

## STAFF REPORT

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Agenda Item No:	4
Work Plans:	Forest Vitality Issue 3 and Forest Regulation Issue 6
Title:	<b>Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report</b>
Date of Presentation:	September 5, 2007
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### SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on activities of the Committee for Family Forestlands, report key findings from the Family Forestlands Symposium, and ensure that the recommendations from the symposium are fully considered in the Board's issue scan and appropriately incorporated into work plans.

### CONTEXT

The *Forestry Program for Oregon* highlights the importance of Oregon's diverse forest ownerships and their varied management objectives as potential assets to help ensure the environmental, economic, and social values Oregonians want from our public and private forests are sustainable. The Board's vision in the *Forestry Program for Oregon* is to "encourage public and private landowners to continue to willingly make investments to create economically and environmentally healthy forests (Based on Board of Forestry Vision Statement #2.). The *Forestry Program for Oregon* also recognizes in Action B.4 that "The Board will continue to assess the unique challenges and opportunities facing family forest landowners and promote policies that encourage continued retention of, and investment in, family-owned forestlands." The Forest Vitality Work Plan is directed at ensuring the continued vitality of Oregon forests and forest landowners and includes specific objectives related to Family forestlands. The Forest Regulation work plan includes Objective 3: "Develop and encourage the use of voluntary methods, such as landowner incentives, to achieve public policy goals on private forestlands..."

### BACKGROUND

The Symposium Report articulates a desire on the part of family forest landowners to sustain their management through capturing additional value for the benefits they provide the public. The 2007 Legislative Session created or improved frameworks for supporting this desire, including changes to Stewardship Agreements, Forest Resource Trust, and Forest Legacy.

Work on ecosystem service markets is underway and offers some hope to create additional value for family forests. The Board's work plans do not fully encompass the scope of current activities nor the full context of the recommendations and findings of the Symposium.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Direct the Department to include the issues and actions recommended by the Symposium report into the annual issues scan process and to continue to work with the Committee for Family Forestlands to communicate progress on these efforts to family forestland owners.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report
- (2) Summary of the Proceedings of the second Family Forestlands Symposium
- (3) Committee of Family Forestlands Issue Scan Letter