

Proposed 2009-11 Board of Forestry Policy Objectives for Private Forestlands

- ) Identify current and future risks of forest fragmentation (i.e., increasing density of structures and parcellation) and the conversion of forests to non-forest use as the primary, overarching challenge to sustainable forestry and keeping working forests working.
- ) 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 to achieve public-policy goals on private forestlands, and consider the use of additional regulatory methods as a least-preferred option. Adequate evaluation of the achievement of those public-policy goals over time is needed, regardless of the method used (regulatory or non-regulatory).
- Support land-use planning and policies to ensure a stable forestland base and to encourage long-term investments in forestland. Examples include but are not limited to: a) promoting a statewide no-net-loss of forestlands policy, and b) supporting an effective system of transferrable development rights.
- ) Place a high priority on long-term strategic investments to support Oregon's forest industry to ensure that Oregon maintains a competitive advantage and a diversity of forest products and markets. Oregon should continue to be a net exporter of wood product, and make a significant contribution towards meeting the nations wood product needs.
- Place a high priority on dedicating resources towards the development and support of future non-timber markets that will increase forestland value, including biomass, carbon sequestration, and other ecosystem services.
- Promote the development of a coordinated, statewide Oregon native plant and animal conservation policy addressing all land uses and ownership classes. The policy should clearly state public expectations for base-line resources site protection, as well as broader contributions of private forestland owners to achieve state conservation goals. The policy should also specify whether private forestlands will be held to an equal or higher standard as compared to other land uses.
- Rely on existing Forest Practice rule standards for resource site protections to meet the state of Oregon's contribution towards base-line public expectations of benefits from private forestlands (i.e. formally acknowledge existing levels of protection). Look to non-regulatory and market-based approaches to provide additional public benefits, combined with existing federal and state Endangered Species Act protections. Promote statutory changes and/or change Oregon Administrative Rules consistent with this objective
- Develop 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).
- ) Landslides and public safety: promote fulfillment of shared responsibility for any additional action to reduce public safety risks (existing statutes). Effective protection of the public requires the shared responsibilities of homeowners, road users, forestland owners, and state and local governments to reduce the number of persons living ... or driving through locations prone to shallow, rapidly moving landslides during periods when they are likely to occur. Promote statutory changes consistent with this objective.