have been driving the conversation to-date.
- Oregon Tribes: Matt Hill sits on the Intertribal Timber Council and will be joining the DC delegation to reinforce their position as detailed in **Attachment 3**.
- Forest Protective Association: Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA) District Manager Mike Robison, will represent Oregon's landowner forest protection associations.

Additional engagement includes:

- Congressional delegation: Landowners have outreached and have drafted a letter with signatures from Oregon's entire delegation seeking the stated goal (**Attachment 4**).
- Legislature: Peter and I have briefed the Tri-Chairs on the status of this issue. They are concerned and understand the risk to the protection system, and the potential added cost to GF and landowners if we maintain current protection standards. Senator Golden is considering an informational hearing on the topic and a letter from the Oregon legislature to accompany the delegation to DC (**Attachment 5**).
- Governor's Office: Matt Donegan has been outreached to by landowners as a consideration - representing the Governor's Office in his role with the wildfire council - to join the DC visit. Governor's Office engagement to date has been the previously mentioned and attached letter. ODF is requesting support and guidance on how to proceed from here and would like to participate in the visit to Washington, DC.
- BLM: If landowners agree, ODF will continue to scope the possibility of having Jose Linares, BLM Interim Director, participate in a DC visit if our agencies can align on the following talking points (to be determined at our 2/28/2020 meeting with Jose/Peter/Jason/Lena/Mike/me):
 1. O&C land is unique in BLM's protection responsibility nationally. O&C falls under a different land management mandate than the majority of BLM protected lands due to its high value timber lands.
 2. BLM does not have dedicated funds to pay for ODF's fire protection costs to maintain an adequate level of protection as identified in Oregon law.
 3. BLM plans to lower its funding for ODF fire protection from approximately \$9 million to \$5 million by removing over half of the lands out of ODF protection. BLM would then add fire protection resources to their protection system in this checkerboard landscape but not return to the total fire preparedness of \$9 million currently going to ODF.
 4. BLM does not wish to create its own protection system at this time but is forced to do so due to limited funding.

If this is BLM's stance on the matter, as ODF generally heard this from Jose at our recent meeting with him in Portland, then it could be beneficial to have Jose join the delegation to DC to show a unified front.



KATE BROWN
Governor

May 2, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Subject: Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Forestry Protection Agreement for Fire Prevention and Suppression on Western Oregon O&C Lands

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

As Governor of the state of Oregon, I urge you to maintain the important Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Protection Agreement for Fire Prevention and Suppression on Western Oregon O&C Lands administered by the BLM.

Oregon's forests are a compilation of land ownerships resulting from historical patterns of settlement and various Congressional actions. Currently, the ODF's Fire Protection program protects and maintains 16 million acres of private and public forest land, 2.3 million of which are administered by the BLM as Oregon and California railroad lands (O&C).

These O&C lands are part of a complete and coordinated wildfire protection system that has functioned successfully for over 100 years and includes fire prevention, fire detection, fire suppression, a readiness organization, support services, and administration.

Because O&C lands are tightly intermingled with high value private timber lands that ODF protects, granting singular agency protection responsibility to ODF remains the most effective and efficient option for wildfire management. Removing O&C lands from the protection system would create over 14,000 miles of jurisdictional boundaries, adding complexity to wildfire protection where we can ill afford it. Over the course of our 2018 fire season, ODF and its partners suppressed more than 1,000 fires and succeeded in containing 95% to less than 10 acres.

While our collaborative and innovative partnerships have proven effective and efficient, burned acreage in 2018 more than doubled the 10-year average. As the state of Oregon will undoubtedly experience more frequent and intense wildfire seasons, leveraging cooperative forest land management strategies has never been more imperative. I impress upon you the importance of maintaining our Agreement for Fire Prevention and Suppression to the safety and economic resiliency of rural communities across the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

KB:jm,kl



Adequate Level of Protection

*O&C statute 44 U.S.C. § 2604. **Rules and regulations generally; consultation and agreements with other agencies regarding fire regulations:** In formulating regulations for the protection of such timberlands against fire, the Secretary is authorized, in his discretion, to consult and advise with Federal, State, and county agencies engaged in forest-fire-protection work, and to make agreements with such agencies for the cooperative administration of fire regulations therein: Provided, That rules and regulations for the protection of the revested lands from fire shall conform with the requirements and practices of the State of Oregon insofar as the same are consistent with the interests of the United States.*

ORS 477 210: During the season of the year when there is danger of fire, every owner of forestland shall provide adequate protection against the starting or spread of fire thereon or therefrom, which protection shall meet with the approval of the State Board of Forestry.

Intertribal Timber Council



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Vernon Stearns, Jr., Spokane Tribe; Vice President Darin Jarnaghan, Sr., Coquille Tribe; Secretary Clarinda Underwood, Quinalt Indian Nation, Treasurer Timothy P. Miller, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa BOARD MEMBERS: D. Fred Matt, Confederated Salish & Kootenai; Cody Desautel, Confederated Tribes of Colville; Kevin Lane, Hoopa Valley Tribe; McCoy Oatman, Nez Perce; Dee Randall, San Carlos Apache Tribe; Chaaly Albert, Tanana Chiefs Conference; Edwin Lewis, Yakama Nation

MEMBER TRIBES

Afognak Native Corporation
 Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribe of Texas
 Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
 Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
 Chugachmiut, Inc.
 Coeur d'Alene Tribe
 Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
 Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw
 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
 Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
 Confederated Tribes of Colville
 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
 Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon
 Coquille Indian Tribe
 Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe
 Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 Forest County Potawatomi Community Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 Hoopa Valley Tribe
 Hualapai Tribe
 Kalispel Tribe
 Karuk Tribe
 Kawerak, Inc.
 Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
 Makah Indian Tribe
 Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
 Mescalero Apache Tribe
 Metlakatla Indian Community
 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
 Nez Perce Tribe
 Pauma Band of Mission Indians
 Penobscot Nation
 Pueblo of Jemez
 Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
 Quileute Tribe
 Quinalt Indian Nation
 Red Lake Band of Chippewa
 Round Valley Indian Tribes
 Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
 San Carlos Apache Tribe
 Sealaska Timber Corporation
 Seminole Tribe of Florida
 Skokomish Indian Tribe
 Southern Ute Indian Tribe
 Spokane Tribe
 Stockbridge-Munsee Community
 Tanana Chiefs Conference
 Tulalip Tribes
 Tule River Tribe
 Turtle Mountain Tribe
 White Earth Reservation
 White Mountain Apache Tribe
 Yakama Nation
 Yurok Tribe

February 10, 2020

William Perry Pendley
 Acting Director
 Bureau of Land Management
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street NW
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Pendley:

On behalf of the Intertribal Timber Council, I am writing to request your attention to a potential action by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") that would negatively impact wildfire protection for several Indian Tribes in western Oregon.

The ITC has serious concerns over the BLM's ongoing efforts to terminate a century-old fire management agreement in western Oregon. In particular we are concerned by the BLM's total lack of consultation with potentially affected tribes. We join Oregon's congressional delegation in their belief that BLM's misguided efforts would increase wildfire danger -- placing communities and timberlands of all ownership at unnecessary risk.

Federal recognition of western Oregon's tribes was terminated by Congress in 1954. Between 1977 and 1989, Congress restored recognition to five tribes: Confederated Tribes of Siletz; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Coquille Indian Tribe.

As recently as 2018, Congress has restored forest lands to ownership and management by these tribes. Congress carved approximately 50,000 acres from the federal estate -- specifically BLM lands in western Oregon. All these lands are part of a "checkerboard" ownership pattern that creates over 14,000 miles of jurisdictional boundary between federal, tribal, state, county and private timberlands.

For a century, the Oregon Department of Forestry ("ODF") and non-profit Forest Protective Associations have provided seamless fire protection for all landowners within this checkerboard. Western Oregon tribes strongly support continuation of this program to provide fire protection not only for tribal lands but for BLM lands within the checkerboard. In recent years, however, the BLM in Oregon has made clear signals that it intends not only to withdraw from the agreement with ODF but to also take federal taxpayer dollars to create a new, redundant fire agency without congressional authorization.

Such a departure from the existing agreement would severely impact western Oregon tribes. First, it could increase the vulnerability of tribal lands to fires from adjacent BLM lands. This is a national phenomenon that tribes deal with and Congress has provided numerous authorities to reduce this “spillover” effect on tribes. Second, BLM’s departure from the western Oregon fire agreement with other landowners could crater the entire agreement. This would be a costly scenario for tribes as well as the Department as a whole which has a trust responsibility to protect and manage healthy Indian forests.

The ITC urges the BLM to conduct formal government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes in western Oregon, explain its intention and consider tribal concerns before BLM takes any further action to withdraw from the western Oregon fire protection agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request on behalf of the Intertribal Timber Council.

Respectfully,



Vernon Stearns, Jr.
President

cc. The Honorable Tara Sweeney; DOI Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
The Honorable Ron Wyden; United States Senate
The Honorable Jeff Merkley; United States Senate
The Honorable Greg Walden; United States Congress
The Honorable Peter DeFazio; United States Congress
The Honorable Kurt Schrader; United States Congress
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
Coquille Indian Tribe
Jeff Rupert; Director, DOI Office of Wildland Fire
Bryan Mercier; BIA Regional Director

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 24, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

We are writing in regard to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) potential discontinuation of a century-old fire management agreement with the State of Oregon. We are concerned that if BLM's contract with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) for firefighting protection on Oregon and California lands is terminated, such action would increase wildfire risk to valuable natural resources and vulnerable communities.

The checkerboard ownership pattern of BLM forest lands in western Oregon is unique and creates over 14,000 miles of jurisdictional boundary between federal, tribal, state, county, and private timberlands. The complexity of managing fire situations in this area led to seamless protection by ODF and non-profit Forest Protective Associations (FPA) dating back to at least 1914. That successful arrangement continues to this day. Protection of these lands under one integrated protection system is the most efficient for all landowners.

However, in recent years, BLM staff in Oregon have reconsidered renewing fire funding agreements with ODF/FPAs. BLM has informed ODF that, beginning with the 2020 fire season, it will be withdrawing the 55,000-acre Klamath District from ODF's fire protection. We also understand that BLM does not plan to reimburse ODF \$1.2 million in cost difference between planned and actual costs for the 2018 fire season. We fear that these two actions combined indicate that BLM is on the path of withdrawing from the agreement and using federal taxpayer dollars to create a new, duplicative fire agency without congressional authorization.

Landowners, Indian tribes, and wildland firefighters are among those who dispute BLM's ability to provide an equivalent level of fire protection for a cost less than the current ODF/FPA agreement. BLM staff have indicated that they have modeled the cost and effectiveness of providing fire protection. We request that BLM provide ODF access to the model, including a full and open accounting of its analysis.

Even if BLM's model suggests they can provide adequate protection resources at a \$2 million savings to the current agreement, the total cost of fire suppression, public and private resource loss, property loss, and most importantly, risks to the safety and health of neighboring communities will likely eclipse these savings. BLM lands are interspersed with private lands and are in closer proximity to the rural residential interface. Therefore the increased risk of social and

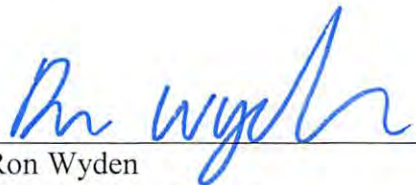
economic impacts could be significant in comparison to the cost savings the BLM hopes to achieve.

Congressional report language in the FY2020 Interior Appropriations bills signals Congress's concern over BLM's actions, stating: "The Committee is concerned that a departure from the existing agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry to provide fire protection services would neither be in the interest of lands managed by the Department in western Oregon nor the significant interspersed communities and other significant timberlands that are immediately adjacent to Federal lands and directs the Department to reevaluate its departure from the existing agreement to ensure there is seamless fire protection across Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands in western Oregon." We reinforce this guidance, and respectfully request that BLM discontinue its efforts to terminate its fire protection contract with ODF.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



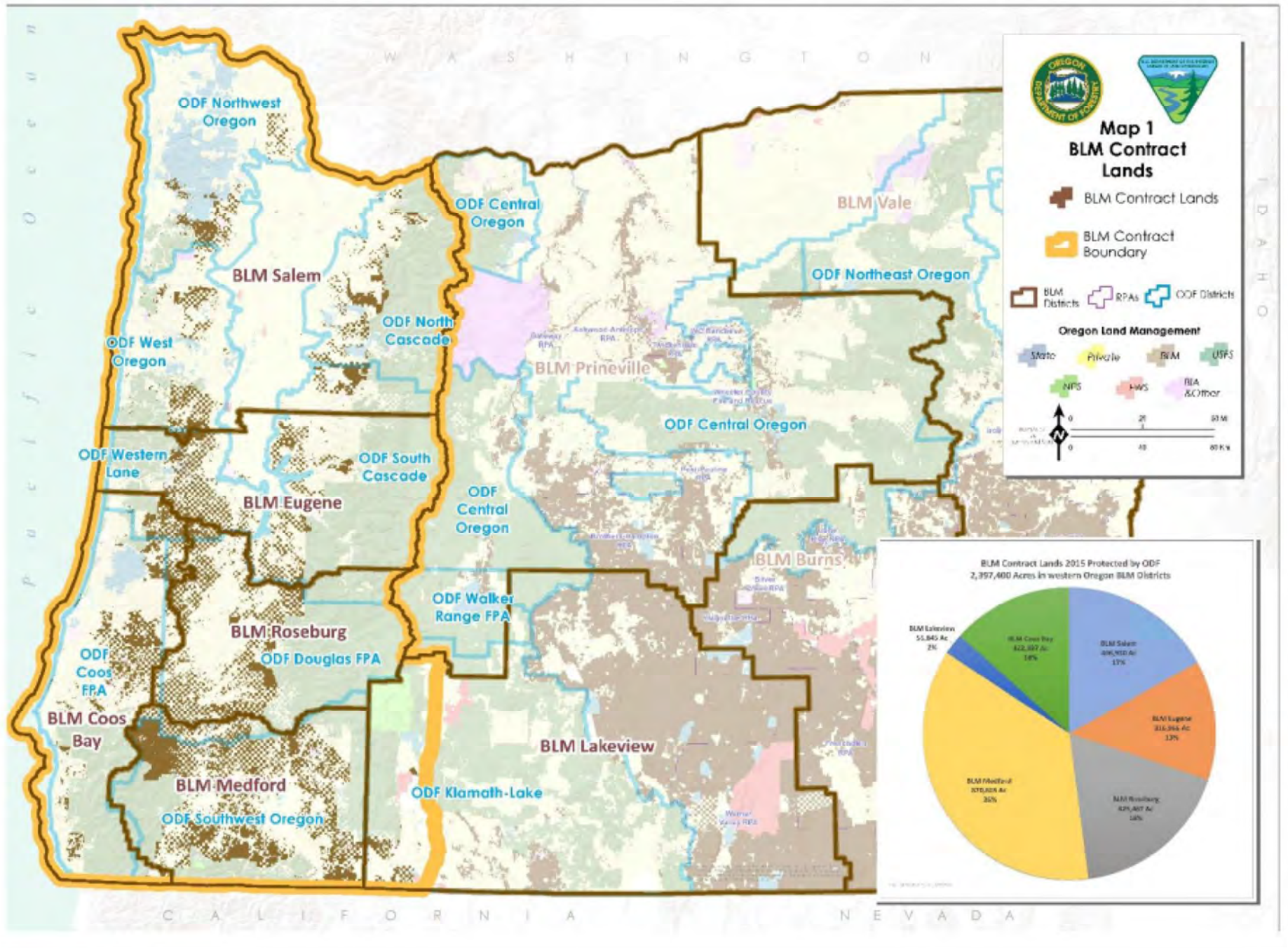
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress

cc. Governor Kate Brown





Oregon Programmatic Request Form for FY2021 Appropriations

Organization Information

- Requesting Organization:
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Contact's Name At Organization:
Doug Grafe, Chief of Fire Protection
- Contact's Email:
Doug.Grafe@Oregon.gov
- Contact's Phone:
(503) 551-5391 [mobile]

Program/Activity Information

- Subcommittee:
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
- Account:
USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon and California Grant Lands (O&C) or Permanent Operating Funds
- Program/Activity:
Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Initial Attack Services in Western Oregon: *NEW*
- Program Description: **ODF-BLM Wildfire Protection Partnership.**

A unique partnership exists between ODF and BLM, whereby preparedness and initial attack fire protection services are provided by ODF on a checkerboard pattern of land ownership across O&C, private, state, tribal and county lands in western Oregon. This checkerboard land pattern results in over 14,000 miles of shared boundary between the 2.3 million acres of O&C lands and other lands protected by ODF. To maintain operational and logistical efficiencies, these high-value timber lands have historically been protected by ODF.

Without adequate funding for BLM to pay for their fair and proportionate share of preparedness and initial attack fire protection services on these O&C lands, BLM is currently removing lands from Oregon's protection system.

This program funding request seeks to continue the long standing partnership between ODF and the BLM and to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system. Dedicated funding for this program will enable BLM to pay for the preparedness and initial attack fire protection services provided by ODF in a manner that is consistent with all other public land owners in Oregon's protection system.

Request for Program/Activity

- Program/Activity Funding Level Requested (if applicable):
\$10,000,000
- Program/Activity Report language requested (if applicable):
No report requested.
- Brief explanation of and rationale for the funding or language:

Wildfires are a major, and increasingly extreme, concern across the western United States. Financial investments toward this unique partnership is justified for the following reasons:

- (1) Western Oregon contains thousands of homes, critical infrastructure, high value timber lands, and other economic values estimated at \$40 billion;**
- (2) This region of western Oregon is home to critical Spotted Owl and Coho Salmon habitat;**
- (3) The rugged geography and thick forests in this region increase fire protection costs above the typical open range lands managed by BLM;**
- (4) ODF and BLM's century-long wildfire protection partnership increases collaboration and effectiveness that models federal, state and private partnerships to preserve natural resources and protect communities;**
- (5) The current agreement, known as the Western Oregon Operating Plan, has been funded out of BLM's base budget and under current budget constraints the local BLM region has expressed the need to reduce fire protection costs on these lands. Reducing fire protection preparedness costs is unacceptable across this intermingled landscape with Tribal, Private, State, and County partners. Reducing fire preparedness at a time of increased wildfire complexity across Oregon's landscape, would be a departure from a shared stewardship vision across all landowner partnerships in Oregon.**
- (6) To maintain operational and logistical efficiencies, the O&C's high value timber lands have historically been protected by ODF to avoid the unnecessary establishment of two fire departments with overlapping jurisdictional responsibility across 14,000 miles of shared boundary.**

Funding Information Regarding Program/Activity

- What was the program funding level included in the FY2020 enacted bill? **\$0**
- What is the program funding level requested in the President's FY2021 budget? **\$0**

** Note: We could not find a FY2021 Budget justification for BLM and Based this request on USDI Budget in Brief document. The USDI has a separate Wildland Fire Management Budget Justification and it may make sense to add the activity under the preparedness appropriations in that budget. We went with the BLM budget because of the nexus with **Oregon and California Grant Lands**.*



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208

blm.gov/or

June 8, 2021

Ms. Nancy Hirsch
Oregon State Forester
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Ms. Hirsch:

I am following up regarding the Western Oregon Operating Plan (WOOP) executive briefing held on May 28, 2021, between our two agencies.

I would like to thank you for participating in the WOOP workgroup in your previous role as the administrator of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee. As previously communicated to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) remains committed to our partnership and working together to find a sustainable model moving forward for fire protection in western Oregon.

During the executive briefing, there were several concepts collectively presented by the BLM and ODF as outlined in the enclosed WOOP briefing memorandum. Through our collective discussions, it was determined that we would move forward with the concept of Access to the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF) All Fires (No Exclusions) – With Severity. Under this concept, the BLM would be included in the OFLPF as all other landowners with suppression capped when the statewide extra fire costs reach \$20 million. In return, the BLM would allocate a fixed amount of funds toward the ODF's severity program.

Additionally, it was agreed that the ODF would continue to explore options that would lead to an overall cost reduction in the WOOP for the BLM. Including, but not limited to ODF's acknowledgement of the BLM's contributions to the State of Oregon's complete and coordinated system. An example of this is the 625,323 acres of the Department of State Lands (DSL) the BLM protects for no preparedness cost to the DSL—an estimated \$1 million contribution by the BLM toward Oregon's complete and coordinated system. Additionally, the BLM provides protection and/or assumes costs for millions of acres of unprotected or under-protected private lands in eastern Oregon. These in-kind offsets need to be considered in any plan moving forward.

Now that the BLM and ODF have collectively agreed upon a plan that would develop a sustainable model, we all also agreed that time is limited. This must be addressed through the development of an Implementation Plan and a separate, joint ODF/BLM Communications Plan. It was agreed that both plans would be reviewed and approved by the BLM and ODF no later than November 1, 2021, with a follow-up executive meeting on November 5, 2021.

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IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

* PARTIAL

AGENDA ITEM 8

Attachment 1

Page 14 of 15

The ODF should be considered the lead agency on both the implementation and communication plans, although BLM staff will participate and support as needed. The joint ODF/BLM Communications Plan will be developed by the ODF in collaboration with the BLM Public Affairs staff. This communication plan will outline how the Implementation Plan will be communicated to the Oregon State Legislature, landowners, and any other interested parties.

Although, we have the path mapped out, we must not forget about our commitments to execute our annual review and signing of the WOOP. Unfortunately, last year, there was no agreement on the annual review language which prevented the agencies from signing the annual review—a requirement of the WOOP. During our briefing, I communicated that it is the BLM's expectation that the 2020 WOOP modifications enclosed be included in the 2021 WOOP annual review updates. We understand that these changes may challenge the ODF's financial system, but we are confident that the ODF has the authority to allow the BLM to provide an administrative approval regarding the annual proposed budget as it relates to the BLM.

Our priority is to continue working with the ODF; however, if the BLM is unable to reach an agreement with the ODF this year on mechanisms for reducing costs incurred by both the BLM and the ODF, to include executing financial oversight over the WOOP, the BLM will be left with no other alternative but to reduce costs on its own. Currently, the only method of reducing our costs is to reduce acres subject to the agreement between the BLM and the ODF. However, after an encouraging executive briefing with the ODF regarding our current efforts and your new leadership, I am confident that the BLM will not have to execute our least preferred option.

Sincerely,

BARRY
BUSHUE

Digitally signed
by BARRY
BUSHUE Date:
2021.06.08

Barry R. Bushue
State Director
Oregon/Washington

Enclosures (2)

cc:

Grant Beebe
Assistant Director
Fire and Aviation Directorate
3833 S. Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83075

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No.: | 9 |
| Work Plan: | Administrative |
| Topic: | Macias, Gini & O'Connell (MGO) Recommendations |
| Presentation Title: | Draft Board Policy Concepts for Financial Oversight |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration (503) 945-7203 bill.herber@odf.oregon.gov Sabrina Perez, Senior Strategy Manager (503) 945-7311 sabrina.perez@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The Department will continue discussions from the January 2022 meeting related to draft policy concepts for consideration in defining the Board's financial oversight.

CONTEXT

Previously, the Department presented results of an independent external review of the agency's financial management structure and processes related to wildfire costs as conducted by MGO and an accompanying Implementation Management Plan developed to address the recommendations. The 2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget provided additional capacity to implement the recommendations and funding to further engage MGO in direct technical assistance and reporting.

MGO's recommendations were incorporated into the Board's Administrative Work Plan as a key topic to include continued refinement of the Implementation Management Plan and regular reporting intervals planned throughout the biennium to keep the Board apprised of progress on milestone deliverables and full implementation of the recommendations.

One of the recommendations in MGO's report, #16, included the Board establishing formalized policy and procedures related to financial oversight of the Department, including clear definition of reporting requirements. The Department presented a review of recommendation details, initial policy concepts, and a discussion guide during the Board's January 2022 meeting; and are returning in March with a potential direction for policy development that incorporates the feedback heard in January.

BACKGROUND

In late 2019, Governor Kate Brown established the Forestry Financial Oversight Team to support the Department of Forestry in the financial management of increasingly complex and expensive wildfire season costs. The Team pursued two primary tasks: 1) hire an independent contractor to provide recommendations for structural changes to expedite and standardize the processing of financial transactions associated with wildfire costs, and 2) evaluate options for a financial structure and cash flow management system that recognizes the reality of seasonal borrowing to support wildfire response.

Macias, Gini, & O'Connell LLP (MGO), a CPA and advisory firm, was hired by the Department of Administrative Services to perform a review and assessment of the Department of Forestry's (ODF) fire finance operations, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, and district fire budgeting. Once this work was completed, MGO presented a final report to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources, on May 5, 2021. MGO's report highlighted 28 observations and recommendations in the five original areas of concern: budgeting, financial resources, information technology, oversight, and policies and procedures. Within this report were management responses from ODF executive leadership, developed through collaboration with leadership throughout the organization.

These responses proposed plans of action to mitigate the risks identified by MGO and initiated efforts to define sequenced implementation to operationalize the recommendations.

From preliminary work with MGO, and further development upon receipt of the final report, ODF developed a comprehensive Implementation Management Plan consisting of key deliverables and actions necessary for the agency to mitigate risk, implement structural changes, and refine financial processes to reflect the reality of increasingly large wildfires. It is anticipated this plan will have multiple iterations as each recommendation progresses through a lifecycle of cascading refinement in planning, and milestone achievements are accomplished. Additional funding provided to ODF through its 2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget included a budget note to continue the contractual relationship with MGO to provide direct implementation, technical assistance, oversight, and reporting.

This agenda item continues the discussion relative to development of a policy on the Board's financial oversight as defined in MGO Recommendation #16. Attachment 1 explores the recommendation details providing background on the agency and board policy constructs and a history of financial reporting. Attachment 2 is draft policy concept for the board's consideration that addresses the recommendation by MGO, incorporates feedback heard during the January meeting, and clarifies expectations for the Department's consistent reporting of financial information.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item; however, Department staff are seeking feedback on the concept presented to inform the next iteration of development.

NEXT STEPS

Department staff will incorporate feedback received from the Board into a subsequent presentation on the Board's financial oversight.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Board of Forestry Financial Oversight Policy | Background and History of Financial Reporting
- 2) Draft Policy Concept – ODF Agency Policy on Financial Oversight of the Board of Forestry

Board of Forestry Financial Oversight Policy | Background and History of Financial Reporting Implementation of MGO Recommendation #16

MGO Assessment Findings and Observations

Macias, Gini, & O'Connell, LLP (MGO) provided an independent third-party assessment of the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) current Accounts Receivable (AR) and Accounts Payable (AP) practices. The objective of the engagement was to review, reconcile, evaluate, and make recommendations on ODF's AR and AP functions, policies and procedures, processes involving federal requirements for submission of claims and reimbursements, and the AR and AP statutory policy structure. The scope of the engagement included activity occurring during the period of July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2020. MGO's assessment highlighted 28 observations and recommendations in five areas of concern: budgeting, financial resources, information technology, oversight, and policies and procedures. The observations fall into three risk categories (based on severity and impact to operations), with 12 in the high category, 12 medium, and 4 in the low.

MGO Recommendation #16 - Board of Forestry Financial Oversight

Recommendation #16 is related to oversight and has a medium risk. MGO observed the risk based on review of the Board of Forestry (BOF) meeting minutes and respective bylaws, where the Board has a statutory responsibility to oversee the expenditures incurred by ODF; however, the reporting of finance related activities to the Board was limited and inconsistent. MGO described the impact of insufficient reporting of financial information to the Board of Forestry could result in lack of adequate oversight and transparency relative to the overall financial position of the agency. MGO recommended that formalized policies and procedures should be established by the Board of Forestry related to financial oversight of ODF, including clearly defining the reporting requirements of ODF to the BOF.

MGO's assessment report included several financial schedules attached for reference including detailed cash flow projections by fund type, accounts receivable aging reports, a fire season accounting of accounts payable, details on fire recoveries, and fire season cost estimates.

Board and Agency Policies

ODF is an executive branch agency within the state government enterprise, required to follow the same policies as other state agencies, but allowed to create enhanced policy standards and associated procedures specific to ODF. This tiered approach to state government policy places [federal law](#) requirements at an overarching level, [Oregon Revised Statutes](#) as state law, further implemented by [Oregon Administrative Rules](#), guided by application of the [Department of Administrative Services statewide policies](#) including the [Oregon Accounting Manual](#) and then subsequently followed by internal ODF policies, directives, procedures, and guidance. MGO considered the statewide policies in effect and made several recommendations as to additional policies and procedures the Department of Forestry should establish or revise to mitigate risk in AR and AP practices related to fire finance.

The Department of Forestry has approximately 177 agency policies and directives spanning all areas of department business while the Board of Forestry currently has one Board policy focused on Board Governance. Commonly, the Board has defined their policy statements through Oregon Administrative Rule and associated documents; however, the creation of Board or Department internal policy is another mechanism available for establishing standards, roles, and responsibilities, if desired. Board policies are approved by the Board along with any associated supporting documentation through the Board's regular business meetings and biennial work plans. Agency policies are approved by the State

Forester or designee along with any detailed instructions, procedures, guidance, or other supporting documents associated with these policies reviewed and approved throughout the organization.

The Board of Forestry's [July 2020 Board Governance](#) policy states that it is the policy of the Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) to have a set of bylaws to direct and clarify its actions, procedures, and organization, which include expectations of the members. The policy further states that the Board will establish written documentation for Board processes and procedures developed to execute its statutory responsibility. Authorities for this policy are found in [Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 526](#), [Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 629](#), and the [2015 Governor's Membership Handbook for Oregon Boards & Commissions](#).

History of Financial Reporting to the Board

The Board first requested regular updates on the Department's financial status in 2011 and began receiving periodic reports in January 2012. These early financial reports were delivered on a quarterly basis and included a detailed view of the Legislatively Adopted Budget, funding and FTE, revenues received compared to projected biennial revenues, expenditures compared to biennial budget, cash account balances, timber harvest tax revenues over the last eight biennia, and fund balance projections for the State Forests Forest Development Fund. The report was modified in 2014 to include summaries of the prior season's large fire costs, associated cost recoveries and the catastrophic insurance deductible. By 2018, the large fire cost figures included in the report spanned multiple fire seasons while awaiting recovery.

Throughout 2019, conversations with the Board and executive staff indicated the financial reporting was not explicitly recognizing issues with large fire cost expenditure limitation or cash availability and not providing relevant, real-time situational awareness for the Board. In 2020, a renewed financial report was developed and provided to the Board on a monthly basis. The renewed report outlined the current state of finances and occasionally other administrative efforts such as budget process, audits, or various data metrics on the financial health of the department. Each month the report was a little different but focused on key topics within the department at that time within financial administration. This reporting coincided with a similar monthly report provided to the Legislature and Governor's Forestry Financial Oversight Team throughout 2020 and 2021.

In late 2021, an effort was made to remove redundancy and combine these reports into a single monthly financial condition report for all interested parties. This version of the financial report is currently used and includes cash and general fund balances, financial projections, accounts receivable, accounts payable, large fire costs, and a regular update on MGO implementation.

Financial oversight of the Board has been a key issue defined in the Board's Administrative Work Plans since 2012 with reporting intervals defined and approved by the Board on a biennial basis.

Draft Policy Concept - ODF Agency Policy on Financial Oversight of the Board of Forestry

Policy Statement

The Department of Forestry's policy is to provide the Board of Forestry with consistent reporting of financial information. This policy's purpose is to ensure the Board has the information required to fulfill their statutory responsibility in financial oversight.

Responsibilities and Standards

The State Forester and Deputy Director for Administration are responsible for the Department's presentation of financial results to the Board of Forestry.

I. Financial Reporting

The Department shall:

- 1) Provide the Board with information on the Department's financial performance which includes quarterly agency actuals to budget and financial statements including performance indicators relevant to financial position, operations, and cash flows.
- 2) Provide the Board with comparative views of the Department's current financial performance as compared to that of previous years, and projections on how its financial future appears.
- 3) Prepare financial reports for board review adhering to the level of detail, frequency, deadlines, and distributions of the reports defined by the Board.
- 4) Adhere to financial reporting intervals as defined through the Board's biennial work plan.
- 5) Provide the biennial agency request budget, annual forest protection district budgets and rates, and annual risk assessment for the Board's review.

II. Financial Policy and Procedure

The Department shall:

- 1) Ensure policies and procedures for financial transactions are documented, reviewed, and updated.
- 2) Ensure agency employees are operating within approved policies.
- 3) Ensure approved financial policies and procedures are being followed.

III. Financial Planning

The Department shall:

- 1) Engage the Board in strategic financial planning and decision making.
- 2) Set long range financial goals along with strategies to achieve them.

IV. Financial Management

The Department shall:

- 1) Manage the agency in an efficient and effective manner according to best practices.
- 2) Evaluate and recommend trainings designed to support board members in fulfilling their financial oversight roles.
- 3) Ensure that the agency has sufficient cash on hand to pay its operating expenses.
- 4) Seek and provide resources necessary to support the Board's assessments and review of the agency's financial performance, adherence to approved policies and procedures, and effectiveness in management.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Agenda Item No.: | 10 |
| Work Plan: | Overarching and Emerging Issues Work Plan |
| Topic: | Forestry Program for Oregon Revision |
| Presentation Title: | Forestry Program for Oregon Revision |
| Date of Presentation: | March 9, 2022 |
| Contact Information: | Ryan Gordon, Planning Branch Director 503-945-7393, Ryan.P.Gordon@odf.oregon.gov John Tokarczyk, Planning & Analysis 503-745-7414, John.A.Tokarczyk@oregon.gov Danny Norlander, Forestry Climate, Carbon, and Health Analyst 503-508-3797, danny.norlander@odf.oregon.gov |

SUMMARY

The Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) was first developed and approved by the Oregon Board of Forestry in the mid-1970s. Since that time, it has gone through a series of revisions reflective of a broader shift in societal considerations, regionally and globally, with the role of forestry in Oregon. Initially a consideration of timber supply in the state, the FPFO has expanded to include the ecological, social, and economic dimensions of forestry. The previous two iterations centered on the Montreal Process and its criterion and indicators as the core framework of the FPFO. The ecological and social landscape is rapidly changing with emerging threats (e.g., drought, heat events, increasing wildfire) to forests and communities driven primarily by climate change, which is creating a greater reliance on forest benefits and services. This revision of the FPFO will seek to address the following needs:

- More holistic integration of the role Oregon’s forests play in adaptation and mitigation to climate change, as well as the dynamic impacts of climate change on communities and forest health;
- Comprehensive recognition of the increasingly complex social and economic pressures impacting management decisions and the forestry sector;
- Development and establishment of reliable and responsive indicators and metrics to inform planning and agency action; and
- Refinement of the relationship between Board planning and agency action.

This is an informational item. There will be a level-setting workshop in early April, followed by a decision at the April Board meeting to move forward with a framework to revise the FPFO.

CONTEXT

The Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) is the guiding element and articulation of strategic planning for the Oregon Board of Forestry. Substantively, the FPFO identifies the vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives of the Board. These components guide the Board’s policies and priorities, which in turn directs the Department on matters of operational focus, intent, and action. Beyond the department, the FPFO informs other government, forest and resource owners, partners, stakeholders, and the public of the

Board's vision and agency focus. As the FPFO also establishes the guiding focus for board consideration, dynamics, and action.

A fundamental priority and guiding principle of the FPFO is the perpetuation of vibrant forests and continued realization of ecological and social benefits. Development of a strategic plan that realizes this interest is challenged by holistic physical and social disruptions presented through climate change. Climate change has presented threats and uncertainties in terms of future conditions, management assumptions, drought, disease, and fire. Beyond climate, the evolution of the forest sector and technology, along with the divergence in social and economic values has resulted in a change to the forest-centered social compact once known in Oregon. Various values and beliefs are challenging agreement over practices, priorities, expectations, and resource valuation. Collectively, these factors have introduced extreme uncertainty into the management and policy arenas. Functionally, governance, guidance, and valuation of Oregon's forests is a panarchy of intertwined ownerships, organizations, partners, beneficiaries, institutions, and legalities that can challenge agreement on key policy and management decisions.

Revision of the FPFO will endeavor to reflect these challenges in a manner that fulfills the strategic planning requirements of the board, provides policy direction to the agency, and informs governance bodies of the holistic vision that reflects the adaptation, mitigation, and social needs of Oregon's forests.

The department and the Board have accepted a definition of climate-smart forestry that includes three legs: adaptation, mitigation, and the social dimension (including communities and economic aspects). Building the Forestry Program for Oregon around this stool will help the Board and department align on climate policy. It also helps to align state work with its federal counterparts, which have been directed to center climate-smart agriculture and forestry in their own work and processes.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

For reference, much of the background information and agency vision around climate change policy is contained in the Climate Change and Carbon Plan, which the Board approved in November 2021. The FPFO will look to follow climate-smart forestry as the foundational framework for this revision of the FPFO and can be summarized as follows:

- First, let's consider that the Board has identified sustainable forest management as a key principle in the previous iterations of the FPFO. Climate-smart forestry has been built out of sustainable agriculture and links with previous efforts to build criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, like the Montreal Protocol. Adaptation is an increasingly important component of sustainable forest management. Forest ecosystems have crossed thresholds – changes that are unlikely to be reversed. Society sees this through more extreme events, such as longer and more severe fire seasons, and a megadrought not seen since the dark ages (roughly 1200 years ago). These impacts do not spare any management approach or landowner. Adaptation policy can help guide the forest sector toward more resilient landscapes that are less susceptible to unpredictable events.

Changing the forest structure, different management approaches, and incentivizing efforts to incorporate climate change into management decisions will be key. Additionally, providing tools that help forest landowners and managers assess their vulnerability to climate change can have broad benefits. While the Board focuses on aspects related to forestry, partnering with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry members can result in larger public benefit. The department can also participate in larger efforts like the Statewide Climate Adaptation Framework and vulnerability assessment projects being driven by the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

- The second leg of the stool is mitigation. To reach internationally accepted targets (global temperature rise less than 1.5°C) to limit catastrophic impacts from climate change, the global population will need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as well as work on adaptation measures. Natural climate solutions like forests, agricultural lands, and blue carbon all offer options to increase this mitigation through biologic sequestration. Forests, especially those on the west side of the state, are widely regarded as being highly capable ecosystems for this needed sequestration. Policy approaches and levers that can be utilized include incentivizing practices to increase stored carbon in the forests, reducing emissions from forest activities (e.g., limiting slash burning and increasing alternative slash use), among others. The recent Private Forest Accord work will increase carbon sequestration in some riparian areas, though the scope and scale of this work are not currently known. The incorporation of carbon finance into the suite of forest product considerations can also increase sequestration. While there is a multitude of options to consider, their impact on the other legs of the stool and the statutory authorities of the Board may provide barriers to widespread policy implementation efforts.
- The last leg of the stool, the social dimension, is bifurcated. Made up of communities and economies, this social aspect of climate-smart forestry considers the impacts of adaptation and mitigation action on people, personal and community health, and community and rural economies. Utilizing climate-smart forestry to create healthy, resilient forests that also provide ecosystem and economic benefits can help lift disadvantaged, underserved, natural-resource dependent, and those living with intergenerational poverty. Climate-smart forestry principles can be applied to actively manage forests to achieve adaptation and mitigation goals. This adaptive management will require a scene change from past management and there are opportunities for increased partnership with both public and private entities, as well as community-based organizations and reaching the people that they serve.
- Sitting atop the three-legged stool are the statutes, rules, and authorities the Board has for setting forest policy. Analysis of these statutes by the Oregon Department of Justice indicates the Board has broad policy-making discretion related to forestry. The FPFO provides the Board's policy direction for the department. It is incumbent on the department to implement the policies set out by the Board. The incorporation of metrics in the FPFO will help to track progress in meeting the Board's goals and objectives.

NEXT STEPS

As mentioned above, there will be a level-setting workshop in April to help the Board start to gain insight into the broad landscape that is forestry in Oregon. This will be followed by a decision point for the Board at the April meeting and then an intensive set of small working sessions to consider the various aspects of an FPFO revision through the climate-smart forestry framework.

Draft Timeline

March 2022:

Brief introduction on process and outcomes; includes a proposed framework for the next generation of the FPFO.

April 2022:

Level-setting workshop on current and future forestry in Oregon
Decision point on framework moving forward.

May 2022:

Begin stepwise development of the FPFO aligned with the proposed framework.

June to August 2022:

Implementation of workgroup engagement; five workgroups include:

- Governance,
- Adaptation,
- Mitigation, and
- Social Dimension groups on Community and Economies.

September 2022 to January 2023:

Initial development of proposed desired metric categories.

October Retreat 2022:

Finalization of the FPFO's core components: Mission, Vision, Purpose, Objectives and Goals and Principles

January 2023:

Finalization of the draft Adaptation, Mitigation, Social sections.

March 2023:

Acceptance of the final draft of the FPFO and direction moving forward.

April to September 2023:

Final development of indicators and the Department implementation process.

ATTACHMENT *[as applicable]*

- 1) Policy Pathways – A Historical Perspective of the Forestry Program for Oregon

POLICY PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY—A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

*Prepared for the
Oregon Department of Forestry*

By: James E. Brown
Oregon State Forester, 1986-2003
Jim Brown Consulting Forestry, LLC

Edited by: Jim Fisher

July 2013

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Table of Contents

| | Page |
|---|-----------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | IV |
| FINDINGS AND LESSONS LEARNED | 1 |
| HISTORY OF THE FPFO’S | 4 |
| 1977 FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR OREGON—TIMBER SUPPLY TODAY AND TOMORROW..... | 4 |
| 1982 FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR OREGON: AN ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE EIGHTIES | 8 |
| 1990 FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR OREGON | 11 |
| 1995 FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR OREGON | 12 |
| 2003 FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR OREGON | 14 |
| 2011 FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR OREGON: A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINING OREGON’S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FORESTS | 18 |
| SUMMARY | 24 |
| EPILOGUE | 25 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 27 |
| ATTACHMENTS | 31 |
| Attachment 1 ORS 526.016 and .041 describing the general duties of the Board of Forestry and the State Forester, respectively..... | 33 |
| Attachment 2 Eric Allen, 1972, editor Medford Mail Tribune editorials..... | 35 |
| Attachment 3 Montreal Process: Oregon’s Role in the Global Effort. | 37 |
| Attachment 4 Carl Newport’s Summary of Findings and Conclusions; and Conclusions and Recommendations. | 47 |
| Attachment 5 Executive Summary of Issues Chart Summarizing Bob Chadwick’s report. | 55 |
| Attachment 6 Davis, Hibbitts, & McCaig conclusions and observations about Oregonians preferences for a balanced approach to forest management..... | 57 |
| Attachment 7 Oregon’s Statewide Forest Assessment 2010 schematic diagram..... | 67 |
| Attachment 8 Oregon Department of Forestry/Board of Forestry historical planning hierarchy..... | 69 |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kevin Birch, current director of the Forest Resources Planning Program, recognized the importance of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* documents. Over the past 36 years, these documents have provided an important policy base for the work of the Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry. Kevin recognized the need to capture the historical memory of the processes and information used to complete the six *FPFO*'s to date. Therefore, he commissioned the writing of this document "*Policy Pathways to Sustainable Forestry—A Historical Perspective.*" Many people contributed to this document by helping scope the project and then reviewing and commenting on the draft document. In alphabetical order they were: Mike Beyerle, Kevin Birch, Jim Fisher, Gary Lettman, Ted Lorensen, Janet McLennan, David Morman, and Dave Stere. All of these people were personally involved in writing or helping write one or more of the six editions of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. Their review and comment on the draft document were extremely helpful. Dan Thorpe researched the Medford Mail Tribune archives and found the two Eric Allen editorials used in this paper. Sharon Martin formatted the document and brought the attachments into the document. A special thanks to Jim Fisher for bringing reviewer comments into the document and editing it.

POLICY PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY—A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Findings and Lessons Learned

In 1911 the Oregon Legislative Assembly established the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Under ORS 526.016 the general duties of the Board include: “supervise all matters of forest policy and management under the jurisdiction of this state...” ORS 526.041 states in part that the general duties of the State Forester, under the general supervision of the Board of Forestry include: “(4) Collect data relative to forest conditions; and (9) Publish such information on forestry as the forester determines to be in the public interest” [Attachment 1]

The Board and the State Forester have approached these statutory requirements in different ways during the last 100 years [*Fisher: Honoring a Century of Service: The Centennial History of the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Forestry—1911-2011. Oregon Department of Forestry*].

In 1972, Eric Allen, the highly respected editor of the *Medford Mail Tribune*, wrote two editorials criticizing the Board of Forestry for failing to provide leadership on forest policy issues facing the state [Allen: “Forest Policy: Fox and Chickens”. *Medford Mail Tribune*, May 21, 1972 (Attachment 2A), and “Worrying About Oregon’s Forests”. *Medford Mail Tribune*, August 26, 1972 (Attachment 2B)]. Issues cited by Allen included timber supply and other resource values important to the public.

Following the second editorial by Allen, there was an exchange of correspondence between State Forester Ed Schroeder and Allen pertinent to Mr. Allen’s interpretation of what should be the Board’s involvement in forest resource concerns. Allen indicated that, in his opinion, the Board had a major responsibility to respond to the total resources in Oregon as they applied to the present, near future and long-range economics. The four specific points that he mentioned in his letter were assessment, finding remedies, leadership, and administration.

At the same time the USDA Forest Service had completed timber supply studies indicating that nationally and regionally, timber supply would dwindle as forests were converted from old-growth to second-growth timber. There also was a growing public concern over the impact of timber harvesting on other forest values. The forest inventory data from the federal studies were fairly general and not amenable to breaking down the information into state or sub-state regions. As a result, there was considerable controversy over timber supply projections and the impact of timber harvesting on other resource values.

Before State Forester Schroeder presented his recommendations to the Board for a major Department effort to address the issues raised by Editor Allen, he held an evening dinner

meeting with key staff. After outlining his proposed plan, he sought and obtained a commitment from staff to accept the assignment of making the study of Oregon's forests with the increased workload it would demand.

After the Board approved the State Forester's plan for the study in 1973, the Department responded to Editor Allen's editorials by forming a Department team within a Forest Resources Planning Program. This team would collect and analyze data about Oregon's forests and formalize the process for developing and communicating Board policies to the public.

The report prepared by the Department and adopted by the Board was titled the *Forestry Program for Oregon* or *FPFO* and published in 1977. While the process developed has been followed over the past 36 years, it has become more sophisticated. It has evolved from looking at timber supply to evaluating Oregon's forests against a set of state criteria and indicators that evolved from the Montreal Process [Attachment 3].

In looking back at the development and evolution of the *FPFO*, there are several lessons that have evolved through six editions of the document. In summary they are:

- Developing the *FPFO* is a tedious process but has proved to be of great value to the Department and the Board. Significantly, the process harmonized the thinking of the Board of Forestry and the Department. However, to be successful, the following factors must be addressed:
 - There must be strong leadership by Department executives to keep the Board and the Department focused on gaining participation from all involved parties, public and private, in updating future *FPFOs* and in administering the current *FPFO*.
 - Department staff needs to help keep the Board informed of changing issues as they occur and to provide an orientation for new Board members on the statutes that guide them, agency programs and budgets, public opinions and values, and a history of the *FPFO*.
 - Recent assessments and work on the Board's Indicators of Sustainability have made it clear that partnerships with other state and federal agencies and Department staff are needed to provide the information to credibly update the forest assessment and the *FPFO*.
 - Having dedicated resources planning staff is key to credibly executing the Board's and the State Forester's responsibilities under ORS 526.016 and 526.041.
- Staff conducted assessments of Oregon's forests, i.e. knowing the facts about Oregon's forests, is essential to deriving good public policy. In doing so, large data gaps for non-timber resources must be overcome.
- Using public opinion surveys, to understand public knowledge and beliefs/values, are helpful to sort through the many and varying opinions about how to manage Oregon's forests.

- Various public participation formats (focus groups, town hall meetings/Board work session, and public testimony) are important to engage the public and result in a stronger, more relevant document. However, public input should help inform Board decisions, not form Board decisions.
- Using facts about Oregon’s forests, public opinions, and public input provides a foundation for Board debate about the vision for Oregon’s forests. This debate is essential to finding the public interest. However, there are several confounding factors that must be overcome:
 - Those interested in Oregon’s forests have not come together on a vision for Oregon’s forests and generally are not willing to listen nor are they willing to look for mutually beneficial solutions. There is a need for an improved, shared understanding by all parties about the linkages among the environmental, economic, and social aspects of forests and to understand how specific on-the-ground approaches affect these three aspects of sustainability.
 - Most issues are highly polarized, single-issue focused or single ownership focused and many of the participating voices are on the margins.
 - There is an absence of a shared policy approach across federal, state, and local governance.
 - Thus, it is difficult for the Board to be successful in a policy environment where there is not a shared professional or general public understanding of what sustainable forest management means or how it can be evaluated for its effectiveness in meeting any desired balance of environmental, economic, and social needs.
- The Board’s view of the public interest should be codified in the Board’s mission, vision, values, goals and objectives and intended actions. The framework of sustainable forest management, as expressed in Oregon’s Sustainable Forestry Indicators, is an extremely useful tool to sort through various interests opinions and seek the public interest.
- The Department has historically used a nested approach in developing its biennial budget submittals [see Attachment 8] and in developing programmatic actions consistent with the *FPFO*. This has given the Department good credibility with the Oregon Legislative Assembly and many publics. The linkage between the *FPFO* and Board agendas further strengthens the role of the *FPFO* and provides public clarity behind Board actions.
- Non-regulatory policy is as important as regulatory policy, but generally, not adequately funded to be effective over the long term.
- The *FPFO* has provided guided policy positions with the Governor, Oregon Legislative Assembly, and Congressional Leaders.

- The *FPFO* is an internal and external communication tool—the *FPFO* has provided a solid foundation for communicating with the public and others about Oregon’s forest issues, goals, policies, and objectives.
- Several successful legislative initiatives have evolved from the *FPFO*.

History of the FPFO’s

Eric Allen, editor of the *Medford Mail Tribune* is credited with prompting the Board of Forestry to take a more expansive forest policy role for all forest lands in Oregon by writing two editorials in 1972 that were critical of the Board’s failure to provide leadership on forest policy issues facing the state [Attachments 2A and 2B: “Forest Policy: Fox and Chickens” and “Worrying About Oregon’s Forests.”] Through the leadership of State Forester Ed Schroeder and Board of Forestry Chair Carl Stoltenberg, the Department launched an important new program title “Forest Resources Planning” to respond directly to Mr. Allen’s concerns. This effort led to a series of six documents titled the “*Forestry Program for Oregon*” (aka *FPFO*) over the past 35 years. Many hours of dedicated staff time, by a large number of people, were required to collect the data, analyze it, evaluate the information, and recommend a *Forestry Program for Oregon* to the Board of Forestry. In addition to the staff time, the Board members themselves were actively involved in the discussions that eventually led to the published documents.

Most *FPFO* editions have included a formal forest assessment, various versions of public input, Board debate, and finalization of the program. Significantly, the process of developing these documents harmonized the thinking of the Board members and the Department. In turn, both were able to use these documents as a coherent voice regarding Oregon’s forest policy as they advised the Governor, Legislative Assembly, members of Congress and others about resolving forest policy issues important to the state.

This history traces the development of each *FPFO* and the major actions taken by the Board and Department in producing the six *FPFO*s beginning in 1972.

1977 Forestry Program for Oregon—Timber Supply Today and Tomorrow

At its December 14, 1972 meeting the Board of Forestry’s State Forests Committee recommended that the full Board consider adopting a coordinating role to respond to Mr. Allen’s concerns about the Board needing to assess Oregon’s forests, find remedies to issues identified, providing leadership to resolve these issues and administration. The recommended role included a recommendation that the Board and Department assembled a staff of current and new employees to develop an assessment of facts about Oregon’s forests. These resulting documents and actions included:

1. **Resume of Published Information on Oregon’s Timber Supply. (Voelker, 1973).**
This document summarized the published information available at the beginning of the Board’s forest resource study. It provided a preliminary view of data sources and projections.

Eight national and regional studies had predicted a range of future timber availability from modest increases to a decline in available softwood supplies. Variations among these reports hinged on their respective basic assumptions. In reviewing these studies, the Department was concerned about the unknown future management intensity on different ownership classes, the reduction of the commercial forest land base, and little public confidence in the studies being evaluated.

2. Town Hall Meetings.

In October 1973, the Board sponsored three town hall meetings, one each in Medford, Eugene, and LaGrande. Some 250 people attended. The three principle concerns identified were timber availability, future timber supply, and protection of environmental values.

3. Staff Report on the Forest Resource Study and Plan for Drafting Preliminary Study Recommendations. (Brown & Voelker, 1974).

This report was a first attempt by staff to establish a work plan for addressing the Board's desire to evaluate Oregon's forests and to develop a forestry program. It recommended establishing a steering committee comprised of Department staff, Dr. John Beuter from Oregon State University College of Forestry and task forces to focus on the identified issues.

The preliminary study recommendations were presented at an August 22, 1974 meeting of the Board's Land Management Services Committee, the former State Forests Committee. The problem statements identified were: data collection; land use base estimation; interpretation of data; utilization; environmental protection; and wood growth. See the Board's meeting agenda and minutes for the full report.

Staff recommendations were accepted in part and deferred in part. The key concern of the committee was the need to bring all the necessary information together and release it in one package, rather than piecemeal. This decision led to a plan for a series of studies and reports, concluding in a forestry program.

4. Catalog & Index of Existing Resource Data. (Moreland, Unruh and Smith, 1975).

The Department contracted with Moreland, Unruh and Smith architects and planners in Eugene to assemble a forest resource catalog, an annotated bibliography of available forest resource data. The contract was scheduled for completion by December 31, 1975 (note: the bibliography was completed, but no copy could be found in the Department's archives).

5. An Appraisal of Forestry Policy and Forestry Program Formulation in the State of Oregon. (Newport, 1975).

This report was prepared by forestry consultant Carl Newport in November 1975. It evaluated the Board's and Department's responsibilities, examined existing state policies and program formulation, existing data collection and resource evaluation. It proposed a framework for a forest policy and program for Oregon.

The key recommendations were:

- current forest policies were scattered among tax laws administered by the Department of Revenue, several forestry statutes, Board and Department policies and operating procedures. The Board should develop a comprehensive, coherent set of policies to guide the state.
- development of policies and program for the Board's responsibilities requires a sound and thorough knowledge of the forest resource situation in Oregon. The general knowledge of Board members and staff and conventional wisdom were no longer adequate relative to the importance of the responsibilities and the changing situations.
- the Department needed a dedicated staff of 4 to 8 persons to guide this effort.

This report heavily influenced Board and Department actions in addressing public concerns about Oregon's forests. The Department established a forest resource planning team under the leadership of a newly established Assistant State Forester position. The team embarked on gathering the necessary information for the development of a Board policy on the Oregon's forest resource.

The summary and conclusions and recommendations of this report are as relevant today as when it was written in 1975 [Attachment 4].

6. Timber for Oregon's Tomorrow: An Analysis of Reasonably Possible Occurrences. (Beuter, Johnson, & Scheurman, 1976).

The Board realized that a new timber supply study that they would use as a basis for any action would require the confidence of both the Board and the public. In 1975, the Board directed the Department to contract with Oregon State University Forest Research Laboratory, College of Forestry for such a study.

Dr. John Beuter led a team of Norm Johnson and Lynn Scheurman to complete this study. They arranged with public and industrial landowners to obtain their proprietary forest inventory data. The team also used information from Department staff and other agencies including a limited amount of forest survey data from the USDA Forest Service to supplement their data needs. The data were organized around 10 timbersheds, seven in western Oregon and three in eastern Oregon.

The study showed that under current policies timber supplies would decrease in all western Oregon timbersheds unless there were changes in policies and land management intensities. In eastern Oregon, timber supplies could be maintained for the next 30 years under current policies. However, in future supply studies eastern Oregon forecasts later were lowered when diameter increment models were adjusted. For both western and eastern Oregon, the study showed that federal land management would need to play an important role in timber supply to maintain harvest levels in the state.

This study provided one of the key foundations for future Board policies on timber supply. It also captured the attention of the news media and the public.

7. Douglas County Forest Condition Mapping and Forest Volume Inventory Project: Final Project Report. (Oregon Department of Forestry, 1978).

The Pacific Northwest Regional Commission funded a pilot project to use remote sensing to inventory forests. The project identified Douglas County as the pilot area owing to future wood supply problems in the county, county interest in the project, and because Douglas County was identified as a timbershed in the *Timber for Oregon's Tomorrow* report. (Note: The Pacific Northwest Regional Commission was created with a U.S. Department of Commerce grant to stimulate the economy in the Pacific Northwest).

The project produced color-coded maps at two different scales. One map displayed nine general vegetative classes and a second map displayed 24 vegetative treatment opportunities. The project had several technical problems and, in the end, the statistics from the project were not useable. This was the first effort to use satellite imagery for forest resource inventory and analysis. While not successful in providing useful data to meet the questions of the time, results of the project provided important recommendations for future use of satellite data.

8. Forestry Program for Oregon Supplement No. 1—Non-industrial Private Forest Management: An Action Recommendation. (Oregon Department of Forestry, December, 1977).

One of the opportunities identified by the *Timber for Oregon's Tomorrow* report was increased timber supply from non-industrial forest land. *FPFO Supplement No. 1* recommended Board policies on management of these lands, outlined the importance of these lands to Oregon's future timber supply, assessed the need to increase production from these lands and recommended a program for achieving these objectives.

The Board adopted the policies recommended by the report and introduced legislation in the 1979 Legislative Assembly. The results were a statutory authority for the Department's Service Forestry Program, establishment of a seed bank for reforestation of non-industrial forest lands, and 12 new service forestry positions funded by the

state's General Fund. In addition, a grant provided by the Pacific Northwest Regional Commission funded a cost-share demonstration project to reforest underproductive forest land in the coast range (see report below). In 1993, this led to a reforestation tax credit for reforestation of underproductive forest land.

9. *Forestry Program for Oregon Supplement No. 2: Underproductive Forest Lands in the Coast Range. (Oregon Department of Forestry, December, 1977).*

During the discussion on future timber supply a large, but unknown amount of underproductive forest land in the Coast Range, was seen by many as an opportunity to increase long-range timber supply. Through a grant from the Pacific Northwest Regional Commission, the Department contracted high-altitude aerial photography mapping of the coast range, ground verification and benefit-cost analysis for converting underproductive forest land to productive forests.

The project identified 568,400 acres of underproductive forest land that eventually could produce 31.5 billion board feet of timber over a 60-year rotation. The average benefit-cost ratio for the converting underproductive land was estimated to be 3.19.

The report recommended several policy actions to address this issue. This report helped achieve the Legislative Assembly results in point 8 above. The report also provided useful information to the landowner community about the locations, treatments, and benefit-cost of converting underproductive forest land.

10. *Forestry Program for Oregon: Timber Supply Today and Tomorrow. (Oregon Board of Forestry, April, 1977).*

The 1977 FPFO was viewed as a first report in a continuing effort to carry out Board policy and define the State Forester's responsibilities to collect data relative to forest condition and to publish such information on forestry as determined to be in the public interest. It recognized that considerable future effort would be needed to interface Phase 1, *Timber Supply Today and Tomorrow*, with the full range of multiple-use programs.

The report was a program to sustain forest production while considering amenity values. The recommendations were divided into the following sections: management opportunities: conserving the forest land base, protecting the forest resource, and information and technology. This report was widely used by the Board and Department staff as they worked at the local, state, and national levels on issues addressed in the FPFO.

1982 Forestry Program for Oregon: An Action Program for the Eighties

In publishing the 1977 *Forestry Program for Oregon* both the Board and the Department recognized that future efforts needed to go beyond timber supply. The challenge was to assemble sufficient facts and assessments for evaluation of non-timber resources, as well as

timber resources, as the basis for the next *FPFO*. This five-year effort resulted in the 1982 *FPFO*.

1. 1980 Timber Supply Assessment: Projections of Future Available Harvests. (Stere, Hopps, and Lettman, 1980).

The *Timber for Oregon's Tomorrow* report was updated by the Department using the Oregon State University TREES model (Timber Resource Economic Estimation System) and an updated inventory. The study showed that timber supply in Western Oregon could be maintained or slightly increased. However several policy issues would need to be resolved. In eastern Oregon timber supplies were predicted to decline. These could be offset by increased harvest from federal forest lands.

2. Forest Policy Project. (Pacific Northwest Regional Commission, 1981).

The Pacific Northwest Regional Commission sponsored a grant to Washington State University to examine several regional forest resource management issues:

- forest policy institutions and organizations.
- demand for Pacific Northwest timber and timber products.
- supply of Pacific Northwest timber.
- economic analysis of non-timber uses of forest land in the Pacific Northwest.
- socio-economic and environmental impacts of forest-based activities.
- alternative forest policies for the Pacific Northwest.

The reports were considered by the Department in developing the *1982 FPFO*.

3. Forest Resources Program for Oregon. (Forest Resources Task Force, 1981).

During the late 1970's and early 1980's, state agencies individually were responding to federal forest planning documents. Governor Vic Atiyeh wanted a more coordinated approach. As a result, in 1979 he issued Executive Order EQ-79-25 creating a Forest Resource Task Force comprised of Oregon's natural resource agencies.

Their task was to define and coordinate basic goals, policies, and objectives for a balanced multiple use of Oregon's forest resources. In addition, they were to define a process for developing a long-range coordinated program representing Oregon's interests in federal forest resource assessments and management. Membership of the task force was to represent Oregon on a regional and national level in developing forest resource programs that were consistent with Oregon's programs.

The resulting report summarized each agencies legal mandates and identified 34 forest resource issues. For each issue the task force conducted studies and made recommendations for resolving the issue. This information was used by the agencies as

they compiled their individual responses to land management plans of federal agencies. These individual agency comments were compiled and combined into a recommended state position. This was reviewed by the Governor and then submitted to the federal agency as the official state position.

4. The Relationship Between the Forestry Program for Oregon and the USFS 1985 RPA Program. (Oregon Department of Forestry, 1983).

Under the 1985 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act the USDA Forest Service established an elaborate planning and budgeting tool to guide congressional investments in managing the nations forest. As part of the Forest Service grant program to states, each state forestry department was required to show how their programs would interface with the Resource Planning Act program (RPA) developed by the Forest Service.

Oregon's document had six major sections: timber production; utilization improvements; forest soil and water improvements; program development and management improvement; forest pest management; and cooperative fire protection. The document reviewed the authority and policy, history, current situation and state program, national concerns, goals related to RPA, recommendations for program direction, federal funding, economic analysis, and data sources. The aggregate of these state documents became the foundation for the Forest Service's budget requests to Congress.

However, the real significance of this report was not the budget request, but rather that the Forest Service agreed to include a *Forestry Program for Oregon* alternative, as one of several alternatives, in each national forest plans environmental impact statement.

5. 1982 Forestry Program for Oregon: An Action Program for the Eighties. (Oregon Board of Forestry, 1982).

In 1982, the Board updated their 1977 *FPFO* using public input and the above documents. Their recommendations revolved around intensive management, inventory regulation, land use planning to protect the commercial forest land base, forest taxation, private forest land management (including service forestry that provided forestry assistance to private landowners), protection from fire, protection from insects and disease, environmental protection, research and education, and resource monitoring and data analysis. Limited financial resources of the Department at this time may have resulted in a final document not as comprehensive as it could have been.

Like the 1977 document the *1982 FPFO* became the policy framework that the Board and the Department used to represent the state on local, state, and federal forest resource issues.

1990 Forestry Program for Oregon

In 1987, Gail Achterman, Governor Neil Goldschmidt's Natural Resource Advisor, assembled a collaborative mediation team to address several issues important to the forest industry and the environmental community. The ten-member team represented the forest industry, the environmental community, state agencies, and the Governor's Office.

The resulting product was HB 3396 (1987 Legislative Assembly) that had several key features;

- the Board was changed from an 18-member portfolio board to a seven-member citizens board without portfolio.
- the Forest Practices Act was amended "to declare to be public policy of the state of Oregon to encourage economically efficient forest practices that ensured the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forest land for such purposes as the leasing use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources" (scenic was added in 1991).
- amended the Forest Practices Act to give the Board responsibility to protect Oregon's land use planning Goal 5 resources on forest land.
- amended land use laws to prevent counties from regulating forest practices.

A new Board of Forestry was appointed and first met in January, 1988 with Tom Walsh appointed as chair. His belief was that the Board should represent the citizens of Oregon by assuming policy responsibility for all of Oregon's forest lands, irrespective of ownership. The new Board embraced this idea. The jargon phrase for this responsibility was Oregon's "28- million acre forest." To accomplish this goal, the Board embarked on the process of developing a new *FPFO*.

The Board hired Don Barney of Barney and Worth to help organize workshops to gather early public input that led to the formation of the next *FPFO*. Bob Chadwick of Chadwick and Associates was hired to lead the Department's public input activities and statewide attitude survey [Chadwick, 1986].

Factors Chadwick considered were:

- Information from a statewide attitude survey conducted by Moore Information that consisted of a telephone survey of 600 randomly selected Oregonians.
- results of seven facilitated workshops around the state attended by 185 people.
- conducted an interagency meeting with eight state agency representatives.
- Interviews of 17 key public leaders with a broad range of interests.
- comments from a Department staff meeting to obtain agency leadership views on forest issues.
- interviews of 14 Department employees as a sampling of the organization.

In all, Chadwick’s study showed that the public saw the Board as the appropriate leader on forest policy in Oregon, and that the emerging issue was to find a balance between the environment and economic while balancing private rights and public values. (Author’s note: So what is different today?). A summary of Chadwick’s work is found in Attachment 5.

1. Assessment of Oregon’s Forests. (Lettman, Technical Editor, 1988).

This assessment document set out to achieve a balanced technical assessment of Oregon’s 28-million acre forest. Thirty eight authors produced 31 papers. Section 1 looked at Oregon’s forest resources; Section 2 looked at Oregon’s forest economy; and Section 3 examined selected opportunities. The document was the best available assessment of Oregon’s 28-million acre forest and helped the Board develop their next *FPFO*. However, this assessment did reveal how little was known about Oregon’s forest resources except for timber. Major forest policies and plans were being crafted using conventional wisdom, which sometimes turned out to be incorrect.

2. 1990 Forestry Program for Oregon. (Oregon Board of Forestry, 1990).

In this document forward, Board Chair Walsh stated “The Board of Forestry is clearly dedicated to overseeing the prosperity of Oregon’s forests for all constituencies; not just for the industry, not just for the environmental groups, not just for recreationists, but for all users.”

The document was organized around a mission statement, seven objectives, and policy goals for each of the seven objectives: forest land use; forest practices; timber growth and harvest; recreation, fish and wildlife, grazing and other forest uses; forest protection; and public education. This was a beginning step in having the *FPFO* consider all forest resources, not just timber, and a first step in educating the public to view all of Oregon’s forests as one forest, regardless of ownership.

The document was a comprehensive effort to examine the state’s forests as a whole and to provide leadership on forest policy actions to benefit the state and its citizens.

1995 Forestry Program for Oregon

The process for the 1995 *FPFO* was initiated following the passage of SB 1125 by the 1991 Legislative Assembly. This bill required the Department to take action in several areas: update several Forest Practices Act administrative rules, conduct several studies, including the availability of Pacific yew tree species, cumulative effects of forest practices on forest land, and factors affecting fisheries. The cumulative effects analysis and fisheries studies are pertinent to this paper and are discussed below. In addition, the spotted owl and marbled murrelet had been listed as threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act and federal timber supply had dropped significantly as a result of newly adopted federal forest management plans.

1. Timber Management Practices and Land Use Trends on Private Forest Land in Oregon: A Final Report to the Sixty-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly. (Lettman, 1995).

This report evaluated the land use trends including timber growth and harvest in western and eastern Oregon on private forest land and timber management practices. The report found that in western Oregon, timber growth and harvest were in balance, but there was a shift from growing and harvesting larger trees to growing and harvesting smaller trees using shorter rotations. In eastern Oregon, timber supplies were decreasing, owing to salvage of insect and disease infested trees and the liquidation of private timber because of the decline in harvest on federal lands.

2. Status and Future of Salmon of Western Oregon and Northern California: Overview of Findings and Option. (Dr. Daniel Botkin, 1995).

In 1991, part of Oregon Senate Bill 1125 instructed the Department to conduct a “scientific inquiry on the state of knowledge of anadromous fish runs in western Oregon” that would address the following six charges:

- identify leading cause, both on-shore and off-shore for anadromous fish populations declines if that is the cause.
- assign the relative importance of forest practices to these declines, compared to other leading causes.
- identify the relative importance of various habitat characteristic in streams in limiting anadromous fish production.
- determine how forest practices have affected fish production, habitat characteristics anadromous fish populations before and since 1972.
- identify the extent to which forest practices are limiting the recovery of depressed anadromous fish populations.
- make recommendations as to how forest practices can assist in recovery of anadromous fish populations.

The Department, through Oregon State University College of Forestry, hired Dr. Daniel Botkin, with the Center for the Study of the Environment, to lead this study. He assembled a team of six other scientists and himself to conduct the study. The study did a good job of addressing the issues outlined above. The Department and the Board considered his work as they modified riparian rules and rewrote the *FPFO*.

3. 1995 Forestry Program for Oregon. (Oregon Board of Forestry, 1995).

The Board and the Department hired facilitators to help collect and help synthesize public input. Oregon forestry leaders were surveyed; a Board-sponsored retreat was held with a wide range of interested parties, and an updated public opinion poll was conducted. The Board held six concurrent, televised town hall meetings using Ed-Net to gather public input on the draft *FPFO*.

From this information, the Board revised their mission, developed vision and value statements, and identified eight objectives. These eight objectives laid out the Board's programs and policies to address their vision and values. This *FPFO* included the first commitment to ecosystem health and sustainability as well as stressing the importance of research, monitoring and adaptive management. In addition, the format and readability of the document set the standard for communicating important information in understandable terms, avoiding bureaucratic detail and research data that had not been interpreted.

2003 Forestry Program for Oregon

In an ongoing effort to keep their forest policies current, the Board and the Department embarked in 2003 on a process to update the *FPFO*. The foundation of the work was the newly developed forest assessment based on collection and analysis of data from the international Montreal Process for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests. (See point 2 below).

1. **Cumulative Effects of Forest Practices in Oregon: Executive Summary. (Beschta, et al, 1995).**

In 1991, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed SB 1125 that addressed several forest practices issues of growing concern to the forest industry. These included clear-cut size and spacing, reforestation criteria and timelines, and scenic corridors along designated highways. Fisheries management issues also arose during the legislative conversations. Claims were made by some interests that forest practices were having a devastating impact on Coho fish returns.

Senator Joyce Cohen of Portland became very frustrated with the lack of good information around which to make legislative decisions. She insisted that a section go into the bill that required the Department to evaluate the cumulative effects of forest practices in Oregon. Additionally, the Department was authorized to hire a team of people to look more closely at forestry and fisheries management.

The Department hired the Oregon State University College of Forestry to evaluate forest practices in Oregon. The project evaluated the cumulative effects from forest practices, including a literature review and synthesis of current knowledge, and a conceptual framework describing the interactions of forest practices which potentially contribute to cumulative effects. The report was a high-level evaluation and thus difficult to translate into operational forestry. In the end, the Department realized it needed data against which to measure forest practices and their effects on other resource values.

2. **Incentives to Encourage Stewardship Forestry in Oregon. (Forest Incentives Group, 1996)**

The Board of Forestry appointed the Forest Incentives Group to review forest incentives and regulatory scene in Oregon. The goal was to consider a wide array of incentive

ideas that would address the varied ownership needs of Oregon’s forest landowners, recognizing different land ownership sizes and conditions. The Forest Incentives Group used the Board’s mission statement for developing the major elements of a health forest:

“promote healthy diverse forest ecosystems throughout Oregon that provide abundant timber and other forest products, habitats to support health populations of native plants and animals, productive soil, clean air and water, open space and recreational opportunities”

From the mission statement the Forest Incentive Group developed forest enhancement actions and incentive recommendations for the following elements: Healthy Diverse Forest Ecosystems; Habitat for Native Fish and Wildlife; Abundant Forest Products; clean Air; Clean Water; Recreation and Open Space Opportunities. This report provided ideas for the Board to consider regarding non-regulatory approaches important for achieving sustainable forestry in Oregon.

3. Oregon’s First Approximation Report for Forest Sustainability. (Birch, 2000).

The need for a basis to evaluate Oregon’s forests lead to the use of the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (internationally agreed upon country level inventory points developed as the basis for international sustainable forestry discussions. [See Attachment 3 and <http://www.montrealprocess.org/>].

The Department formed an advisory committee comprised of state and federal agencies, the College of Forestry, conservation groups, the landowner community and former state senator Joyce Cohen. The purpose of the committee was to attain agreement that the Montreal Process criteria and Indicators were a good basis for evaluating Oregon’s forests from a social, economic and environmental perspective. The committee was very valuable in helping the Department assemble the report titled *Oregon’s First Approximation Report for Forest Sustainability*. Sixteen authors participated in developing this report. Oregon was the first government entity in the world to complete this evaluation. This report gave the Department and the Board the best comprehensive assessment of Oregon’s forest resources to date.

4. Landmark Assessment of Oregon’s Forest Sustainability Symposium. (2001).

In October 2001, the Board in partnership, with Oregon State University College of Forestry, hosted a symposium at OSU which drew 500 participants and marked the culmination of ten years of scientific inquiry on the part of the Board, the Department, and other organizations into the status of Oregon’s forests.

Governor Kitzhaber provided a major forest policy speech to keynote the symposium. Other speaker’s presentations provided summaries of the current state of knowledge on Oregon’s forest resource issues, organized around the seven Montreal Process criteria for sustainable forest management. On the following day, an invited panel of policy-

makers and stakeholders participated in a facilitated public forum with Board of Forestry members to discuss in-depth the previous day's presentations and implications for future Board policies and strategic planning.

5. Oregon Forest Report 2003. (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2003).

This document reported some of the symposium's key findings, offered a snapshot in time of forests and forestry in Oregon, discussed some of the challenges currently facing resource managers, forest owners, and policy makers, and highlighted opportunities to achieve sustainability. Again, this document was organized around the Montreal Process criteria and provided a factual foundation for the 2003 *FPFO*.

6. A Forestry Program for Oregon: Oregonians Discuss Their Opinions on Forest Management & Sustainability. (Davis, Hibbitts & McCaig, 2001).

The Department, in cooperation with the Oregon Forests Resource Institute, contracted with consultants Davis, Hibbitts, and McCaig to help the Board of Forestry understand public attitudes, values, and beliefs regarding Oregon's forests and sustainable forest management. The consultants' activities included:

- completing a literature review of public opinions.
- holding six focus group discussions.
- conducting two statewide surveys of Oregonians about attitudes toward forest management and sustainability issues.

Overall, these actions showed that Oregonians held a strong preference for a balanced approach to forest management including social, economic, and environmental benefits. [See attachment 6 for the conclusions and observations from their studies].

7. Forestry Program for Oregon. (Oregon Board of Forestry, 2003).

In October 2002 the Board held a retreat at Silver Creek Falls Conference Center to consider the information gathered in points 1 to 5 above. Board members solicited comments from the public before the meeting. During the meeting they fine tuned a public review draft of the 2003 *FPFO*.

The draft document was founded on the belief that sustainable forest management must succeed in achieving three goals: sustainable forest management must be economically viable, environmentally responsible, and socially acceptable.

Three principles were set forth to achieve the Board's vision:

- the widely recognized international criteria and indicators was to serve as a useful framework for discovering, discussing, and assessing the sustainability of Oregon's forests,

- sustainability requires maintaining a diversity of forest ownerships and management objectives across the landscape and through time.
- cooperative, non-regulatory methods were strongly preferred in achieving public benefits on private lands.

The 2003 edition listed seven strategies (the Montreal Process criteria reworded and reordered to be more meaningful and “owned” by Oregonians) and 55 proposed actions to achieve the Board’s mission and vision. The document also proposed possible indicators that could be used to measure progress towards achieving these strategies and actions.

The draft *2003 FPFO* was produced for public review and comment during the first half of 2003. Six public forums were held around the state, with at least one Board member present at each forum to introduce the draft document and invite comments. Written public comments were also solicited. Further revisions to the document were made before final adoption in September 2003. Copies of the printed *2003 FPFO* were provided legislators, other natural resource agencies, and key stakeholders. Copies of the full document were also made available to the general public, along with online access to both “pdf” and “html” format editions. A summary *FPFO* “pocket guide” listing the Board’s statements of mission, vision, values, strategies, and actions was also printed and distributed.

However, for some, the *2003 FPFO* was challenging for the public to understand and it failed to effectively explain complex issues. A much compressed document directed for broad public consumption would have been a more effective communication with supplemental volumes prepare for staff and specific audiences.

8. *Oregon Department of Forestry Strategic Plan 2004-2011. (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2003).*

Shortly after adoption of the 2003 *FPFO*, the Department’s Forest Resources Planning Program staff led a committee of department program and area representatives in the development of a companion Department Strategic Plan that would cover the same eight-year time period. See:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/docs/ASP.pdf

The agency strategic plan described the Department’s mission, vision, values, core business functions, and performance measures. The strategic plan also described department program activities that would be undertaken to meet statutory responsibilities and to support the Board’s *2003 FPFO* strategies and actions. Finally, the document also provided a process for updating the agency strategic plan in coordination with future *FPFO* updates. Ultimately, this strategic plan was not used much and it was almost immediately overshadowed by the new Board decision system and work planning process.

9. National Roundtable on Sustainable Forests.

Throughout the 2000s, the Forest Resources Planning Program represented the Board's work to promote sustainable forest management in Oregon in the national Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. The roundtable was an open and inclusive process committed to the goal of sustainable forest management on public and private lands in the United States. Roundtable participants included public and private organizations and individuals committed to better decision-making through shared learning and increased understanding. See: <http://www.sustainableforests.net/index.php>

10. United States National Report on Sustainable Forests. (2003).

The publication of the 2003 *FPFO* coincided with the publication of the first United States National Reports on Sustainable Forest in 2003. See report below, pages 1-32: <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/docs/national-reports/2003/2003-sustainability-report.pdf>

The two reports were linked by common use of the Montreal Process criteria as organizing themes. Concurrent with 11 other Montreal Process country reports, the US report summarized the nation's forest resource conditions and trend using the 67 common indicators agreed to Montreal Process member nations.

Oregon quickly became recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in integrating the Montreal Process criteria and indicators into government forest policy. Oregon's work was also specifically recognized in the 2010 US National Report on Sustainable Forests. See also:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/docs/national-reports/2010/2010-sustainability-report.pdf>

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/k4147e/k4147e.pdf> Pages 7-9 and

<http://sfp.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/PerspectivesOnAmericasForests.pdf> Pages 31-40

2011 Forestry Program for Oregon

In 2004, the Board began a review and revision of its planning, decision-making, and documentation processes. Objectives of the review were to better integrate and make more transparent its strategic planning, budgeting, legislative concept development, performance measurement, and Board meeting agenda development processes. This action resulted in development of Board work plans to map out the processes that would be used to lead to Board decisions on the highest priority issues it was facing.

In 2005, the Board approved an implementation work plan for updating the *FPFO on an eight-year cycle*. In April 2009 the Board affirmed its intent to update the *FPFO* and to maintain the sustainable forest management framework used in the 2003 edition. The Board also endorsed a stronger strategic planning process linking the *FPFO* with the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management (see point 1 below), the Board's biennial issues scan, Board work plans, and the work of the Department directly related to Board strategic planning.

At this time there was a major shift in what any assessment should emphasize. The shift was away from timber supply as the key element of forestry sustainability to keeping forest land in forest uses. Retaining the forest land base is key to having all the forest resource values. The land use studies were essential to successfully populating the Board's indicators of forestry, for use in Oregon Benchmarks, and much more. The Board set a target of not losing any more wildland forest.

1. Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. (2007).

In 2005, the Department formed a 20-person ad hoc committee who, in consultation with technical experts, were chartered to develop and recommend to the Board a set of Oregon sustainable forest management indicators. The group met several times from 2005 to 2007. The Board endorsed the indicator advisory committee's technical report in 2007. See:

http://www.oregon.gov/odf/resource_planning/docs/oregon_indicators_of_sfm_final.pdf

The 2007-2009 Oregon Forests Report, produced by the Department summarized the 19 new Oregon indicators in a format easier to read. See:

http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pubs/docs/oregon_forests_reports/ofr_2007.pdf

The framework for the organizing the indicators was the same as the strategies of the 2003 FPFO. The Board also issued a statement of intent for use of the indicators. They were intended to address all Oregon public and private forestlands, and belong to all Oregonians - regardless of their values and perspectives--not just for use by the Board. The development of sustainable forest management indicators was an important step in implementation of the 2003 FPFO.

Once in place, it was envisioned that the indicators would help Oregonians reach consensus on what sustainable forestry means and how to quantify progress towards that goal. The indicators had the potential to guide Oregonians towards forest management policies for public and private forests that were less polarizing and more politically sustainable than the state had experienced the past 30 years. They were intended to provide the Board of Forestry, its partners and cooperators, Oregon citizens, and potential purchasers of Oregon forest products with a comprehensive but manageable set of measurable parameters to assist them in understanding Oregon's forest conditions and trends. In addition, Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management were to:

- Help to shape social understanding of forests and the forces that influence them.
- Place natural resource management on par with economic indicators that leaders and the public will understand.
- Provide a framework to coordinate natural resource inventory, assessment, planning, and research.

- Provide citizens interested in forests with a tool to encourage society to address the needs of forests.

The framework used for the indicators were: social and economic benefits; carbon storage; soil and water; ecosystem health; productive capacity; diverse plant and animal population and habitats; and legal/institutional economic framework. This document help the Board frame their discussion about the next *FPFO*.

2. Achieving Oregon’s Vision for Federal Forestlands. (Oregon Board of Forestry, 2009).

At the request of Governor Kulongoski, the Board convened a 15-person advisory committee to help develop a position on management of federal forest lands in Oregon. The Governor’s interest was best captured by the following quote, found in the report of the committee: “Ensuring sustainable forest in Oregon requires that we understand that the social, environmental and economic benefits of forest are not only important—but also interconnected...We have to get past this costly conflict over our forests and craft the public policy model that is described in the *Forestry Program for Oregon.*”

The report outlined a vision for Oregon’s Federal Forest, and four goals to achieve the vision: environment; social; economic; and process.

3. Oregon’s Statewide Forest Assessment and Resource Strategy. (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2010).

Under the 2008 amendment to the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, states receiving federal money were required to complete an assessment of their forests and develop strategies for addressing the issues identified. The Department used the Board’s *FPFO* goal framework as the basis for the assessment [Attachment 7 is a schematic outline of the assessment]. This document influenced the Department’s thinking as it was working with the Board of Forestry to finalize their *2011 FPFO*.

4. Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Forest Values and Beliefs Survey. (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2010).

In the spring of 2010, the Department and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute again contracted with Davis, Hibbitts & McCaig for a study regarding Oregonians' forest values and beliefs. This combination of telephone surveys and focus groups built upon and updated the work done in 2003. The survey results were used to develop the draft *2011 FPFO* and were included in the public comment record supporting this document. See: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/board/ofri2010study.aspx>.

5. Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. (2009-2011).

Following Department staff participation in US delegations at two international sustainable forest management forums, it became apparent that two obstacles facing the Board in gaining broader understanding, acceptance, and support for the *2003 FPFO*

were being experienced in other countries. Passionate individuals within governments were championing use of the sustainable forest management framework for discussion and measurement of forest resource issues but they lacked strong institutional support or public awareness.

In response, the Board endorsed a staff recommendation to charter an Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests loosely patterned after the US Roundtable. The Board's objectives for the Roundtable were to:

- Receive briefings on the empirical data used to evaluate Oregon Indicators of sustainable forest management conditions and trends and make collective findings on the reasonableness of those evaluations available to the Board of Forestry and interested parties.
- Advance greater use of the *FPFO*.
- Expand the public dialogue around sustainable forests.
- Provide a forum where organizations and individuals addressing sustainable forests can work together.
- Provide a forum where technical and scientific knowledge can be shared.
- Link with and learn from the efforts of business, governmental and non-profit sustainability initiatives.
- Seek a better understanding of the contributions that each of Oregon's forest estates makes to sustainability of Oregon's forests.
- Promote state and federal government coordination in discussing, implementing, and measuring sustainable forest management.

A companion Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests Declaration of Cooperation was produced that included the signed commitments from the Board and executives representing:

- Oregon Department of Forestry
- OSU College of Forestry
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- USDA Forest Service Region 6
- USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station

Collectively, the Board and these organizations agreed to cooperate in:

- Maintaining a forum for providing meaningful input into Oregon forest policymaking that brings citizens and organizations together for shared learning

and finding common ground on environmentally, economically, and socially integrated solutions.

- Generating more robust engagement among diverse points of view and experiences and to better reflect and honor the diversity of our society and communities.
- Creating a dynamic social process whereby Oregonians shape an evolving, but enduring vision of what constitutes sustainable forest management and greater public support for the substantial benefits of Oregon's forests.
- Exploring ways to link with and learn from the efforts of local initiatives, other states, countries, and organizations that are actively pursuing sustainability of forests.
- Providing opportunities for pilot projects and case studies associated with forest sustainability.
- Encouraging integrated thinking about how forests and people affect each other.

The Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests met 11 times between 2009 and 2011, spending most of its time receiving data reports on the 19 Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. Roundtable participants developed recommendations for rating current conditions and trends for each indicator, critiqued indicator information quality, and provided recommendation for future indicator work. See: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/indicators/pages/roundtable.aspx>

6. Linkages to Federal Initiatives in Oregon. (2008).

Between publications of the 2003 and 2011 editions of the *FPFO* and as a result of Oregon Roundtable cooperation, institutional changes within the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and Region 6 were beginning that incorporated the Forestry Program for Oregon strategies. In its 2008 *Oregon's forest resources, 2001–2005: five-year Forest Inventory and Analysis* report, the Research Station for the first time directly related its data reporting to seven Montreal Process criteria and the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. See: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr765/pnw-gtr765a.pdf> Chapter 2

The Mt. Hood National Forest went even further by using the seven strategies in the 2003 *FPFOs* to organize its fiscal years 2008 and 2009 annual monitoring reports. See: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_036381.pdf and http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5329687.pdf

7. Forestry Program for Oregon: A Strategy for Sustaining Oregon's Public and Private Forests. (2011).

Development of the text for the draft 2011 edition of the *FPFO* was primarily conducted by the Forest Resources Planning staff. It had previously been envisioned that other

department program executives would play lead roles, but pre-occupation with budget crises at the time limited such focus and involvement.

A reduced Department budget also limited the scale of the public involvement process to solicit public comments on the draft. Written comments were solicited through the news media, distribution of notices from ODF, and online processes. During this period, significant turnover in Board membership and Department executive leadership took place.

The *2011 FPFO* relied heavily on the 2003 edition for its foundation. The Board updated its mission, vision, and value statements. The seven 2003 strategies were relabeled as goals, but largely remained unchanged. A new, slightly shorter set of Board objectives were organized beneath these goals, replacing the previous actions. The most significant change was the inclusion of ratings information for the new 19 Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management, based on Oregon Roundtable on Sustainable Forests input. Following further revision based on public comment and Board member input, *2011 FPFO* was adopted in July of 2011.

The 2011 edition completed the vision that began in the late 1990s of instituting and comprehensive sustainable forest management policy framework for discussing and measuring performance on all Oregon public and private forest ownerships. When the framework was originally proposed, the Board had received some criticism from both sides of the ongoing polarized forestry debates. Some in forest industry believed Oregon forests were already being managed sustainably and that the Board should just say so without a need for a new policy framework.

Meanwhile, some in the environmental community feared the new sustainable forest management framework would be used to “greenwash” current forest resources conditions and issues and mask the real problems that existed. The power of the implementation Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management became evident as the data began to be reported and evaluations of that data were made by the Oregon Roundtable. Some indicators were headed in the right direction but others had mixed or negative performance when compared to desired conditions and trends. Perhaps the most important statement by the Board in the *2011 FPFO* put to rest both of those criticisms from a decade earlier and highlighted the value that the framework could play:

“Although many Oregon forests are managed following principles of sustainable forestry, Oregonians’ own indicators of sustainable forest management provide evidence Oregon’s forests, in total, are not currently being managed sustainably.

“However, there are solutions. In the 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon, the Board of Forestry has developed a vision, goals, objectives, and indicators to

address the current challenges and make progress on the pathway to sustainably managing all of Oregon’s public and private forests.” (2011 FPFO, page 6)

From 2009 until the *FPFO* was adopted by the Board in 2011, the Board and the Department went through an extensive public input and discussion process. The document established the Board’s mission, goals, vision, values and objectives for attaining sustainable forest management on all forest lands in the state.

However, while there was agreement that indicators in this report could become extremely useful tools in dealing with the public, attempts to evaluate the status of compliance or accomplishment were not encouraging and could have been left out of the report. In addition, some data include in the report was not current.

Summary

When asked, everyone tends to support sustainable forestry as long as it remains a vague generality. The devil is in the details. A set of well-designed goals, objectives and indicators in the *FPFO* provides a clear, quantifiable picture of what sustainable forest management of all of the state’s public and private forests should look like. It also provides the basis for future policy work where indicator data show trends are not going in a desired direction. The end result can be Oregonians working together, using a common set of data and information to address the highest priority issues determined by consensus in order to reach already agreed to goals and objectives.

The *FPFO* provides a new paradigm where collaboration is encouraged where all values are respected and where marginal voices are still heard but no longer dominate. There needs to be a forum where a growing number of citizens are energized to rejoin the conversation and can build more holistic, common-ground solutions that are environmentally, economically, socially, and politically sustainable. That could be a wonderful transformation compared to the last 30 years of forestry debates in this state.

Going forward, the *2011 FPFO* framework now provides the pathway to accomplish that outcome if it is used and strongly promoted by the Board, Department executives and executives with other forest-related agencies and organizations operating in the state.

EPILOGUE

As part of the Pacific Northwest Regional Commission Forest Policy Project, Greg Protasel, Department of Political Science at Oregon State University, looked at forest policy institutions and organizations in the Pacific Northwest. In the Executive Summary of his report he discussed forest policy-making as planning and politics. These words of wisdom are still important today as the Department and Board search for the public interest. The essence of his comments is quoted below:

“...policy can be said to be the result of two basic yet fundamentally different techniques of decision-making. Policy can be thought of as the outcome of a political process. Or policy can be thought of as the decision of a planning system.

Planning relies on intellectual analysis to produce policy decisions that meet the standards of some agreed upon evaluative criterion. The essential prerequisite of planning is thus a consensus of fundamental key values which allows the development of an evaluative criterion by which to gauge the direction and success of policy. This value consensus is perhaps most easily reached among professionals who share a common framework for resolving issues and problems.

Politics unlike planning does not require consensus of values. Indeed, agreement on values may be virtually impossible. Instead, politics relies upon social interaction to produce consensus on policy outcomes. While politics is not based on agreement of fundamental key values, politics does require agreement on the rules and procedures governing the social interaction which produces the policy outcomes. As long as the participants in the political decision-making process perceive the rules of the “policy-making game” to be fair, the policy outcomes will be accepted as legitimate even if they may be somewhat unfavorable for some participants.

That forest policy-makers will have to make tradeoffs between policy-making as planning and policy-making as politics is unavoidable. The basic choice is between production efficiency and political efficiency...” [Protasel. 1980].

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1** ORS 526.016 and .041 describing the general duties of the Board of Forestry and the State Forester, respectively.
- Attachment 2** Eric Allen, 1972, editor Medford Mail Tribune editorials titled: “Forest Policy: Fox and Chickens” (Attachment 2A) and “Worrying About Oregon’s Forests” (Attachment 2B).
- Attachment 3** Montreal Process: Oregon’s Role in the Global Effort.
- Attachment 4** Carl Newport’s Summary of Findings and Conclusions; and Conclusions and Recommendations.
- Attachment 5** Executive Summary of Issues Chart Summarizing Bob Chadwick’s report.
- Attachment 6** Davis, Hibbitts, & McCaig conclusions and observations about Oregonians preferences for a balanced approach to forest management.
- Attachment 7** Oregon’s Statewide Forest Assessment 2010 schematic diagram.
- Attachment 8** Oregon Department of Forestry/Board of Forestry historical planning hierarchy.

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Board of Forestry and State Forester's Duties

(ORS 526.016 and ORS 526.041)

526.016 General duties; limits; compensation, and expenses; meetings; rules.

(1) The State Board of Forestry shall supervise all matters of forest policy and management under the jurisdiction of this state and approve claims for expenses incurred under the statutes administered by the board except as otherwise provided by law. Advisory committees may be appointed by the board to make recommendations concerning any function vested by law in the board. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the board shall not supervise or direct the State Forester in matters relating to the geographic scheduling, annual volume and species allocation, appraisals and competitive timber sale techniques used in the sale of forest products from lands managed under the provisions of ORS chapter 530.

(2) The members of the board are entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in ORS 292.495.

(3) The board shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January, March, June and September, at places designated by the chairperson of the board or the State Forester. The board may meet at other times and places in this state on the call of the chairperson or the State Forester. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum to do business.

(4) In accordance with the applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the board shall adopt rules to perform the functions defined by statute. [1965 c.253 §6; 1969 c.314 §62; 1973 c.230 §3; 1983 c.759 §8; 1987 c.919 §8]

526.020 [Amended by 1953 c.68 §19; 1955 c.117 §1; repealed by 1965 c.253 §9 (526.041 enacted in lieu of 526.020)]

526.030 [Amended by 1953 c.23 §2; 1955 c.27 §1; 1961 c.123 §4; 1965 c.253 §11; renumbered 526.046]

526.041 General duties of State Forester; rules. The forester, under the general supervision of the State Board of Forestry, shall:

(1) In compliance with ORS chapter 183, promulgate rules consistent with law for the enforcement of the state forest laws relating directly to the protection of forestland and the conservation of forest resources,

(2) Appoint and instruct fire wardens as provided in ORS chapter 477.

(3) Direct the improvement and protection of forestland owned by the State of Oregon.

(4) Collect data relative to forest conditions.

(5) Take action authorized by law to prevent and extinguish forest, brush and grass fires.

(6) Enforce all laws pertaining to forestland and prosecute violations of such laws.

(7) Cooperate with landowners, political subdivisions, private associations and agencies and others in forest protection.

(8) Advise and encourage reforestation.

(9) Publish such information on forestry

(10) Enter into contracts and cooperative agreements pertaining to experiments and research in forestry.

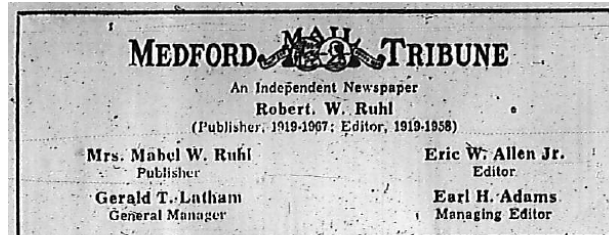
(11) Sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of any real property heretofore or hereafter acquired by the board for administrative purposes and no longer needed.

(12) Coordinate any activities of the State Forestry Department related to a watershed enhancement project approved by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board under ORS 541.375 with activities of other cooperating state and federal agencies participating in the project.

(13) Prescribe uniform state standards for certification of wildland fire training courses and educational programs. [1965 c.253 §10 (enacted in lieu of 526.020); 1969 c.249 §2; 1975 c.605 §27; 1987 c.734 §13; 1993 c.415 §5; 1997 c.413 §5; 2003 c.539 §38]

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Eric Allen's Editorial "Forest Policy: Fox and Chickens"



Forest Policy: Fox and Chickens

In Oregon, who, or what, supervises "all matters of forest policy and management in this state"?

The answer, of course, is the State Board of Forestry.

And what is the State Board of Forestry?

It is a collection of men selected through a process that is a Legislative monstrosity and an Executive nightmare.

THE LAW setting up the selection procedure guarantees that the State Board of Forestry will be dominated, both in numbers and philosophy, by the forest products industry.

It deprives the "general public" of any representation.

It deprives the Governor — nominally the appointing authority — of any real freedom of choice in who may serve on this important policy-making body.

In a time when "balanced use," "multiple use," and the protection of environmental and ecological values have claimed the attention and support of great numbers of people, the make-up of the State Board of Forestry virtually guarantees that consumptive use will be dominant in its thinking.

The Board has 14 members, but three of them (the Regional U.S. Forester, the state director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the president of the Oregon Forest Protective Association — or their representatives) are advisory only, and have no vote.

The 11 voting members include the dean of the School of Forestry at Oregon State University. Selection of the other 10 voting members, who serve four-year renewable terms, gets complicated.

Three of them must be from northwestern Oregon, two from southwestern Oregon and one from eastern Oregon. All of these six (a voting majority) MUST be "actively and principally engaged in an administrative capacity in the production or manufacture of forest products."

And to limit the Governor even more as to whom he may name to the Board, the nominees MUST be from a list of persons provided by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association, the Industrial Forestry Association, the Western Forest Industries Association, the Western Wood Products Association, the Association of Oregon Industries, and representatives of the

pulp and paper industries.

An additional member, the eighth, must be chosen from a list provided by the Association of Oregon Counties.

And the final three members are chosen thus:

One from a list recommended by the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, the Oregon State Grange or the Oregon Farmers Union;

One from a list provided by the Western Oregon Livestock Association, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, or the Oregon Woolgrowers Association; and

One from a list provided by the Izaak Walton League, the Oregon Wildlife Federation, or the Oregon State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Talk about special interest legislation!

It must be conceded, by and large, that the State Board of Forestry has had members who, insofar as it is possible for fallible humans to do, have had the public interest — rather than their own financial interests — in mind.

But the concept of "the public interest" held by a lumberman, logger, mill owner or cattleman may be a far cry from what "the public interest" means to the rest of the citizenry.

"Conservation" and "wise use" of the forest resource means different things to a logger, a backpacker, a camper, a hunter, or one who takes Sunday drives through the forest because he enjoys its fresh, natural beauty.

It is obvious that maintenance of the forest products industry, Oregon's largest and economically most important, is vital to the state's well-being. But this should not mean turning over public policy on forestry matters to a board dominated by that industry.

IT IS A flagrant case of setting the fox to guard the chickens. That all the chickens have not been eaten up is due more to luck and self-restraint than to ORS526.010, which guarantees that lumbermen will set the state's forest policies.

The Legislature should set a high priority on reviewing and revising this anachronism, and provide, at a minimum, that other aspects of Oregon's economic, recreational and social life should have a voice in setting the policies that govern the way the state's No. 1 natural resource shall be used. — E.A.

Eric Allen's Editorial "Worrying About Oregon's Forests"

MEDFORD TRIBUNE
An Independent Newspaper
Robert W. Ruhl
(Publisher, 1919-1967; Editor, 1919-1958)

| | |
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Worrying About Oregon's Forests

Gov. Tom McCall is a natural-born worrier. Often, he worries out loud, and the state's newspapers report his worries widely. Currently, he is worrying about tax inequities, school finance, land-use planning, industrial development, too many tourists for the state to accommodate, and similar thorny problems.

BETWEEN-TIMES, he may give a worry or two to the preparation of his biennial message to the Legislature, now due in less than five months.

Because Tom McCall has so many things to worry about, it may be rude to suggest something that he hasn't worried about nearly enough. This is the long-range integrity and productivity of the forests in the state, which are the source of income and employment for the state's largest industry.

We have long thought that the Governor should sit down with some professional-career foresters — not those in the employ of the forest products industry — and discuss the future of the forests, including those administered by the federal government, those owned by the state, and those owned by the private sector, both the big industrial lumber giants and the small woodlot owners.

There is cause for concern. For one thing, in considering subjects for his message to the Legislature, the Governor might give thought to the fact that the State Board of Forestry is dominated and controlled by the forest products industry, and only an amendment to the law can change that fact.

When we suggested editorially a few months ago that putting the forest products industry in command of the State Board of Forestry is like setting the foxes to guard the chickens, we were told in no uncertain terms that Oregon has one of the best Forestry Departments in the United States, and that it has leaned over backward

to be fair to all forest users, lumbermen and others alike. We were told that the new Forest Practices Act, now in effect, is a measure of the concern the Board feels for the future of Oregon's forests, most productive in the nation.

This may all be true, and probably is. But the fact that the industry-dominated Forestry Board has shown restraint and concern for the public interest in the past is no guarantee that it will continue to do so in the future. The more the demand for timber goes up (as it will), and the less there is to satisfy that demand (as there will be), the more pressures will be exerted for increased harvesting, and for consumptive use as against non-consumptive use.

(The fact that the State Department of Forestry has been distributing industry propaganda, unbeknownst to the Governor until last week, is one symptom of the problem.)

What kind of board is best-equipped to resist these pressures? An industry-dominated one? Or one broadly representative of Oregon's citizenry as a whole?

Where, on the State Board of Forestry, are the representatives of campers? Back-packers? Picnickers? Ecologists? Water resources? (Hunters and fishermen now have nominal representation on the board. So do livestock men.)

THE GOVERNOR ought to be free to appoint the best brains and most responsible citizens in the state to set policy for the state's forests, men (and women) who can consider the long-range good of the state as a whole, unblinded by conflicts of interest or special economic concerns.

He is not free to do so today; he may appoint only individuals nominated by special-interest groups, or designated by law.

We wish the Governor would add this to his long list of things to worry about. — E.A.

THE MONTREAL PROCESS:

Oregon's Role in the Global Effort

Cynthia Orlando
ODF Public Information Officer

In its technical reports, correspondence, and public meetings, the Oregon Department of Forestry frequently refers to something called "The Montreal Process." We thought it might interest readers of the Forest Log to know how the Montreal Process originated, and why its concepts are important to sound stewardship practices in Oregon's forests, and in forests around the world.

Decades of Change Lead to Earth Summit, Focus World's Attention on Sustainable Forestry

Following the expansive and optimistic attitudes of the 1960s, in the 1970s a series of United Nations conferences were held that brought developing and industrialized nations together. In 1972 the *UN Conference on the Human Environment* fostered discussions on the 'rights' of the human family to a healthy and productive environment.

During the 1980s, decisionmakers and policy setters identified poverty as a major cause and effect of global environmental problems. There developed a growing realization in national governments that it is impossible to separate economic development issues from environment issues, and that it is futile to attempt to deal with environmental problems without addressing world poverty and international inequality.

Amidst this recognition that poverty intensifies pressures on the environment, there arose new discussions for global change. In 1982-83, these concerns led to the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway. Brundtland was the youngest person and the first woman ever to hold the office of prime minister in Norway.

Charged with nothing less than "a global agenda

The Oregon Board of Forestry, which has policy oversight over all of Oregon's public and private forestland, is revising its comprehensive policy document, the Forestry Program for Oregon, around the unifying theme of sustainability and will use the seven Montreal Process sustainability criteria as central goals in the revised document.

for change," the commission's findings served notice that the time had come for a marriage of economy and ecology. Its findings were published in 1987.

The commission's recommendations led to the Earth Summit, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It focused world attention on sustainable forest management, seen as a key component of sustainable development. Sustainable development was defined as meeting the needs of today, without hurting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The Earth Summit was unprecedented for a United Nations conference, in terms of both its size and the scope of its concerns. The UN sought to help governments rethink economic development and find ways to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. Hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life were drawn into the Rio process. They persuaded their leaders to go to Rio and join other nations in making the difficult decisions needed to ensure a healthy planet for generations to come.

The summit's message — that nothing less than a

transformation of our attitudes and behavior would bring about the necessary changes — was transmitted by almost 10,000 on-site journalists and heard by millions 'round the world. Again, the message reflected the complexity of the problems facing us: Both poverty as well as excessive consumption by affluent populations place damaging stress on the environment. Governments recognized the need to redirect economic plans and policies to ensure that all economic decisions fully took into account any environmental impact.

The Montreal Process Forms

As a response to the Earth Summit, in 1993 a conference was convened in Montreal, Canada, called the *International Seminar of Experts on Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests*. The Montreal session was sponsored by what is now known as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

At the time, both Canada and the United States were interested in bringing the European and the post-Montreal processes together. However, following the Montreal seminar, the *Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests* in Europe elected to work as a region. Canada then took the lead in launching an initiative among non-European countries having boreal and temperate forests. The objective was to encourage development and implementation of internationally agreed-on national-level criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

In Geneva in 1994, the Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests was formed; this is now known as the “Montreal Process.”

Since its inception, the liaison office for the Montreal Process has been hosted by the Canadian Forest Service. The office, located in Ottawa, provides various services including document preparation and distribution, process coordination and various clearinghouse functions.

Goals and Guideposts Defined in Chile

Between June 1994 and February 1995, five

meetings took place to pursue development of a comprehensive set of forest sustainability criteria and indicators. At the sixth meeting, held in Santiago, Chile, ten nations endorsed a statement of political commitment known as the “Santiago Declaration.” This declaration is a comprehensive set of criteria and indicators for forest conservation and sustainable management.

The criteria developed in Santiago address national-level policy and sustainability, but are not intended to directly assess sustainability at the forest management unit level. They are to be applied and evaluated according to various countries' needs and conditions.

The first six criteria deal with forest conditions, attributes or functions, and the values or benefits associated with the environmental and socio-economic goods and services that forests provide. These have become the goals and guideposts for the Montreal Process.



Primary Goals of the Montreal Process

The Montreal Process established 67 indicators that describe seven criteria or goals necessary for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests (The Montreal Process, 1999).

They are:

- conservation of biological diversity
- maintenance of productive capacity
- forest ecosystem health and vitality
- conservation of soil and water resources
- forests' contribution to global carbon cycles
- socioeconomic benefits
- legal and institutional framework

Twelve Countries in the Working Group

Twelve countries are involved in the Montreal Process Working Group — Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, the United States, and Uruguay.

Together, these countries represent approximately:

- 60 percent of world's forests

- 90 percent of the world's temperate and boreal forests
- 45 percent of world trade in wood and wood products
- 35 percent of the world's population

2000 Meeting held in China

Montreal Process meetings are held annually, usually in the summer or fall, in locations around the world. In November of last year the Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests held its 12th meeting in Beijing in the People's Republic of China.

The meeting included 49 participants, including the 12 countries of the Montreal Process; observers from the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE/Pan-European Forest Process), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), African Timber Organization (ATO), Global Forest Policy Project, World Wide Fund for Nature China, Wetlands International; and representatives from Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing Forestry University, The Center of Economic Research and Development of SFA, Lin'an Forestry Bureau of Zhejiang Province, and Fujian Forestry College of Fujian Province.

The meeting welcomed presentations by Chinese forestry experts, including Professor Jiang Youxu, on "Sustainable Management — A Challenge and Opportunity to Forest Construction in China"; Dr. Wenfa Xiao, CAF, on "Development of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in China"; and Mr. Lu Wenmin, CAF, on "Forestry Certification in China." These presentations provided participants with an excellent overview of current developments in China.

What's Oregon's Role?

The concepts of forest sustainability took on great meaning for State Forester James E. Brown when he attended the XI World Forestry Congress in Antalya, Turkey, in 1997. While there, he attended a dinner hosted by Cote Ivory (Ivory Coast, Africa), and heard the story of how that nation's government responded to the problem of local villagers plundering new forest plantations for fuel wood. In response, the govern-

ment negotiated an agreement with the village leaders. Under the agreement, the villagers were given fuelwood-gathering rights for personal use and to sell to jobbers in the city, *as long as they tended the forest in a proper way*. The agreement solved both the economic and social needs of the village and the environmental needs of the nation.

This fairly simple model of open dialogue between the community-of-interest and the community-of-place had relevance internationally. Many other examples can be found where it is the community-of-place that actually tends and manages the forests. If somehow the community-of-place becomes disenfranchised, the forests they once tended can deteriorate over time. Without support from the community-of-place, successful implementation of hoped-for environment improvements will likely not succeed.

State Forester Brown returned to Oregon with a new vision of how the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators could be used to build upon the foundation already established by the Board of Forestry's *Forestry Program for Oregon* mission and vision statements. He immediately began a dialogue with other policymakers on how Oregon could better evaluate whether its forests were meeting society's objectives and being managed for sustainability.

What the Future Holds

The year 2001 is not only the 30th anniversary of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, the first such forest regulatory program in the nation, it also marks the culmination of new Oregon forest policy initiatives that firmly establish the state as a continuing leader in sustainable forestry.

The Oregon Board of Forestry, which has policy oversight over all of Oregon's public and private forestland, is revising its comprehensive policy document, the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, around the unifying theme of sustainability. The board will use the seven Montreal Process sustainability criteria as central goals in the revised document. Results from the forest assessment project will be used to establish measurable policy objectives and an adaptive management loop. The board is also taking steps to shape the dynamics of how forest certification systems are applied on Oregon forestlands.

Members of the Montreal Process

Argentina, located in the southeastern part of South America. The country can be divided into four major physiographic provinces: the Andes to the west (with arid basins, foothills, glacial mountains and the Lake District), the fertile lowland north (with subtropical rainforests), the central Pampas (a flat mix of humid and dry expanses) and Patagonia (a combination of pastoral steppes and glacial regions). Argentina's climate ranges from subtropical in the north to humid and steamy in the center, and cold in the temperate south.

Australia, an island nation located south of Indonesia between the Pacific and Indian oceans. While Australia's forests and woodlands are dominated by eucalyptus, these are very diverse with over 700 species of eucalypti, which support a rich diversity of ecosystems, varied in their floristic composition, structure and fauna.

Canada, north of the United States, is the second largest country in the world with 42 percent of its lands forested. Canada contains 10 percent of the world's forest. Its forest cover varies from grasslands to temperate forests, and is boreal forest and arctic tundra across the north.

Chile lies on the western and southern part of the Southern Cone of America, extending to the Antarctic continent, and including Easter Island to the west. The country's climate range includes deserts, steppes, Mediterranean, rainy moderate warm, rainy maritime, cold steppes, tundra and polar climates. Eight vegetation areas have been identified for the country: desert, high Andean steppe, sclerophyllous brush and forest, deciduous forest, Lauraceae forest, Andean patagonian forest, evergreen forest, and peat bogs and patagonian steppe.

China is the third largest country in the world. It is located in northeast Asia with Mongolia on the northern border, and the East and South China seas to the east. Its geography varies from mountains to plains and deserts. The climate varies from sub-arctic in the northeast to tropical in the south.

Japan is a chain of islands located off the eastern edge of the Eurasian Continent. Most of Japan is under the influence of a wet monsoon climate and has four distinct seasons. Boreal, temperate and sub-tropical forests are distributed within the Japan's north-south ranging geography. Planted forests cover 41 percent of the country, while natural forests covered 53 percent in 1995.

Korea is a peninsular country located in Asia neighbored by China, Russia, and Japan. Korea has a temperate climate characterized by hot and humid summer monsoons and by

cold and dry continental winter weather. In general, most of Korea's forest is temperate, but semi-tropical forest occurs in the southern part and semi-boreal forests in the northern part of the Korean peninsula.

Mexico is located in southern North America with the United States to the north. Its temperate forests are composed of pure conifer stands, mixed conifer, and hardwood stands. These forests are growing in the mountain regions of the country, in altitude bands ranging from 800 to 3,000 meters above sea level.

New Zealand, a geographically young country comprising two narrow mountainous islands and a number of small offshore islands, is located southeast of Australia in the Pacific Ocean. New Zealand's indigenous forests are located mainly in the mountain lands, particularly on the west coast of the South Island.

Russia is the largest country in the world. Stretching from the borders with Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine and Turkey in the west, along borders with Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China, to reach the Pacific Ocean some 6,000 km later. Due to its great size, Russia has varied climates and a varied geography. It is a fairly cold country with northern pine and spruce forests. There are three major rivers that flow through the country as well as small Ural Mountains.

United States lands vary in character from the boreal forests of Alaska, to the temperate forests of most of the continental US, to the tropical forests of Puerto Rico and Hawaii. The vegetation cover varies greatly and is directly related to temperature and annual precipitation levels. Those areas receiving substantial precipitation are predominately forested, while semiarid and arid locations support grasses and shrubs and are often associated with irrigated agriculture and/or rangeland. Forests are widely, though unevenly distributed across the continent. They range from the sparse scrublands of the arid interior West, to the highly productive forests of the South and Pacific Coast. They include pure hardwood and softwood stands as well as mixtures.

Uruguay is located on the east coast of South America and bounded by Brazil to the north, Argentina to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Natural forests cover 3.3 percent of the national territory and are located on river banks and in hilly areas, wet valleys, parks, palm groves and coastal sandy areas. Different types of vegetation include meadow species, chircales, psammophytes, halophytes, and plants typical of marshy and aquatic environments.

Appendix A

**CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR THE
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF TEMPERATE AND BOREAL FORESTS**

Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity

Ecosystem Diversity

1. Extent of area by forest type relative to total forest area.
2. Extent of area by forest type and by age class or successional stage.
3. Extent of area by forest type in protected area categories as defined by IUCN or other classification systems.
4. Extent of areas by forest type in protected areas defined by age class or successional stage.
5. Fragmentation of forest types.

Species Diversity

6. The number of forest dependent species.
7. The status (rare, threatened, endangered, or extinct) of forest dependent species at risk of not maintaining viable breeding populations, as determined by legislation or scientific assessment.

Genetic Diversity

8. Number of forest dependent species that occupy a small portion of their former range.
9. Population levels of representative species from diverse habitats monitored across their range.

Criterion 2: Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems

10. Area of forest land and net area of forest land available for timber production.
11. Total growing stock of both merchantable and nonmerchantable tree species on forest land available for timber production.
12. The area and growing stock of plantations of native and exotic species.

13. Annual removal of wood products compared to the volume determined to be sustainable.
14. Annual removal of non-timber forest products (e.g. fur bearers, berries, mushrooms, game), compared to the level of determined to be sustainable.

Criterion 3: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

15. Area and percent of forest affected by processes or agents beyond the range of historic variation, e.g. by insects, disease, competition from exotic species, fire, storm, land clearance, permanent flooding, salinisation, and domestic animals.
16. Area and percent of forest land subjected to levels of specific air pollutants (e.g. sulfates, nitrate, ozone) or ultra violet B that may cause negative impacts on the forest ecosystem.

17. Area and percent of forest land with diminished biological components indicative of changes in fundamental ecological processes (e.g. soil, nutrient cycling, seed dispersion, pollination) and/or ecological continuity.

Appendix A

Criterion 4: Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources

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| <p>18. Area and percent of forest land with significant soil erosion.</p> <p>19. Area and percent of forest land managed primarily for protective functions. e.g. watersheds, flood protection, avalanche protection, riparian zones.</p> <p>20. Percent of stream kilometers in forested catchments in which stream flow and timing has significantly deviated from the historic range of variation.</p> <p>21. Area and percent of forest land with significantly diminished soil organic matter and/or changes in other soil chemical properties.</p> <p>22. Area and percent of forest land with significant compaction or change in soil physical properties resulting from human activities.</p> | <p>23. Percent of water bodies in forest areas (e.g. stream kilometers, lake hectares) with significant variance of biological diversity from the historic range of variability.</p> <p>24. Percent of water bodies in forest areas (e.g. stream kilometers, lake hectares) with significant variation from the historic range of variability in pH, dissolved oxygen, levels of chemicals (electrical conductivity), sedimentation or temperature change.</p> <p>25. Area and percent of forest land experiencing an accumulation of persistent toxic substances.</p> |
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Criterion 5: Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles

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|--|---|
| <p>26. Total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool, and if appropriate, by forest type, age class, and successional stages.</p> <p>27. Contribution of forest ecosystems to the total global carbon budget, including absorption and release of carbon.</p> | <p>28. Contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget.</p> |
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Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies

Production and consumption

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>29. Value and volume of wood and wood products production, including value added through downstream processing.</p> <p>30. Value and quantities of production of non-wood forest products.</p> <p>31. Supply and consumption of wood and wood products, including consumption per capita.</p> | <p>32. Value of wood and non-wood products production as percentage of GDP.</p> <p>33. Degree of recycling of forest products.</p> <p>34. Supply and consumption/use of non-wood products.</p> |
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Appendix A

Recreation and tourism

- 35. Area and percent of forest land managed for general recreation and tourism, in relation to the total area of forest land.
- 36. Number and type of facilities available for general recreation and tourism, in relation to population and forest area.

Investment in the forest sector

- 38. Value of investment, including investment in forest growing, forest health and management, planted forests, wood processing, recreation and tourism.

Cultural, social and spiritual needs and values

- 42. Area and percent of forest land managed in relation to the total area of forest land to protect the range of cultural, social and spiritual needs and values.

Employment and community needs

- 44. Direct and indirect employment in the forest sector and the forest sector employment as a proportion of total employment.
- 45. Average wage rates and injury rates in major employment categories within the forest sector.

- 37. Number of visitor days attributed to recreation and tourism, in relation to population and forest area.

- 39. Level of expenditure on research and development, and education.
- 40. Extension and use of new and improved technology.
- 41. Rates of return on investment.

- 43. Non-consumptive-use forest values.

- 46. Viability and adaptability to changing economic conditions, of forest dependent communities, including indigenous communities.
- 47. Area and percent of forest land used for subsistence purposes.

Criterion 7: Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management

Extent to which the legal framework (laws, regulations, guidelines) supports the conservation and sustainable management of forests, including the extent to which it:

- 48. Clarifies property rights, provides for appropriate land tenure arrangements, recognizes customary and traditional rights of indigenous people, and provides means of resolving property disputes by due process.
- 49. Provides for periodic forest-related planning, assessment, and policy review that recognizes the range of forest values, including coordination with relevant sectors.
- 50. Provides opportunities for public participation in public policy and decision making related to forests and public access to information.
- 51. Encourages best practice codes for forest management.
- 52. Provides for the management of forests to conserve special environmental, cultural, social and/or scientific values.

Extent to which the institutional framework supports the conservation and sustainable management of forests, including the capacity to:

- 53. Provide for public involvement activities and public education, awareness and extension programs, and make available forest related information.
- 54. Undertake and implement periodic forest-related planning, assessment, and policy review including cross-sectoral planning and coordination.
- 55. Develop and maintain human resource skills across relevant disciplines.
- 56. Develop and maintain efficient physical infrastructure to facilitate the supply of forest products and services and support forest management.
- 57. Enforce laws, regulations and guidelines.

Appendix A

Extent to which the economic framework (economic policies and measures) supports the conservation and sustainable management of forests through:

- 58. Investment and taxation policies and a regulatory environment which recognize the long-term nature of investments and permit the flow of capital in and out of the forest sector in response to market signals, non-market economic valuations, and public policy decisions in order to meet long-term demands for forest products and services.
- 59. Non-discriminatory trade policies for forest products.

