

Agenda Item No.:	2
Work Plan Title and #:	State Forests Work Plan 2
IBI # and Title:	IBI #6 - Improve the NW Forest Management Plan to achieve desired outcomes
Presentation Title:	House Bill 3072
Date of Presentation:	April 20, 2009
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to review current legislation being considered by the 2009 Legislative Assembly that would change the management mandate for state forests and to consider a Board position on that legislative proposal.

CONTEXT

House Bill 3072 (Attachment 1) would amend Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 530.050 so that timber production to provide revenue to benefitting counties becomes the highest priority for the management of state forests.

If this bill is passed into law current administrative rule and adopted management plans would have to be substantially altered to come into alignment with this new mandate. The bill requires that plans be modified as necessary no later than July 1, 2010.

As expressed in the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) *“The Board of Forestry’s mission is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon’s 28 million acres of public and private forests.”*

The FPFO goes on to describe the interdependence of these three sets of values. Environmental benefits, in fact, support economic and social benefits. Social benefits do the same for economic and environmental benefits. And economic benefits do likewise for social and environmental benefits. It goes on to say that not every ownership needs to deliver the same mix of benefits to the same degree, but within the range of ownership types there are those that attempt to deliver the full suite in a balanced fashion.

The Board’s state forests have been assumed to fall into this ownership type, providing a full suite of balanced benefits. Though the Board may need to verify that their policy perspective still places state forests in this category of balanced benefits, it is safe to say that this bill would change state forests to a wood production emphasis.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Board reaffirm their commitment to have state forests provide a full and balanced set of benefits and oppose House Bill 3072 as contrary to that commitment.

NEXT STEPS

Upon adoption of this recommendation the Board's position will be communicated to the appropriate legislators and legislative committees.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – House Bill 3072

Attachment 2 – Current ORS 530.050

Attachment 3 – Draft Letter from Chair Blackwell to the House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities