

## Summary of Objectives and Board Products in the Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan Approved September 7, 2005

**OBJECTIVE 1: Promote dialogue and greater understanding among scientists, decision makers, and stakeholders about dynamic ecosystem processes and using this understanding to develop and apply environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable forest management actions and policies on all Oregon forestlands.**

### *Board Products*

--A symposium on dynamic forest ecosystems hosted by the Board of Forestry.

An effective means to begin promoting dialogue and understanding in the form of a symposium organized and scheduled by a steering committee comprised of Department of Forestry staff and principal natural resource scientists within the region. The purpose of the symposium would be to:

- Recognize the *Forestry Program for Oregon* as the overarching policy framework for forest management in Oregon and that different management objectives across forest ownerships can collectively contribute to environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable forestry.
- Build upon the 2003 Department of Forestry White Paper titled *Forest Practices Protection on Forestlands in the Context of Dynamic Ecosystems* and the literature related to forest practices in Oregon to increase understanding of Oregon's dynamic forest ecosystems as a basis for forest policies and management.
- Produce a published summary of the information, values, ideas, and outcomes from the symposium.
- Address the following key questions within the policy context of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*:
  - How have Oregon's diverse forests evolved and adapted in an environment of natural disturbance?
  - How has our incomplete understanding of ecosystem dynamics influenced the intended and unintended consequences of past forest management policies and practices?
  - Will natural processes move otherwise unmanaged forests towards an optimal, sustainable equilibrium? What are the various spatial and temporal dynamics that we need to understand and consider in developing future management frameworks?
  - What is our understanding of the social and economic forces that might be suppressing or exacerbating natural and introduced forest ecosystem disturbances?
  - Do our current applications of forest management and forest protection strategies transcend static paradigms and appropriately incorporate dynamic ecosystem concepts?
  - In what specific ways could the entire forest protection framework, regulatory regimes, resource protection strategies, and adaptive management processes be improved to better address long-term risks and inherent natural disturbances regimes?

**OBJECTIVE 2: Synthesize existing analytical tools, monitoring data, and research information to begin quantifying short-term and long-term ecosystem risks from potential future forest management and policy choices.**

***Board Products***

The Board will be asked to adopt a report that applies the concept of systematic evidence review to the topic of dynamic forest ecosystems.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Integrate adaptive management processes within the *Forestry Program for Oregon* in order to develop and promote adaptive policy options that lead to sustainable outcomes within a dynamic ecosystem paradigm.**

***Board Products***

-- The Board will be asked to adopt a standardized protocol for incorporating adaptive management processes into monitoring proposals for Board decisions in future Work Plans. The Board will also be asked to adopt a position promoting sound adaptive management processes in other state and federal natural resource management policies and programs.

**OBJECTIVE 4: Evaluate and modify existing Board policies and Department of Forestry programs to accurately integrate the scientific understanding of ecosystem dynamics.**

***Board Products***

1. Upon completion of a systematic evidence review, the dynamic ecosystems symposium, and continuous analysis from monitoring and paired watershed studies, the Board will be asked to perform a comprehensive reevaluation of the existing forest protection framework to identify and modify policies and programs found to be inconsistent with new scientific understanding.
2. The Board will include language in other relevant Board Work Plans to conduct applicable reevaluations, in an adaptive management context, as new information from monitoring and analyses are made available and integrated with the existing body of knowledge.
3. The Board will continue support for paired watershed monitoring and analysis, and staff will make ongoing presentation of new information to the Board as monitoring results are available.
4. The Board may consider alternatives (legal, administrative, and institutional) for resource protection under the Private and Community Forests Program that utilize the information gained about dynamic ecosystems that may better address temporal and spatial variability and sustainability.