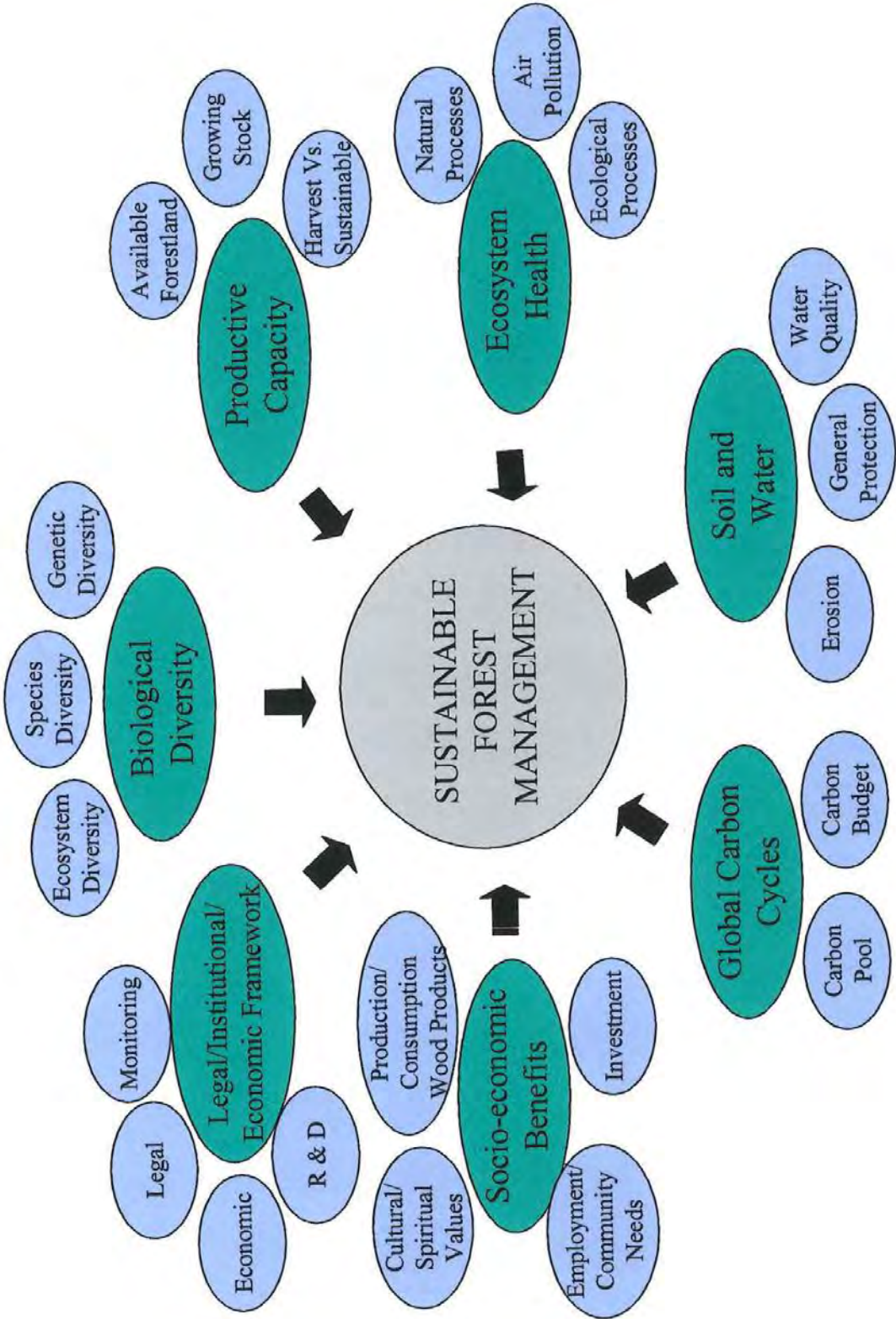
Capacity to measure and monitor changes in the conservation and sustainable management of forests, including:

- 60. Availability and extent of up-to-date data, statistics and other information important to measuring or describing indicators associated with criteria 1-7.
- 61. Scope, frequency and statistical reliability of forest inventories, assessments, monitoring and other relevant information.
- 62. Compatibility with other countries in measuring, monitoring and reporting on indicators.

Capacity to conduct and apply research and development aimed at improving forest management and delivery of forest goods and services, including:

- 63. Development of scientific understanding of forest ecosystem characteristics and functions.
- 64. Development of methodologies to measure and integrate environmental and social costs and benefits into markets and public policies, and to reflect forest related resource depletion or replenishment in national accounting systems.
- 65. New technologies and the capacity to assess the socioeconomic consequences associated with the introduction of new technologies.
- 66. Enhancement of ability to predict impacts of human intervention on forests.
- 67. Ability to predict impacts on forests of possible climate change.

MONTREAL PROCESS CRITERIA AND EXAMPLE INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



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AN APPRAISAL
OF
FORESTRY POLICY AND FORESTRY PROGRAM FORMULATION
IN THE
STATE OF OREGON

Prepared For
Oregon State Department of Forestry

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The areas of responsibility of the Oregon State Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry which require the formulation of policies and programs are:

1. protection of private, state, county, municipal and certain federal forest lands from fire, insects and disease,
2. management of state-owned forest lands,
3. nursery production of forest tree seedlings,
4. administration of the Forest Practices Act,
5. technical forestry services for owners of small forest tracts,
6. education of the general public in forestry and conservation,
7. cooperation with other public and private agencies or organizations in carrying out the above responsibilities.

The first two listed above have traditionally received the greatest attention by the Board of Forestry and the Department. These two and the other areas of responsibility have been rather independently administered programs. A broadening and integration of objectives and responsibilities is needed. This need is recognized by the Board and the Department.

The administration of the several forest tax laws in Oregon also involve the Board of Forestry and the State Forester, but primarily the Department of Revenue. These laws contain important broad statements of forest policy. The Department of Revenue activities are limited to the taxation aspects of these laws yet the policies as stated imply the need for additional programs in forestry and/or provide additional support to existing Department of Forestry programs. The above suggestion for broadening and integrating the forestry programs of the Board and Department of Forestry is also based on this fact.

2. Forest policy formulation in Oregon has been a process of slow evolution. The resulting state forestry policies consist of fragmented portions of various State laws relating to forest lands, forest products and forest taxation. Additional extensions of policy are specifically related to the above listed responsibilities and tend to be more procedural statements than policy. Also, some of these policies have been heavily influenced by federal

agencies' policies, particularly through the control exercised over funds under cooperative programs.

The Board of Forestry, as a body and through its committees, does not have authority to establish broad policies but does exercise guidance through involvement with the specific details of the application of the forestry programs under its jurisdiction. Existing forestry policies are spelled out in the laws which assign the areas of responsibility to the Board and the Department of Forestry and Department of Revenue. These need consolidation and elaboration in order to more fully express what appears to be the implications of the existing forestry programs and the will of the people. After such legislative extension of policies there would be a need for the Board and the Department of Forestry to further elaborate and strengthen their policies and objectives.

A more serious need is to formulate an integrated and coordinated forestry program for the State. In addition to requiring greater policy direction from the legislature, this requires much better understanding by the Board and by the Department of the current and prospective forest situation, particularly those aspects relating to their assigned areas of responsibility. And, it should be noted, that these responsibilities are broadening as the Governor, the legislature, other agencies, and the public seek better information and interpretation as a basis for taking positions and developing policies and programs.

Quite logically, these other individuals, groups and agencies turn to the Board and to the Department for assistance. Also the Board and the Department are facing an increasing need to make evaluations of federal forest land management agencies' proposals in order to protect and coordinate with the local and state interests. The Department definitely needs to function more effectively in evaluating the forest resource situation from the standpoint of the State of Oregon.

3. The Oregon Department of Forestry has not been, and is not, adequately staffed to make the necessary evaluations of the forest resource situation. This need has been filled in the past by reliance on outside sources of information and/or on a certain amount of conventional wisdom about the forest situation and about what can and should be done. Although much work has been done by others in forest resource evaluation, very little has been done that provided the kind of interpretation needed for formulating state forestry policies and programs.

Abundant useful basic information exists and is being collected by the State and by others. Although some add-

itional effort is needed in coordinating the existing data collection activities and extending them to some other subjects, the main additional effort needed by the Board and the Department is in the evaluation of existing and forthcoming new information, specifically from the standpoint of its meaning in terms of State forestry program needs and accomplishments.

4. It is recommended that the Department of Forestry should:

a. Take the leadership in establishing a permanent Forest Resource Situation Advisory Committee to the Board of Forestry. This Committee should include a representative from each agency directly responsible for forest resource data collection and/or evaluation activities, including the Department of Forestry itself, the DOR, OCDC, the Water Resources Council, the Oregon Highway Division of the Department of Transportation, both the Forest Survey and National Forest Administration of the Forest Service, BLM, BIA, SCS, industry land-owning associations, non-industrial land-owning associations and Oregon State University.

The purpose of this Committee should be to exchange resource information, to coordinate data collection projects and needs, to advise the Board of Forestry regularly about data availability, and to provide regular brief summaries of the Oregon forest resource situation.

b. Establish a small but highly qualified group of resource analysts within the Department of Forestry to carry out specific resource situation evaluations directed at problems clearly falling within the responsibility of the Board of Forestry and the Department. The activities of this group should not include any direct field data collection, but should rely entirely on other sources, or where special data needs require it, use contracted studies.

c. Participate with the Board of Forestry in developing for legislative consideration a single integrated and fully coordinated set of forest policies for the guidance of the Board, the Department of Forestry and all other involved state agencies.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Several conclusions can be drawn from the foregoing review and appraisal of the policies and programs of the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry. These are as follows:

1. The development of policies and programs for the areas of responsibility of the Board and the Department require a sound and thorough knowledge of the forest resource situation in Oregon. Up to the present time and currently, they have relied primarily on statewide and local studies made by others, on the general knowledge of Board members, on Department information gathered during regular activities, and on "conventional wisdom" about situations. These sources are no longer adequate relative to the importance of the responsibilities and the changing situations.
2. Forest resource evaluation work of others is useful and supportive but not satisfactory for the prospective needs of the Board and Department in policy and program formulation.
3. Forest resource data is essential to resource analysis. Data is now gathered by a number of agencies or groups, including the Department. The Department has access to a large amount of these data. The information is not always in the form desired nor as up-to-date as desired, yet much of it is useful. Precise and timely forest resource data are very costly and often the extra units of detail, accuracy and timeliness do not greatly enhance the results of the analysis. In view of these circumstances the Department should not add data gathering functions but should make an effort to coordinate and assemble what is being done.
4. Existing State legislative forest policies are not fully adequate as a basis for a comprehensive forestry program in Oregon. The problems and opportunities in forest resource development and use for all purposes are becoming increasingly important to the people of Oregon. These require action by the State, even when federal and private forest lands are concerned. Although much of the required action may be interpreted to fall within the existing legal authority of the Board and

Department, the underlying policy guidance is not always clear and complete. Examples of areas needing attention are service forestry, land use planning, federal-state relations, and cooperative functions.

Based on these four conclusions, the following recommendations are made:

Recommendation 1 -- The Department of Forestry should take the leadership in establishing a permanent Forest Resource Situation Advisory Committee to the Board of Forestry. This committee should include a representative from each agency directly responsible for forest resource data collection and/or evaluation activities. Examples of members are suggested in the body of this report.

The purpose of this committee would be to advise the Board of Forestry, and to accomplish this the committee's functions would be:

1. to consolidate information about resource data collection activities and data availability.
2. to coordinate resource data collection and analysis activities where the need for coordination is revealed, such as standard units of measure, conversion factors, etc.
3. to make brief reports regularly to the Board on the forest resource situation and developments, relying on the work being done by the member agencies.

The Department of Forestry would need to provide a chairman of this Forest Resource Situation Advisory Committee. This person would be responsible for planning the activities of the committee, scheduling meetings, making up agenda, summarizing the results of meetings, giving assignments and preparing the brief periodic situation summary reports to the Board.

Recommendation 2 -- The Department of Forestry should establish a small but highly qualified group of resource analysts within the Department to carry out specific resource situation evaluations directed at problems clearly falling within the responsibility of the Board of Forestry and the Department. This group's functions and the abilities needed are based on the definition of what is meant here by resource analysis. A resource analysis consists of identification of existing or potential problems; assembly of data needed;

interpretation of the data in relation to the problem; analysis of alternative courses of action to solve the problem; and recommendations of policy and/or action programs.

For any given forest resource problem, each involved agency, organization, company and individual has somewhat different responsibilities and capabilities for contributing to a solution. The problem must be analyzed relative to those responsibilities and capabilities. This can best be done within the involved agency but it must be done by competent analysts, not by the administrators nor by those carrying out the action programs. This recommendation is based primarily on that fact.

A professional staff of 4 to 8 persons will be needed. The leader should have doctorate level training, preferably in resource economics. One or more members of the staff will need to be assigned to resource data compilation and interpretation relying on all existing sources. There should be no direct field collection of data unless special circumstances arise. In those cases, the work may be done best by contractual services.

In the analytical work it may also be helpful and necessary to use contracted professional services in order to assure the soundest possible results in a reasonable time. In some cases joint analysis with other agencies may be desirable on a cooperative basis.

An important function of this resource analysis group will be critical review of other resource analyses to determine their value for the Department's purposes. }

Until such a group is fully staffed, and particularly at this time when the OSU resource study is being made available and when a program of forestry for Oregon is being drafted, it may be necessary to obtain highly qualified outside assistance from OSU or by contract in order to most effectively use the OSU results in promptly formulating policies and programs.

Recommendation 3 -- The Department of Forestry should participate with the Board of Forestry in developing for legislative consideration a single integrated and fully coordinated set of forest policies for the guidance of the Board, the Department of Forestry and all other involved State agencies. As a first step in this process and as a part of the task of drafting a program of forestry, a draft set of forest policies for Board adoption should be prepared. This should be developed from the existing policy found in the laws which establish the Board's and the Department's existing responsibilities. This process will identify and

define any need for additional legislative policy clarification or extension.

Particular areas of concern are policies covering technical forestry services, relations with federal land-managing agency policies and programs, land use planning, Departmental research, and cooperative functions.

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**A Forestry Program for Oregon:
Oregonians Discuss Their Opinions on
Forest Management
& Sustainability**

A Quantitative Research Project
November, 2001

Prepared for:
Oregon Department of Forestry

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Introduction

This report is the third and last phase of a project aimed at providing the Oregon Board of Forestry with information on the public's attitudes, values, and beliefs regarding Oregon's forests and sustainable forest management. The Board of Forestry will consider this social information as part of revising their strategic plan, *The Forestry Program for Oregon*.

The report summarizes the results of quantitative research which involved two statewide surveys of Oregonians about their attitudes toward forest management and sustainability issues. One survey used conventional techniques. The other used scaled comparison survey research, a technique which arrayed pairs of sustainable forest management goals to assess Oregonians' relative priorities.

The survey findings build on the phase one literature review of public opinion and the phase two qualitative research which involved six focus group discussions held throughout Oregon. The survey questions asked generally about forest management and sustainability issues, and specifically about federal and private forestlands. Although state forests were not singled out because of the added complexity, the survey results clearly encompass state forest management issues. This executive summary primarily reports total responses; the full report also analyzes notable variations among different areas of the state and other demographic groups.

Summary of Key Findings

1. Oregonians continue to prefer balanced forest management for all forestlands.
2. Oregonians are divided on whether forestlands are being managed properly to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of present and future generations.
3. Oregonians often do not know what would prove to them a forest is being managed properly; when they have an opinion it is replanting trees and stopping clear-cutting.
4. Water quality and losing forestland to development are at the top of current and future concerns about Oregon's forests.
5. Oregonians across all regions of the state are concerned about family-wage jobs and the natural resources based economies in Oregon's rural communities.
6. Oregonians support active forest fire management.
7. A majority of Oregonians prefer purchasing Oregon wood products and think wood products are a better environmental choice than alternatives.

A closer look at these and other quantitative research findings follows.

State's Direction: Current Problems and Environmental Concerns

A recent statewide survey indicated that two-thirds of Oregonians think the state is moving in the right direction. However, there still are problems facing the state and survey research since September 11 generally indicates issues like education quality and funding, the economy, energy costs, and concern about personal security are more (or as) important as forest management. The ODF survey underscored this overall concern about the state of the economy, especially family-wage jobs and the natural resources based economies in rural communities.

Oregonians are most concerned about water quality protection among a list of ten environmental issues. Forest management was rated and ranked in the middle. A substantial 91% of those surveyed were very or somewhat concerned about water quality protection, compared with 78% for forest management.

Water Quality

Survey respondents were divided on the current state of water quality in Oregon's forests, with 34% saying it is getting worse, 39% saying it is staying the same, and 17% did not know. A majority (52%) of those feeling the quality is getting worse said contamination from human and animal waste and industrial pollution is the most significant cause, while 16% said removing trees that provide shade for streams and rivers, and 15% said contamination from the use of pesticides.

Future Problems Affecting Oregon's Forests

When asked to rank the biggest problems affecting Oregon's forests if Oregon's population doubles over the next 30 years, survey respondents put losing forestland to development at the top (45%) followed by not having enough high quality drinking water (19%) and loss of fish and wildlife habitat (14%).

Local Issues

Local issues of most concern validated other survey findings about Oregonians' concerns about water quality and loss of forestland. The issues of greatest concern were water quality, the relationship between the forest industry and environmental groups, losing forestland to development and other uses, and fish and wildlife habitat protection. For all of these issues, 75% or more of all respondents were very or somewhat concerned. And for 13 of the 16 issues presented, over 50% of respondents said they were very or somewhat concerned.

Almost half of all respondents said they were more concerned about water quality compared to five years ago; 43% were more concerned about losing forestland to development and other uses and 40% were more concerned about fish and wildlife habitat protection.

Fire Issues

The survey explored several issues related to forest fires. When asked to suggest forest management techniques to reduce the risk of wildfire, the highest response category was clearing dead wood/underbrush/debris (36%), followed by controlled burning (16%), thinning trees (12%), enforcement of campfire laws (9%); 12% did not know.

Consistent with these responses, a substantial 88% agreed strongly or somewhat that it is sometimes necessary to harvest or thin trees from crowded forests to reduce the risk of wildfire or to improve forest health. Another 83% agreed strongly or somewhat that it is sometimes necessary to use controlled fire on forestland to eliminate excess fuel on the forest floor to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Global Warming

Over two-thirds (69%) of respondents said it is very or somewhat important for Oregon's forests to be managed to collect and store carbon to help reduce global warming. When asked if forest landowners should be paid to adopt management practices that help forests to collect and store carbon, 41% said yes, 30% no, and 29% did not know.

Consumer Behavior

A majority (57%) said they preferred to purchase wood and paper products that come from trees harvested in Oregon, while 29% had no preference and 8% preferred trees harvested in another state or country. 84% felt strongly about their preference for Oregon products. With respect to what to do if consumer demand for paper and wood products cannot be met, respondents favored placing restrictions on consumers to reduce demand (50%) over increasing harvests on federal forestlands (24%) or harvesting trees in other countries (16%).

A majority (53%) felt it was OK for them to use wood products because they were a better environmental choice; 34% felt they should use alternatives and 13% had no preference. When determining which wood product to purchase, Oregonians rated product quality and price as most important. They also were interested in knowing if the product was from a well-managed forest.

Sustainable Forest Management

FORESTLANDS MANAGEMENT

When asked whether federal and private forestlands were being managed properly to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of both present and future generations, responses were somewhat divided, with respondents slightly more favorable toward private forestland management.

PROOF OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

One-fifth (20%) of respondents did not know what would prove to them that forests in their part of Oregon are being managed properly to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of both present and future generations. The most-mentioned proof was replant trees after they are cut (19%), followed by stop clear-cutting (13%).

BALANCE FOR FORESTLANDS MANAGEMENT

Responses were nearly the same for both federal and private forests when asked how respondents would want forest managers to weigh three different elements of sustainable forest management. Protecting water quality and wildlife habitat was slightly favored over meeting a wide range of social needs and growing forests for products. These responses confirm Oregonians' overall strong preference for a balanced approach to forest management expressed over many years of research.

PROTECTION EXPECTATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE LEVEL

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents said *private forest landowners* in Oregon should provide the same level of protection to fish and wildlife habitat as *farmers and homeowners*; 22% said they should provide more, and 6% said less.

Over two-thirds of Oregonians agreed that Oregon's private forest landowners should be compensated by the government for providing fish and wildlife habitat if the government requires it. When asked what percentage of a \$10 million cost to increase fish and wildlife habitat protection on Oregon's private forestlands should be paid by the public instead of private landowners, the average response was 36%; 18% did not know.

Most Oregonians agreed that public (96%) and private (82%) forests that are harvested must be replanted. Asked whether they agreed that new laws and regulations are resulting in removing timber with much greater protection for the environment, almost three-quarters agreed, while 11% did not know.

