

**Current Board of Forestry Mission, Vision, and Value Statements
From the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon**

Oregon Board of Forestry Mission Statement

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.

Oregon Board of Forestry Vision Statements

If the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon* is implemented successfully, Oregon will have:

1. Healthy forests providing a sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits.
2. Public and private landowners willingly making investments to create healthy forests.
3. Statewide forest resource policies that are coordinated among Oregon's natural resource agencies.
4. A Board of Forestry recognized as an impartial deliberative body operating openly and in the public interest.
5. Citizens who understand, accept, and support sustainable forestry and who make informed decisions that contribute to achievement of the vision of *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*.
6. Adequate funding for the Department of Forestry to efficiently and cost-effectively accomplish the mission and strategies of the Board of Forestry, and department personnel policies that encourage and recognize employees, allowing them to meet their full potential in providing excellent public service, fair, balanced, and efficient manner.

Oregon Board of Forestry Value Statements

The Board of Forestry values:

- 1. A global context.** We believe Oregon's forests are important to the global environment, economy, and society, and that forest managers, government agencies, interest groups, and all other Oregonians should consider the impact of their decisions at local, state, national, and international levels.
- 2. The dynamic nature of Oregon's forests.** We recognize that Oregon's forests are diverse, dynamic, and resilient ecosystems at a landscape scale. A broad range of forest conditions exists naturally, and various forest values, in proper proportion, are mutually compatible over time.
- 3. Active management.** We believe Oregon's forests should be actively managed to maintain forest health, to conserve native plant and animal species, and to produce the products and benefits people value. In this context, we define "active management" as the application of practices through planning and design, over time and across the landscape, to achieve site-specific forest resource goals. Active management uses an integrated, science-based approach that promotes the compatibility of most forest uses and resources over time and across the landscape.¹
- 4. Landowners and the public sharing responsibility for sustainable forests.** We believe forest sustainability depends on the contributions of both landowners and the public. We support the private landowner's right to practice forest management in an environmentally sound manner that is already regulated by Oregon's strong Forest Practices Act. The public must also play an active role by supporting incentives and other non-regulatory methods that encourage continued investment in Oregon's forests to maintain and enhance environmental, economic, and social benefits.
- 5. Forests that contribute to quality of life.** We believe Oregon's forests play a significant role in providing for Oregon's quality of life, including products, jobs, recreation, tax revenues for purposes such as education and public safety, and a quality environment.
- 6. Meeting current and future needs.** We believe forest resources should be used, developed, and protected at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current environmental, economic, and social needs, and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs.

¹ Based on OAR 629-035-0000(1).

7. Different landowners playing different roles. We believe different land ownerships play different roles in achieving the full suite of environmental, economic, and social needs met by the forested landscape. Family forest landowners play unique and valuable roles in Oregon's forest landscape, but their continued existence is threatened by development, regulation, and economic challenges.

8. Informed public participation. We value broad-based, informed public participation and consensus-based decision-making whenever possible, utilizing the following working principles adopted by the Western Governors' Association:²

- National Standards, Neighborhood Solutions-Assign responsibilities at the right level
- Collaboration, Not Polarization-Use collaborative processes to break down barriers and find solutions
- Reward Results, Not Programs-Move to a performance-based system
- Science for Facts, Process for Priorities-Separate subjective choices from objective data gathering
- Markets Before Mandates-Pursue economic incentives whenever appropriate
- Change a Heart, Change a Nation-Environmental understanding is crucial
- Recognize Benefits and Costs-Make sure all decisions affecting infrastructure, development, and environment are fully informed
- Solutions Transcend Political Boundaries-Use appropriate geographic boundaries for environmental problems

9. Continuous learning. We are committed to continuous learning. The results of forest management policies and programs should be evaluated and appropriately adjusted based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research.

10. Healthy rural Oregon. We believe a healthy rural Oregon, which relies on working landscapes, is vital to the quality of life enjoyed by all Oregonians.

² Western Governors' Association, 1999. In 2002, the Western Governors' Association renewed its commitment to the Enlibra principles to guide natural resource and environmental policy development and decision-making in the West. The doctrine is based upon the listed principles, each of which is dependent upon the others. The integration of these principles is critical to the interpretation and the success of the new doctrine. More information is available at the Association website.