

Board of Forestry Private Forests Work Plan Development

Purpose: Review of draft Private Forestlands Issue Paper for Board review and discussion

- "Primary Board Issue" and background
- Review current Board policy objectives and available FPFO indicator information
- Board development of new or revised policy objectives for private forestlands



Board of Forestry Private Forests Work Plan Development

Timeframe with Milestones

January 2009 — Board review, discussion, and agreement on their draft Private Forests Work Plan.

March 2009 — Board review and discussion on the Private Forests Issue Paper. Determination on what, if any, alternatives should be explored.

June 2009 — Continued discussion on the Private Forests Issues Paper, including the vetting of any alternatives.

September 2009 — Board review and discussion on recommended alternative(s) for Private Forests policy governance and funding mechanisms.

November 2009 — Continued review, discussion, and agreement on recommended alternative(s) for Private Forests policy governance and funding mechanisms; a initial discussions on next steps



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Primary Board Issue:

How will the Board clarify current Private Forests program policy governance—at the statutory level, Forestry Program for Oregon strategic planning level, or otherwise—to effectively address the current and emerging challenges on private forestlands in order to fully realize the FPFO vision of sustainable forest management across all Oregon’s forestlands?

What, if any, changes to program funding sources and/or mechanisms are needed in order to best ensure desired outcomes are achieved?

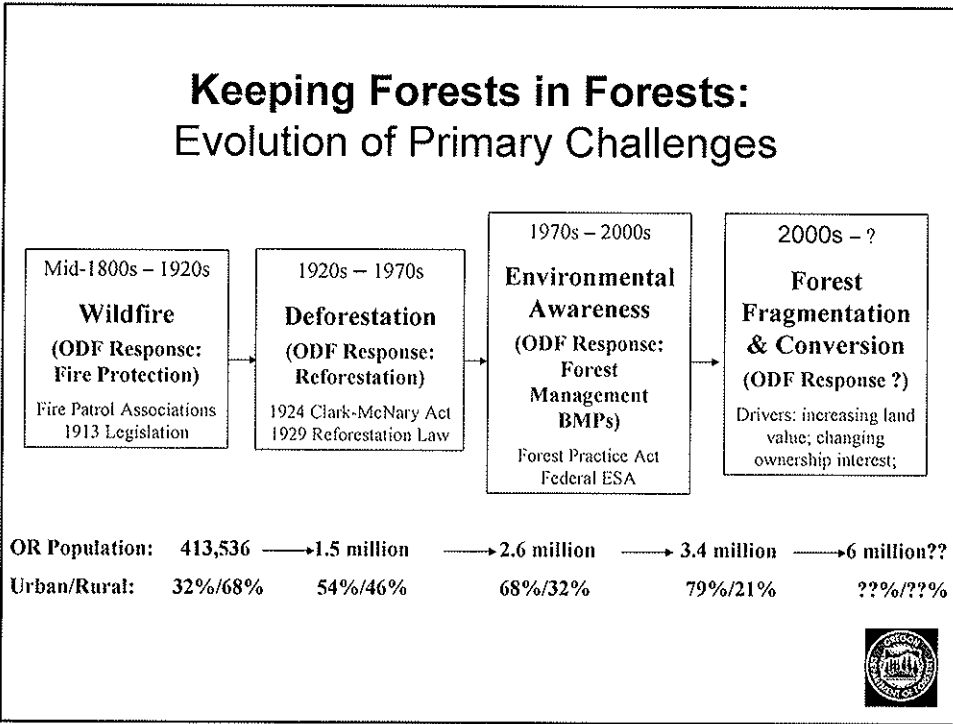
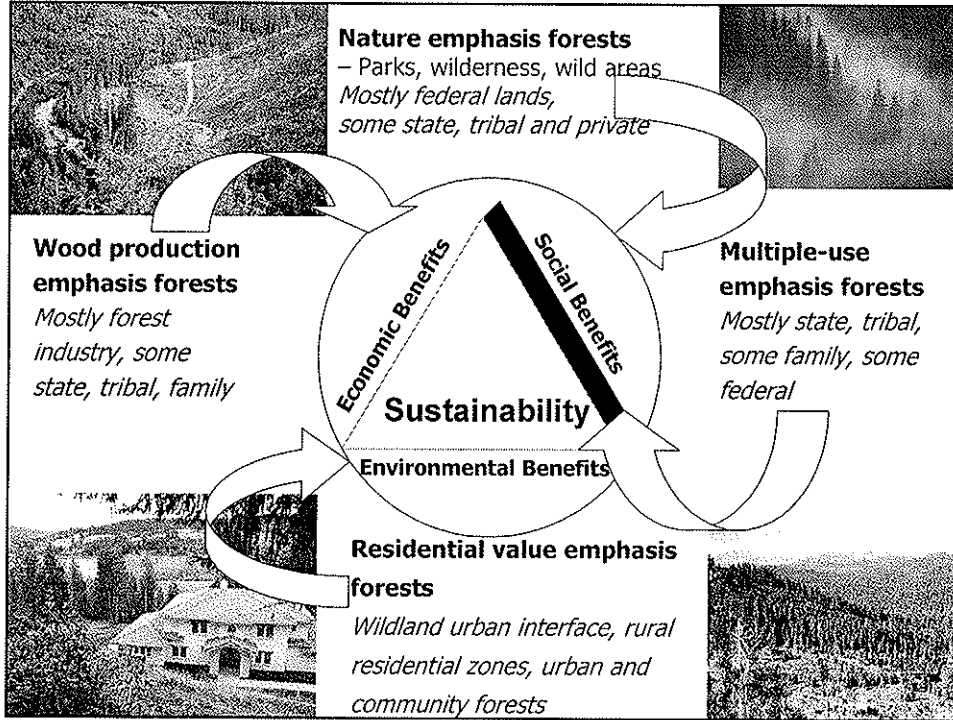


