

July 8, 2005

Greetings –

I'm writing to you with a question and an invitation.

The question: Where should the Oregon Board of Forestry focus its attention during 2006 as it works to enhance the health and sustainability of our state's forests?

The invitation: Accompanying this letter is a form that you can use to suggest issues for the Board's consideration. I encourage you to complete this form, helping us to shape our agenda, and that of the Oregon Department of Forestry, for the months ahead.

As you may know, in late 2004, the Board began crafting a systematic way of setting priorities for action among the many issues before us, and of planning and overseeing the Department's work in support of those priorities.

This "decision system" is still developing. As we refine it, we expect it to increase our effectiveness as leaders in creating forest-related policy for the state, and to keep us on track in implementing the visions described in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, our guiding strategic document.

The system includes a yearly issue scan, during which we ask the public to help us shape our priorities and our work plans. We are now seeking your input and advice as we prepare our list of priority issues for next year.

As you fill out the enclosed form, it would be helpful if you could describe your suggestions in 500 words or less.

Please return the form by **5 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2005**.

A work group consisting of two Board members, a public member, and members of several Board advisory groups will review and organize the submissions. The group's tasks will include comparing the suggestions to the Board's current work plans to determine which issues are already being addressed, and seeking additional information as necessary. The group will pass along all of the suggestions to the full Board, and also may make recommendations as to priorities.

The Board is scheduled to receive the recommendations in October, and will then begin discussions leading to a new list of priority issues, and possible changes or additions to our work plans, for 2006.

On the back of the enclosed form, you will find a brief summary of our seven current work plans. This may be useful to you in understanding the Board's current priorities. Additional background information, and a version of the form that can be submitted electronically, are available on the Board's Web site, at www.oregon.gov/odf/board

Public participation is vital if we are to achieve our goal of crafting sound policies that sustain healthy forests for the benefit of all Oregonians. I look forward to your suggestions about the Board's future direction.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Hobbs, Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry

Enclosure