CRITERIA FOR FOREST SUSTAINABILITY—SCALED COMPARISONS RESULTS

The Scaled Comparison survey offered an opportunity to validate and elaborate on the conventional survey findings. The technique resulted in an understanding of Oregonians' relative priorities for seven different sustainable forest management objectives. Three objectives ranked in the first tier of priorities: protect soil and water quality, maintain the amount of forestland, and protect forests from serious health threats. The remaining objectives were ranked in the following order: have good laws, government and research, and sound policies; protect plant and animal habitats; maintain and enhance a variety of uses; and contribute to reducing global warming.

Study Phases One and Two

Generally, the survey research findings validated and expanded on the earlier two study phases – the literature review and qualitative research involving six focus group discussions in both rural and urban communities throughout the state. The following briefly compares key findings from the three study phases:

BALANCE

Balance in forest management was a dominant theme in the literature review, focus group discussions, and survey research findings.

LOCAL ISSUES

Local issues like replanting and clearcutting were common topics in every focus group, were consistent themes in the literature, and also were important to survey respondents. The role of the forest in Oregon's economy is well documented in the literature. Focus group participants across all groups felt the timber industry was important to the state's economy. Survey respondents also recognized the importance of the industry across all regions of the state.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

While the term "sustainable forestry" was a vague concept to many focus group participants, the concept of a three-legged stool balancing economic, environmental, and social demands resonated with focus group participants. This concept was used to help frame sustainable forestry questions in the statewide surveys. All three study phases underscored the importance Oregonians place on reforestation in sustainable forestry.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

Focus group participants and survey respondents placed a high value on clean water. Overall, and consistent with the literature review, focus group participants related more to "wildlife habitat" than "biological diversity," and the survey research used the terms "wildlife" or "animal" habitat in several questions. Losing forestland to development was at the top of current and future concerns about Oregon's forests in the survey research, a finding consistent with the literature review.

RELATIONSHIPS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

The focus group research revealed Oregonians' frustration with environmental groups and mistrust of public and private forestland managers. Related to this was the survey research finding that Oregonians are very concerned about the relationship between the forest industry and environmental groups.

Conclusions and Observations

KEY FOREST MANAGEMENT THEMES

Oregonians have a strong preference for balance in forest management. Current and future concerns about Oregon's forests centered on water quality, losing forestland to development, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Oregonians are divided on whether forestlands are being managed properly to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of present and future generations. Reforestation was a key indicator of sustainable forest management. Oregonians do not hold forest landowners to a higher standard of fish and wildlife habitat protection than farmers and homeowners.

OTHER KEY THEMES

Oregonians support active forest fires management. They believe Oregon's forests should be managed to collect and store carbon to help reduce global warming. They feel strongly about preferring Oregon wood and paper products, and feel wood products are a better environmental choice than alternatives.

GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER VARIATIONS

There was remarkable similarity in public opinion across all geographic areas of the state and among other demographic subgroups. What was different for some issues was the degree and intensity of opinion. For example, the Central/Eastern Oregon region rated wildfire danger above water quality as the forestland issue of greatest concern, while the other regions put water quality first; and even though all areas were concerned about urban sprawl, it was of more concern in the Portland metro area and of less concern in the South Coast and Eastern Oregon areas compared to the others.

RELATIONSHIP TO STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Although survey respondents were not asked specifically about state forest management, the key themes and opinions expressed in both the survey and focus group research apply equally to managing state forests.

TALKING ABOUT FOREST MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

The themes that emerged from the research offer solid issues for introducing forest management and sustainability issues. Statewide, these key issues are water and air quality, wildlife habitat protection, and fire management. Communications also can be tailored to issues of more intense interest in different geographic areas.

XI. CONCLUSIONS & OBSERVATIONS

A. Key Forest Management Themes

BALANCE IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

Both the survey and focus group research confirm Oregonians' strong preference for a balanced approach to forest management. This preference for balance cut across all areas of the state. In all regions of the state, there was a slight leaning toward protection of water quality and wildlife habitat, with meeting social needs and growing forest products for use about equal in weight.

An indirect indicator of Oregonians' strong interest in balance was the clear message they sent about their impatience with the relationship between the forest industry and environmental groups. This was the second highest rated concern they had about forestland issues in their local area. The focus groups expressed similar frustrations.

In spite of regional concerns about the natural resources based economy, the strength of support for balanced forest management was indicated by all areas of the state.

CURRENT AND FUTURE CONCERNS ABOUT OREGON'S FORESTS

Water quality and losing forestland to development are at the top of current and future concerns about Oregon's forests. Water quality was a dominant theme throughout both statewide surveys, coming out at or near the top across all geographic and demographic groups. Oregonians' concern for water quality has been a dominant theme of public opinion research for at least the last decade.

Oregonians also are concerned about air quality as a general environmental issue. Water and air quality protection were paired together in the Scaled Comparison research, and that forest management objective was ranked first or second in all regions.

The concern about losing forestland to development (sometimes described as urban sprawl onto forestland) encompassed other concerns like loss of fish and wildlife habitat, not having enough trees to harvest for wood products, and shortage of forest recreation opportunities. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat was among the top rated problems affecting Oregon's forests in the future, and wildlife habitat protection was a top-rated environmental problem and local issue of concern.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Oregonians are divided on whether forestlands are being managed properly to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of present and future generations, with a somewhat more favorable view toward private versus federal forestland managers. A fairly high percentage did not know how to make the assessment. A plurality disagree that forest management standards should be higher for public than private forestlands.

Reforestation was a key indicator to both survey and focus group participants of sustainable forest management. Given its importance, it is of some concern that Oregonians had less knowledge about replanting requirements on private than on public forestlands. On a related subject, we know from other survey research that the public does not want new laws; it wants existing laws enforced.

Oregonians do not hold forest landowners to a higher standard of fish and wildlife habitat protection than farmers and homeowners. There was support for compensating private forest landowners for providing required fish and wildlife habitat. This view is consistent with the recent passage of Ballot Measure 7 in Oregon. There was soft support for the public helping private landowners to pay for habitat protection.

B. Other Key Themes

FIRE ISSUES

Oregonians support active forest fire management, including controlled fires and harvesting or thinning trees from crowded forests. The focus group discussions revealed some concern about controlled burns, but the survey clearly indicated there is a general understanding of the need for them.

GLOBAL WARMING

As with the focus groups, the term “global warming” seemed to resonate fairly well with survey respondents. There was strong support for managing Oregon’s forest to collect and store carbon to help reduce global warming. And there was some support for paying landowners to adopt management practices that help forests to collect and store carbon (although 29% did not have an opinion indicating this was a new topic for many respondents).

Given Oregonians’ concern about air pollution, these results may not be all that surprising. Further, because there has been little prior survey research done on this topic, the results may be of particular value.

CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

Oregonians felt strongly about preferring Oregon wood and paper products. This is consistent with overall importance Oregonians place on our natural resources based economy, expressed in both the survey and focus group research.

A majority felt wood products are a better environmental choice than alternatives, with nearly all feeling strongly about this preference.

Among the 50% who favored placing restrictions on consumers if U.S. consumer demand cannot be met from harvesting trees on U.S. private forestlands in the future, over 90% felt strongly about their preference.

After quality, there is some indication products from well-managed forests make a difference in purchasing decisions.

C. Geographic and Other Variations

There was remarkable similarity in public opinion across all geographic areas of the state and other demographic subgroups, with the degree and intensity varying for different issues.

Water quality protection was rated as the top environmental issue by Oregonians in every area of the state. Water quality also was rated the forestland issue of greatest concern in all regions except for Central/Eastern Oregon, which rated it behind wildfire danger; Southwest and Portland area residents were most concerned overall about water quality compared with other areas. Air quality protection, rated as the second overall environmental issue, was in the top four ratings of concern across all regions of the state.

Over half of all respondents in each region of the state said losing forestland was the most or second most important problem affecting forestland in the face of significant population growth, even though Portland metro residents were most concerned about this issue.

Regarding local issues, wildfire danger was of more concern in Eastern, Central, and Southwest Oregon than in the other areas. Disease or insect damaged trees were of more concern in Eastern Oregon, South Coast, and Southwest areas. Concern about urban sprawl was of more concern in Portland metro, and less concern in the South Coast and Eastern Oregon areas.

Regarding other demographic groups, there were some questions where newer and younger residents had somewhat different views. This generally involved less knowledge about various issues than other residents.

D. Relationship to State Forest Management

As the introduction indicated, survey respondents were not asked specifically about state forest management because Oregonians have historically been able to better distinguish between federal and private forestland. However, the key themes and opinions about local issues expressed in both the survey and focus group research apply equally to managing state forests.

E. Talking about Forest Management and Sustainability Issues

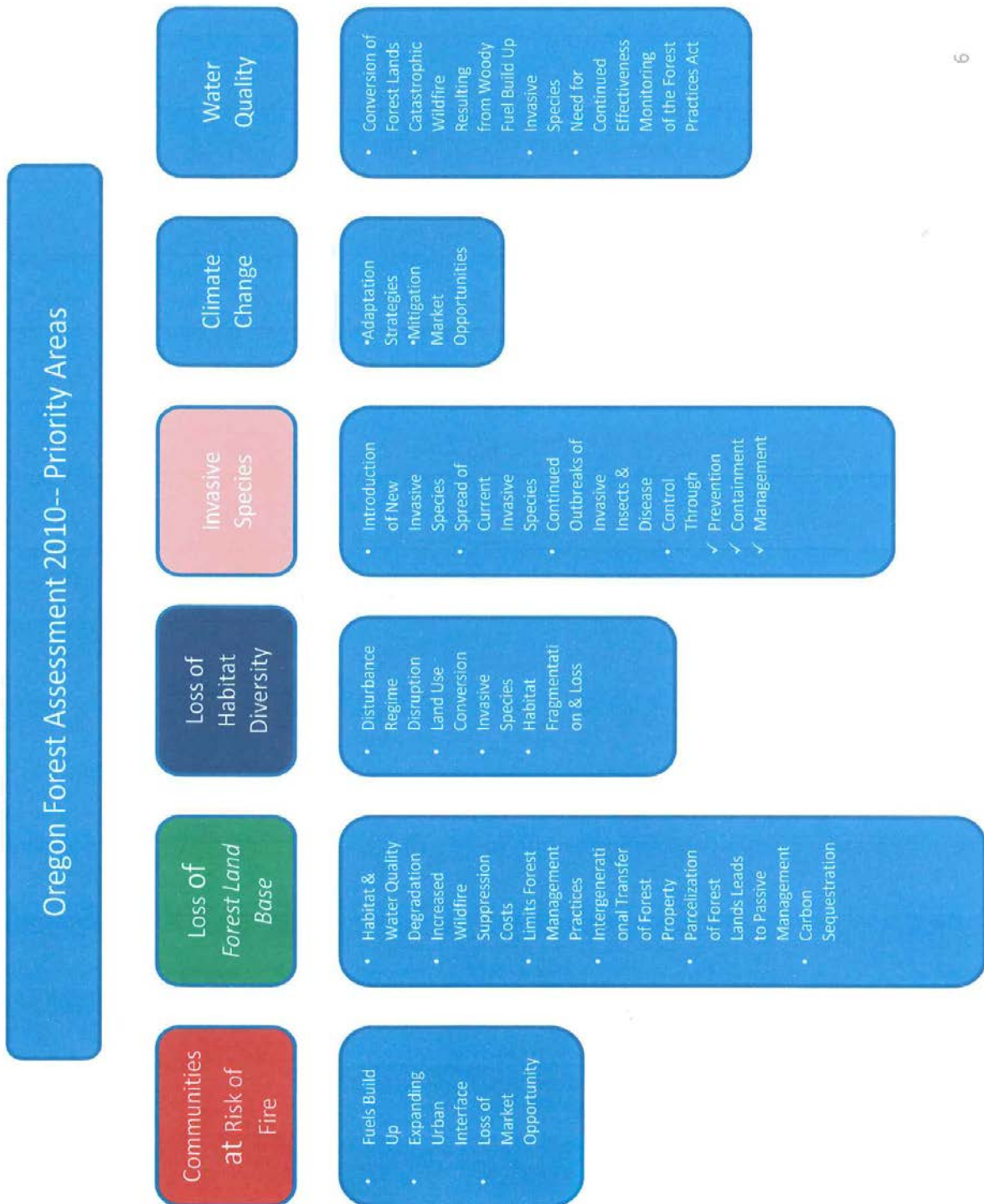
The themes that emerged from the survey and focus group research indicate good, solid pathways for introducing forest management and sustainability issues, rather than presenting as forest management per se. Statewide, these issues are:

- Water and air quality
- Wildlife habitat protection
- Fire management

Forest managers are encouraged to look at the variations in opinion about local issues among different areas of the state for additional messages and entrees to discussing forest management issues.

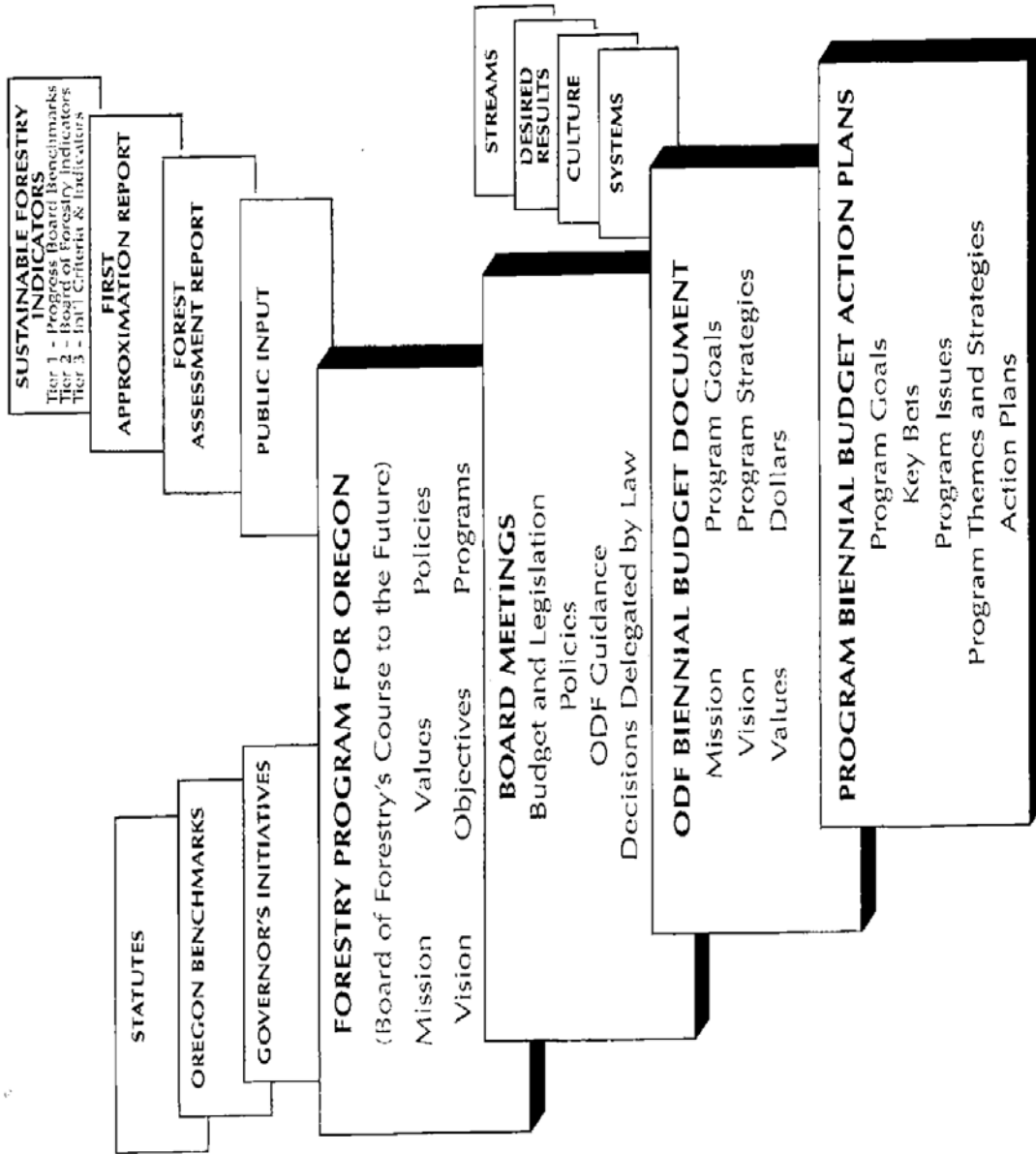
Ongoing communications are important as newer and younger residents need to be educated on forest management issues. As noted above, there were some questions where these residents had somewhat different views, usually indicating less knowledge about certain issues than other residents.

Oregon Statewide Forest Assessment 2010 Schematic Diagram



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Oregon Department of Forestry/Board of Forestry
Historical Planning Hierarchy

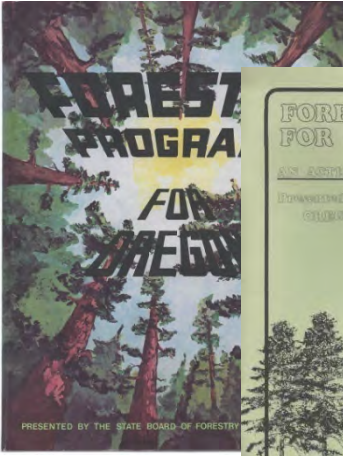


Oregon Department of Forestry/Board of Forestry Historical Planning Hierarchy

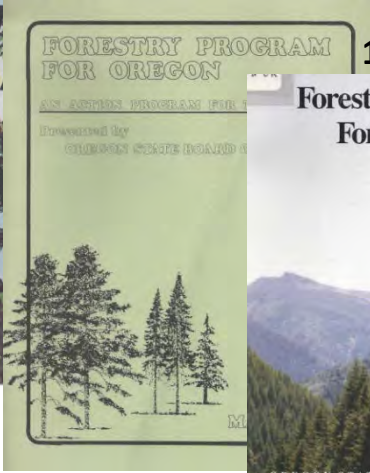
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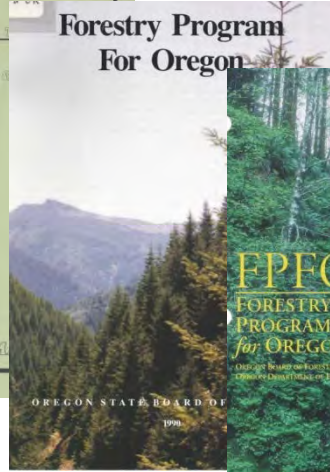
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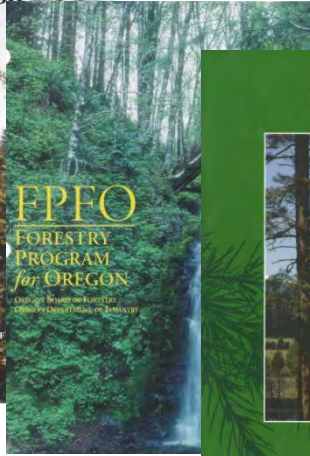
1982



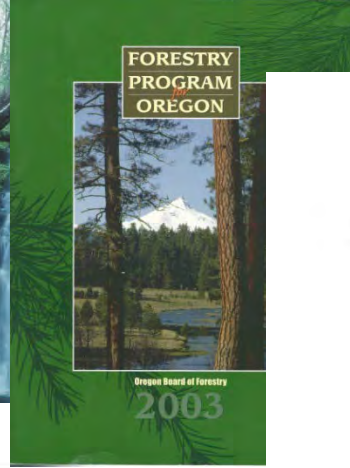
1990



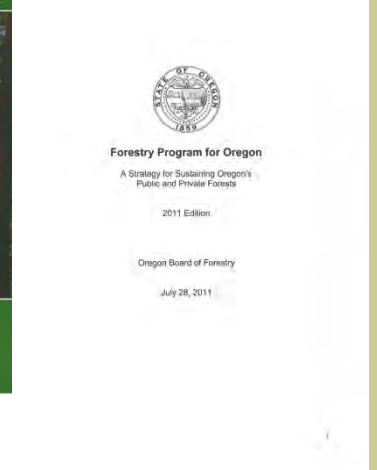
1995



2003



2011



POLICY PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY—A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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April 2013

Board Closing Comments and Meeting Wrap Up