2003 Forestry Program for Oregon

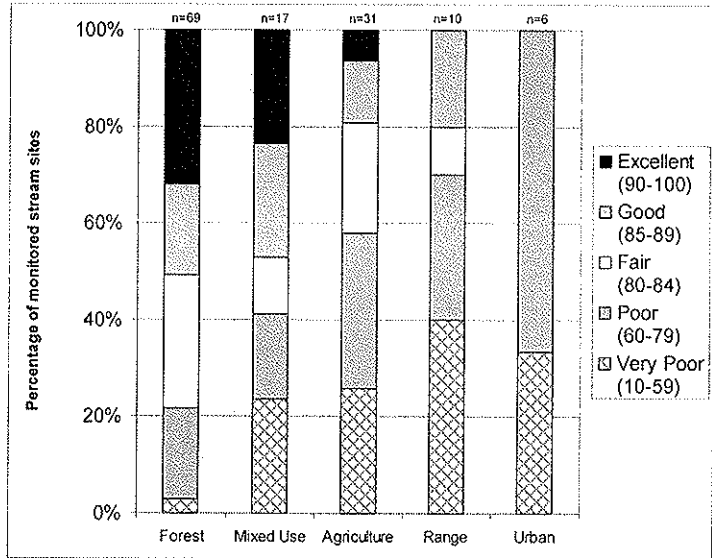
Sets forth the Board of Forestry’s eight-year strategic vision, based on three principles:

1. Widely recognized international criteria and indicators as a framework for achieving sustainable forestry in Oregon.
2. Sustainability requires maintaining a diversity of forestland ownerships and management objectives across the landscape and through time.
3. Cooperative, non-regulatory methods are strongly preferred in achieving public benefits on private lands.





**Oregon Water Quality Status based on OWQI, by Land Use Type
Water Years 1990-1999¹**



¹Oregon Progress Board. State of the Environment Report 2000. Oregon Department of Administrative Services. (http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/soer2000index.shtml#Introduction_to_Full_Report_)



Four-part Framework of General Strategies to Meet Expectations of Public Benefits From Private Lands

1. <i>Improve Timber Resource Economics</i>	2. <i>Improve Non-Timber Resource Economics</i>
3. <i>Compensate/Incentivize Landowners</i>	4. <i>Regulate/Restrict Landowners</i>



Guiding Statutes

- ORS 527.730: Forest Practice Act (general fund and harvest tax)
- ORS 526.425: Forestry Assistance (federal funded)
- ORS 526.505; Urban & Community Forestry (federal funded)



Sustainable Forestry: Different Land Ownerships and Roles

FPFO Action C.2:

The board recognizes that different owners have different objectives for land ownership with different emphases on conservation, commodity production, multiple use, and residential values. The board will promote a policy framework that recognizes that the management of these different ownerships can provide a suite of benefits which collectively will meet Oregon's environmental, economic, and social needs.



Sustainable Forestry: Different Land Ownerships and Roles

Options:

- *Focus on reducing risks of forest fragmentation and conversion (i.e. maintain forestland base overall).*
- *Maintain a desirable level of forestlands in each of the four types.*
 - *In the context of 19 indicators towards forest sustainability.*
 - *Goal: Ensure achievement of desired economic, environmental, and social conditions.*



Sustainable Forestry: Different Land Ownerships and Roles

“Sustainability” (from National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry, 2007):

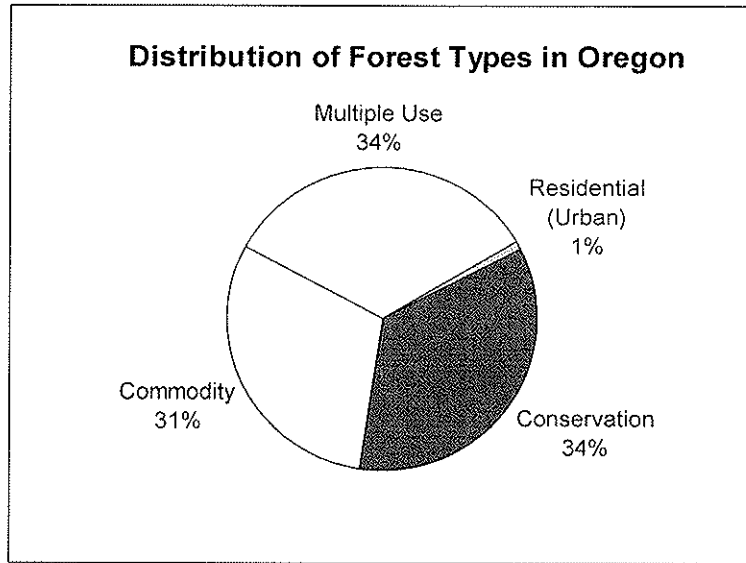
A path which balances economic, social, and environmental considerations;

A process and an aspiration, not a single, immutable end-point or static condition.

Goals as well as process for sustainable forestry change in response to changes in what society values and how science and technology inform management and conservation.



Sustainable Forestry: Different Land Ownerships and Roles



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Current FPFO Policy Objectives Related to Private Forests

See Attachment 1—Appendix A:

- Currently 43 “actions” most directly related to private forests
- Organized under the seven FPFO strategies
- Are these still the ‘right’ ones?



Available FPFO Indicator Information

Nine of the 19 Reported on in 2008:

- A.b: Sustainable forest management knowledge
- B.a: Revenues supporting public services
- B.b: Forest-related employment & wages
- C.a: Non-fed. forests & development trends
- C.b: Harvest trends relative to growth potential
- E.b: Forest cover types by categories
- E.c: Forest plant and animal species at risk
- F.a: Tree mortality; insect & disease damage
- F.b: Invasive species trends on forest lands



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Potential New or Revised Policy Objectives:

1. Identify forest fragmentation and conversion risks as the primary, overarching challenge to sustainable forestry, and prioritize efforts accordingly.
2. Explore alternative, more stable funding mechanisms for the public share portion of the department budget directed at keeping forests in forests (i.e. alternatives to state general funds).
3. Utilize non-regulatory methods as much as feasible... to achieve public-policy goals on private forestlands; and consider the use of additional regulatory methods as a least-preferred option.
4. Promote a state-wide no-net-loss of forestlands policy

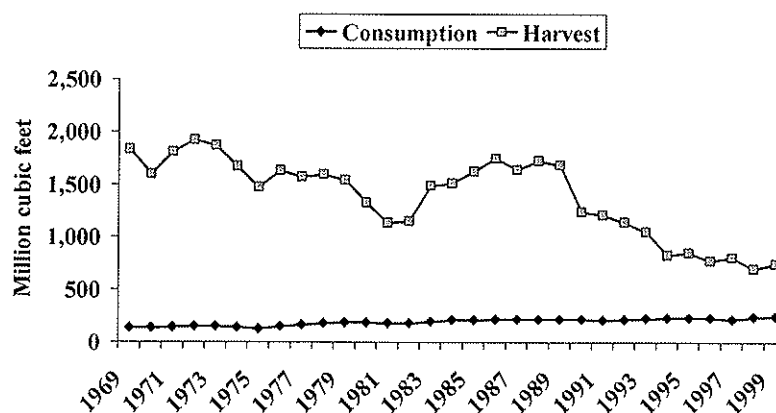


Potential New or Revised Policy Objectives (cont.):

4. High priority on long-term strategic investments to support Oregon's forest industry...to ensure that Oregon's forests, at a minimum, can *provide for Oregonian's current and future wood product consumption.*
5. High priority on dedicating resources towards the development and support of future non-timber markets that will increase forestland value.
6. Promote the development of a coordinated, statewide Oregon native plant and animal conservation policy addressing all land uses and ownership classes.



Consumption of Timber Products and Harvest in Oregon¹



¹Personal communication, Richard Haynes, economist, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station.



Potential New or Revised Policy Objectives (cont.):

7. Existing resource protection regulations (e.g. ESA, CWA, FPA) to meet baseline expectations of public benefits on private forestlands, and look to non-regulatory approaches for additional expectations of public benefits.
8. Develop principles and standards relating to the creation, measurement, accounting, marketing, verifying, registering, transferring and selling of forestry carbon offsets from nonfederal forestlands (ORS 526.786).
9. Landslides and public safety: promote fulfillment of shared responsibility for any additional action to reduce public safety risks (fulfill existing statutes).
10. Other?



Recommendation

Direct the department to draft updated/revised list of Board policy objectives related to private forestlands (i.e. to replace existing 43).

Continue the discussion and further refine at the June 2009 Board meeting, including options to consider for improved public funding mechanism.

