

Agenda Item No: 2A  
Work Plan Title & #: State Forests Management - Work Plan 2  
IBI # & Title: IBI 6 – Improve Northwest Forest Management Plan to Achieve Desired Outcomes.  
Presentation Title: Revised Northwest and Southwest Forest Management Plans  
Date of Presentation: September 9, 2009  
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## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to introduce proposed changes to the Northwest and Southwest Forest Management Plans (FMP), and, if approved, begin the rule-making process.

Proposed changes reflect Board direction in two main areas of the FMP:

- Replacing language associated with the Draft West Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with that which reflects the approved management approach for species of concern and;
- Recalibrating the structure classes in the Northwest FMP to reflect a range of 30-50% for complex structures (Layered and Older Forest Structure).

Incorporating these changes resulted in edits to five chapters and six appendices for the Northwest FMP, and five chapters and three appendices for the Southwest FMP.

## **CONTEXT**

At its June 2009 meeting the Board directed the Department to develop rule language that makes three adjustments:

1. Remove reliance on the draft Western Oregon HCP for development of strategies for species of concern in both the Northwest and Southwest Forest Management Plans; maintain HCPs as a possible tool for federal Endangered Species Act compliance, but no longer rely on that process for policy-setting.
2. Approve use of the Draft Species of Concern (SOC) strategies as the Department's approach for managing SOC, with the acknowledgment that several planning steps still need to take place before the SOC strategies are final; replace existing habitat conservation language with policy-level principles of these strategies in the plan, develop SOC plans for districts outside the north coast districts, and place specific management standards in policy at the Division level.

Conduct peer reviews and adaptive management as necessary to achieve policy-level principles in the FMPs.

3. Revise the Northwest Oregon FMP to allow a different balance of economic, environmental, and social benefits that better reflect those considered in performance measure development discussions; specifically, modify the complex forest structure range from 40 to 60 percent of the forest to 30 to 50 percent of the forest.

This report addresses numbers 1-3 above. While not part of this report, in June the Board also decided to review the greatest permanent value (GPV) administrative rule, as well as other portions of Chapter 629, Division 035 rules, and directed the Department to provide OAR concepts back to the Board by April 2010. This most recent direction is being incorporated into the Board's State Forests Work Plan through the September 9, Board Agenda item 2.

## **PROPOSED FMP CHANGES**

Incorporating the FMP direction resulted in edits in the NW FMP to: Executive Summary (ES); Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5; and Appendices A, C, F, I, and J (Attachments 01 through 10). In the SW FMP edits to: the ES; Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5; and Appendices A, and C (Attachment 10 through 17). These chapters are provided in the attachment, with proposed edits shown in strikeout (removed language) or underlined lettering (additional language). Also attached are two matrices that list the language adjustments: Attachment A – NW FMP; Attachment B – SW FMP.

In general an HCP may be a useful conservation tool. However, the Draft West Oregon HCP is no longer current or useful. Replacing references to the Draft West Oregon HCP with Species of Concern Strategies in the FMP reflects the Departments most current and integrated approach to Species of Concern conservation.

Proposed FMP adjustments in complex structure (30-50%) are expected to result in a mix of benefits that better represent the balance of GPV contemplated by this Board. It is anticipated that these revisions will result in a balance of economic, social, and environmental benefits that meet obligations to secure GPV.

The proposed FMP changes focus on policy-level principles and strategies and avoid operational details. Implementation of FMP strategies occurs during the implementation and annual planning processes, which will draw on detailed operational policies.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Board approves the draft revised Northwest and Southwest Forest Management Plans and, therefore, “determines that activities carried out or allowed by the State Forester under subsection (6) of this section meet the obligation to secure GPV as defined in OAR 629-035-0020” (OAR 629-035-0030(5)).
2. Board directs the State Forester to proceed to rule making in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

## **NEXT STEPS**

March 9, 2010: Board will consider revised rules for approval/adoption.

This Board decision on March 9, 2010 follows Department level work for rule making, which will be consistent with requirements under the Administrative Procedures Act.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. NW FMP Language Adjustment Matrix
- B. SW FMP Language Adjustment Matrix

### NW FMP Adjustments:

- 01. Executive Summary
- 02. Chapter 1 – Purpose, History, Planning
- 03. Chapter 2 – Understanding Forests
- 04. Chapter 4 – Resource Management Concepts and Strategies
- 05. Chapter 5 – Implementation
- 06. Appendix A – Glossary
- 07. Appendix C – Concepts for Integrated Strategies
- 08. Appendix F – Public Involvement
- 09. Appendix I – Decadal Analysis of Alternatives
- 10. Appendix J – Management Standards for Aquatic & Riparian Areas

### SW FMP Adjustments:

- 11. Executive Summary
- 12. Chapter 1 – Purpose, History, Planning
- 13. Chapter 2 – Understanding Forests
- 14. Chapter 4 – Resource Management Concepts and Strategies
- 15. Chapter 5 – Implementation
- 16. Appendix A – Glossary
- 17. Appendix C – Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas