

Agenda Item No:	3
Title and # of Issue:	Private Forests Work Plan 6 – Primary Issue
Presentation Title:	<u>Private Forests Issue Paper</u>
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Contact Information:	Jim Paul, Division Chief Private Forests Division 503-945-7206 jpaul@odf.state.or.us

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to review and discuss the Board of Forestry Private Forests Draft Issue Paper (Attachment 1). This issue paper will facilitate the completion of the Board products for the primary Board issue in the Private Forests Work Plan: A Board review of the governing statutes and strategic direction articulated in the Forestry Program for Oregon for private forests, to determine what, if any, amendments are desirable.

CONTEXT

At the January 2009 Board meeting, the Board approved its updated Forest Regulation Work Plan, which is now titled the “Private Forest Work Plan”. This work plan includes a primary Board issue, which is the subject of this agenda item, and three intermediate Board issues which will be brought to the Board at future meetings over the course of the next year.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Primary Board Issue of this work plan is the following:

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 best address the current and emerging challenges on private forestlands in order to fully realize the Forestry Program for Oregon 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?

The Board of Forestry Private Forests Draft Issue Paper provides background information on the current primary challenges to keeping forests in forests for Oregon’s private forestlands, and a summary of the current Board of Forestry statutory and policy framework for addressing these challenges. The issue paper is intended to be the vehicle for the Board to: (1) have a clear understanding of the existing guiding statutory and FPFO policy objectives for private forestlands, and (2) document outcomes of Board discussion and debate as part of this and future agenda items on what, if any, alternatives to the current policy objectives should be explored in order to best deal with current and future challenges.

The issue paper discussion of possible alternatives will be organized around the seven *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies (A thru G). The staff presentation on this agenda item during the March 2009 meeting will provide additional context and details on ideas for the Board to consider in its review of current policy objectives. Examples of some alternatives the Board may wish to consider include the following:

- Recognize the risks of fragmentation and conversion of forestlands as the primary, overarching challenge to sustainable forestry, and prioritize efforts towards addressing this challenge.
- 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).
- Utilize non-regulatory methods as much as feasible, such as landowner incentives, the development and support of non-timber markets (i.e. ecosystem services markets), and support of timber resource economics to achieve public-policy goals on private forestlands; and consider the use of additional regulatory methods as a least-preferred option.
- Place a high priority on long-term strategic investments to support Oregon's forest industry competitiveness and development to ensure that Oregon's forests, at a minimum, can provide for Oregonian's current and future wood product consumption.
- Place a high priority on dedicating resources towards the development and support of future non-timber markets that will increase forestland value.
- Collaborate with other agencies, universities, organizations, and landowners to promote the development of a coordinated, statewide Oregon native plant and animal conservation policy addressing all land uses and ownership classes.
- Rely on existing state and federal resource protection regulations (e.g. ESA, CWA, FPA) to meet baseline expectations of public benefits on private forestlands, and look principally to non-regulatory approaches—such as landowner incentives and the development and support of ecosystem service markets—for any additional expectations of public benefits towards the conservation of diverse native plant and animal populations and their habitats in Oregon's private forests.
- The Board and should lead in the development of 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).

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board review the Board of Forestry Private Forests Draft Issue Paper, discuss initial ideas on alternative policy objectives that might be pursued, and provide direction to the Department on moving forward with the next iteration of the issue paper and continued discussion in June 2009.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will update the issue paper consisted with the Board discussion and direction. The next iteration of the issue paper will include more specific descriptions of

alternatives, if any, the Board would like to consider, as well as information on the consequences (pros and cons) of alternatives. Currently the June 2009 Board meeting is the next milestone, and will include continued discussion on the issue paper and further vetting of potential policy objective alternatives for private forests.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Board of Forestry Private Forests Draft Issue Paper
 - Appendix A – Current *Forestry Program for Oregon* Policy Objectives Specific to Private Forests
 - Appendix B – Board Statement of Intent for the Use of Oregon Indicators
 - Appendix C – Indicator Reporting Symbols
 - Appendix D – *Forestry Program for Oregon* Indicator A.b
 - Appendix E – *Forestry Program for Oregon* Indicators Ba, B.b, C.a, C.b
 - Appendix F – *Forestry Program for Oregon* Indicator E.b
 - Appendix G – *Forestry Program for Oregon* Indicator E.c
 - Appendix H – *Forestry Program for Oregon* Indicator F.a
 - Appendix I – *Forestry Program for Oregon* Indicator F.b
- (2) 2007-2009 Oregon Forests Report