

Agenda Item:	C
Work Plan Title & #:	Private Forests Work Plan #6
IBI # & Title:	IBI 3 Support the Forest Practices Act, Land Use Planning and the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
Presentation Title:	Draft of Updated Oregon Plan
Date of Presentation:	April 24, 2009
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## **SUMMARY**

This agenda item presents information about new and modified Oregon Plan voluntary measures that include, but are not limited to, Water Protection Rule Concepts the Board has approved for a voluntary pathway. The Department recommends that the Board endorse these voluntary measures as actions that address the intent of Board direction regarding the Oregon Plan (*Forestry Program for Oregon Action D.1*).

## **CONTEXT**

Intermediate Board Issue 3 of Board's Private Forests Work Plan 6 includes developing and encouraging the use of voluntary methods, such as landowner incentives, to achieve public policy goals on private forestlands (*Forestry Program for Oregon Action E.3*). The objective also promotes ongoing voluntary restoration and enhancement efforts by forestland owners through the Oregon Plan (*Forestry Program for Oregon Action D.1*).

Oregonians have demonstrated extensive and diverse support for non-regulatory, community-based, habitat improvement work under the Oregon Plan. Private forestland owners have volunteered significant funds and actions to help meet goals of the Oregon Plan (see Attachment 1, page 2 for details).

During several prior Board meetings, the Board of Forestry identified a subset of water protection concepts for inclusion in the set of actions that private forestland owners contribute to the Oregon Plan. Private forestland owners responded by including these and other concepts as key actions in the Oregon Plan voluntary measures (Attachment 1).

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

A work group of private forestland owner representatives, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies, has updated their set of Oregon Plan volunteer measures to include Water Protection Rule Concepts the Board approved for a voluntary pathway. The measures also include new actions such as addressing invasive species and actions to address wood placement in high aquatic potential (HAP) reaches, basal area targets for small and medium fish streams in western Oregon, and small non-fish streams.

Attachment 2 illustrates the relationship between Oregon Plan Volunteer Measures and the Water Protection Rule Concepts developed by the department in response to the Forest Practices Advisory Committee (FPAC) recommendations. In addition to voluntary measures previously endorsed by the Board, private forestland owners have developed actions to address Water Protection Rule Concepts 8 and 12.

Rule concept 8 focuses on active placement of large wood in streams reaches that have high aquatic potential (HAP). The recommendation is intended to improve short-term aquatic habitat consistent with longer-term goals for achieving mature riparian forest conditions and large wood recruitment. The voluntary measures describe the HAP methodology and specify large word placement (Attachment 1, page 5) and implementation of site-specific plans to accelerate progress towards desired riparian function (Attachment 1, page 7).

Rule concept 12 addresses the potential for stream temperature changes and changes in stream shading associated with forest operations adjacent to small Type N streams. The voluntary measures specify vegetation management along small non-fish bearing streams to provide stream structure (Attachment 1, page 8) as a voluntary action that can positively affect shade conditions.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends that the Board of Forestry endorse these voluntary measures as actions that address the intent of Board direction regarding the Oregon Plan (*Forestry Program for Oregon Action D.1*).

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will annually report progress to the Board of Forestry (implementation, trend and effectiveness monitoring results)<sup>1</sup>

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) Private Forest Landowners and the Oregon Plan: Oregon Plan Actions for Landowners, by Landowners
- (2) Crosswalk between Oregon Plan Volunteer Measures and Water Protection Rule Concepts

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<sup>1</sup> Monitoring of Oregon Plan actions is already part of the Private Forests Monitoring Strategy.