

Agenda Item No.:	3
Work Plan:	State Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan
Presentation Title:	State Forests Management Plan
Date of Presentation:	November 7, 2018
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CONTEXT

The State Forests Division has developed an approach to revise the Forest Management Plan (FMP), approved by the Board of Forestry in January 2018. The FMP Project Work Plan establishes a framework for the Board to develop the FMP elements required by the Forest Management Planning rule (planning rule; OAR 629-035-0030) in the context of the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) rule (OAR 629-035-0020). This approach is intended to efficiently develop an FMP that meets the requirements of the Planning Rule, is operationally feasible, and is found to meet GPV by the Board. The approach will also ensure the Board’s guiding principles are articulated and can be evaluated. The Division will host informational presentations to provide stakeholders and the public-at-large with updates, including staff work to be presented at upcoming Board meetings.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the July 24, 2018 meeting of the Board of Forestry, the Division presented proposed guiding principles (Attachment 1, Appendix A), an expansion of the FMP content table to include *measurable outcomes* and *quantifiable targets*, and an impacts analysis framework. The Board approved the guiding principles, impacts analysis framework and the expanded content table, and directed the Division to continue its work according to the FMP work plan approved by the Board.

Division staff have developed draft goals, strategies, and measurable outcomes for Board discussion and approval (Attachment 1). Goals and strategies are required by the planning rule to be included in the FMP, while the Board directed the Division to develop measurable outcomes in order to aid with understanding the performance of the plan in an adaptive management context.

Term Definitions

Goals are statements of what the State Forester intends to achieve for each forest resource within the planning area consistent with the Greatest Permanent Value rule (OAR 629- 035-0020). Goals are required by the Forest Management Planning rule (OAR 629-035-0030).

Strategies describe how the State Forester will manage the forest resources in the planning area to achieve the goals articulated in the plan. Strategies identify management techniques the State Forester may use to achieve the goals of the plan during the implementation phase of the plan. Strategies are required by the Forest Management Planning rule (OAR 629-035-0030).

Measurable outcomes are quantifiable results of strategies. These outcomes may also be referred to as Performance Measures. Measurable outcomes are not required by the planning rule to be included in the FMP.

Forest Resources

The Planning Rule requires the following forest resources to be addressed in the FMP, as a minimum (OAR 629-035-0000(9), 629-035-0030(2)(c) and (d)):

1. Timber production and harvest;
2. Salmonid, and other native fish and wildlife habitats;
3. Soil, air, and water;
4. Forage and browse for domestic livestock;
5. Landscape effect;
6. Protection against flood and erosion¹;
7. Recreation;
8. Mining;
9. Use of water resources; and
10. Administrative sites.

The Division has also developed recommendations for goals, strategies and measurable outcomes regarding other additional important forest resources, including roads and access, carbon, scenic resources, forest health, special forest products, and cultural resources.

Proposed Goals, Strategies, and Measurable Outcomes

The Division's proposal (Attachment 1) takes a resource-specific approach, rather than an integrated approach in an attempt to facilitate discussion and possible modifications to the proposal. This means there may be some repetition or duplication, or it may appear a goal or strategy is in the 'wrong' section. As the goals, standards, and measurable outcomes are further developed and refined at the Board's direction, a more integrated approach will be taken. These interactions are most evident between the recreation, wildlife, aquatics, and timber production sections, as well as between the geology, aquatics, and roads sections. Climate change also requires an integrated approach, and will include strategies related to timber production and harvest, wildlife, aquatics, and forest health.

The proposed goals use the Board's adopted guiding principles as their basis, and the key principles are identified for each section. These proposed goals and strategies reflect the Division's alternative to be compared to the current FMP, consistent with the Board's direction to expedite the process by bringing strong recommendations on an approach that will improve financial viability or conservation outcomes or both.

The Division recommends the Board direct revisions, if necessary, and subsequently adopt all of the proposed goals and strategies for inclusion in the FMP (recognizing staff will work to integrate these for the final FMP); however, this is not the case for the measurable outcomes. The Division has developed an extensive list of possible measurable outcomes. Ultimately, a prioritized subset of measures will be

¹ Protection against floods and erosion is not addressed as an independent section, with its own *goals, strategies and measurable outcomes*. Instead the concepts needed to address flood and erosion are described in the Geology and Soils, Roads and Access, and Aquatics sections.

contained in the plan and form the basis of the Adaptive Management Plan. The measurable outcomes will also inform the development of a small number of Performance Measures that can be reported to the Board of Forestry with an established and meaningful frequency.

An overall theme of the Division's proposal is to utilize an adaptive management approach to ensure the desired outcomes are being met. Through adaptive management and performance monitoring, standards can be adjusted as needed to address deficiencies. This adaptive management process contains a feedback loop to the Board using performance measures to ascertain if the standards are achieving stated goals. This adaptive management process is in the early stages of development; guidelines for adaptive management (required to be included in the FMP by the planning rule) will be presented to the Board at a future meeting. Adaptive management is especially important in addressing the impacts of global climate change on state forest lands.

Figure 1 depicts the process and the additional planning documents needed for implementation of the FMP. Additional documents relied upon for implementation include:

1. An Adaptive Management Plan, which establishes a process that ensures the Implementation and Operations Plans adjust based on the current and expected condition of state forest resources and implementation of strategies through best available science.
2. Implementation Plans, which describe tactical planning and implementation on specific tracts of ownership. These plans are expected to cover periods of 5-10 years.
3. Operations Plans, which describe operational activities and implementation on specific tracts of ownership, typically at a smaller scale than the Implementation Plans. These plans are expected to cover periods of 1-3 years.
4. Budgets, which allocate resources toward implementation of Division priorities on an annual and biennial basis and determine the funding level for Division operations.

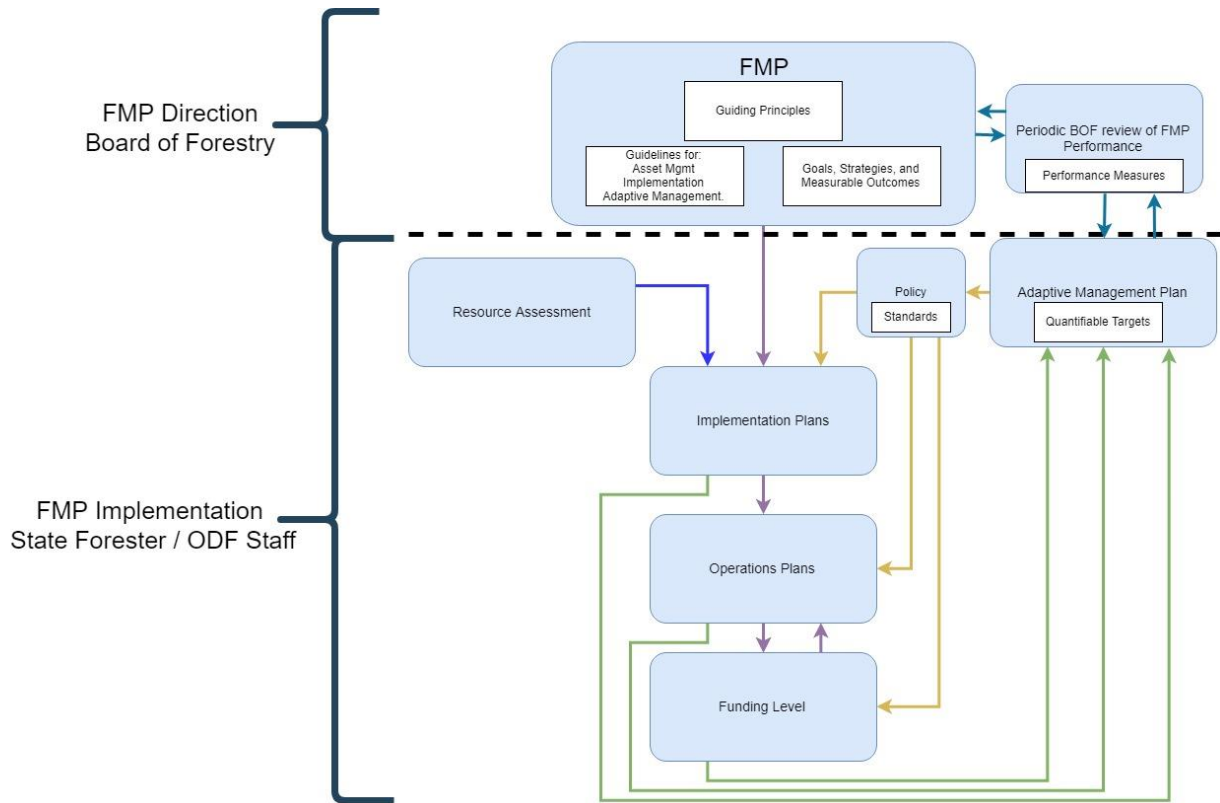


Figure 1. Draft diagram of plan components and the adaptive management process.

Proposed Geographic Scope

The Division currently has four Forest Management Plans for state forest lands under its management. Figure 2 shows all of the lands currently managed by the State Forests Division. The six northern-most districts are currently managed under the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (April 2010), lands in Coos and Douglas counties are governed by the Elliott State Forest Management Plan (January 2012), the lands in the Southwest Oregon District are managed under the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (April 2010), and the lands in the Klamath-Lake District are managed under the Eastern Oregon Long-Range Management Plan (October 1995).

Lands Managed by the State Forests Division

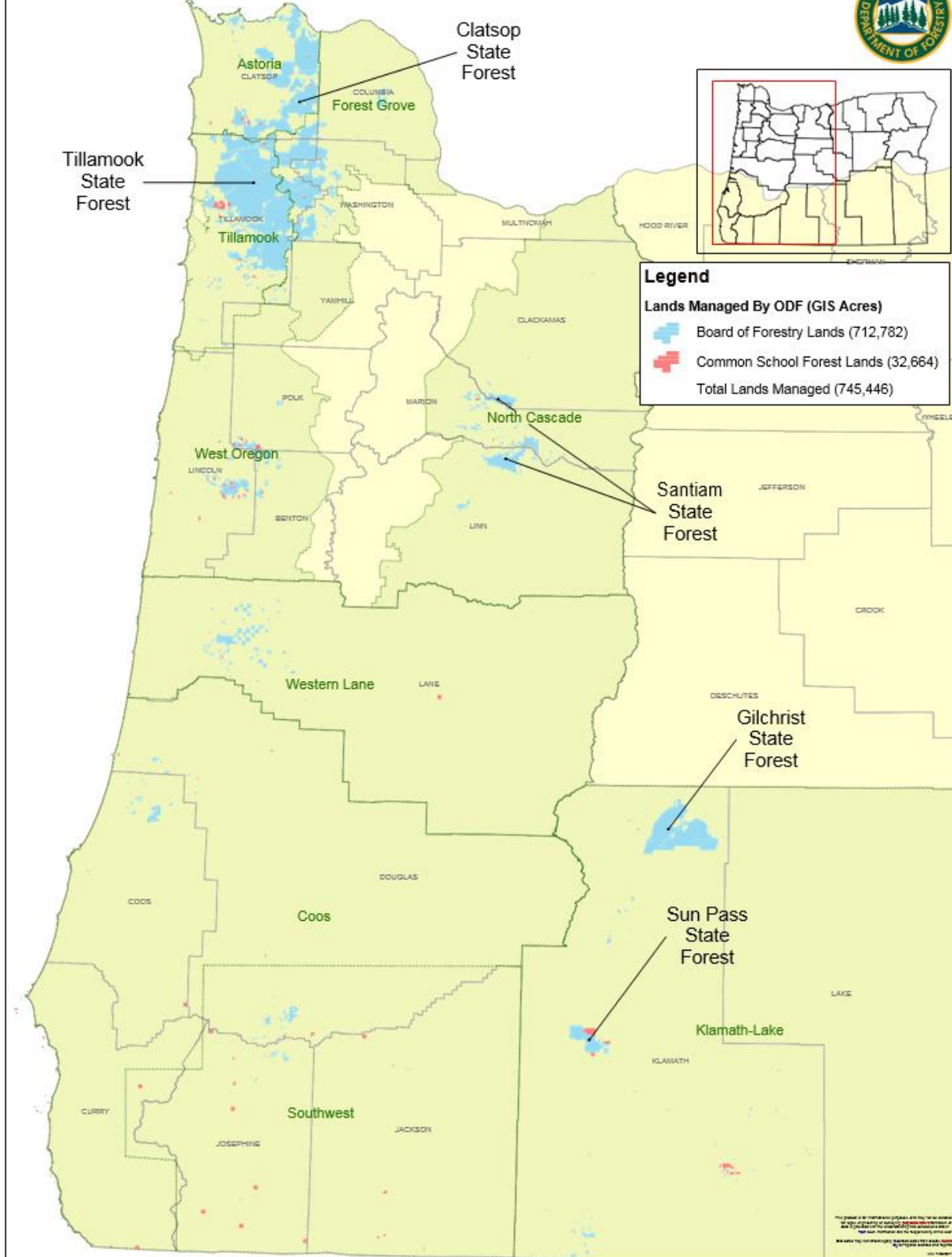


Figure 2. Map of all lands managed by the State Forests Division.

The resource assessment presentation given to the Board at its September 2018 meeting highlighted the high degree of variability among these lands, which has historically led to the choice of having separate plans. Recent changes in the management of the Elliott State Forest and the Division's effort to modernize its workforce has provided an impetus to change this approach. The Common School Forest Lands in the main block of the Elliott are no longer managed by ODF, leaving only the scattered Common School Forest Land parcels and the Board of Forestry lands in the Coos Unit under the Elliott State Forest Management Plan. These lands are now managed from the Western Lane District. The lands in the Southwest Oregon District will also be managed from the Western Lane District as the Division implements the workforce futuring initiative.

The Division recommends all State Forest lands west of the crest of the Cascades (i.e. all lands except for those in the Klamath-Lake District) be managed under a single plan, and that plan allow for the flexibility to manage for the range and diversity of conditions across that land base. With this recommendation, the Elliott State Forest Management Plan, Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan, and Northwest State Forest Management Plan would be rescinded and replaced by the plan under development currently. The state forest lands in the Klamath-Lake District, including the Gilchrist and Sun Pass State Forests will continue to be managed under the Eastern Oregon Long-Range Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- Direct the Division to integrate the proposed *Strategies*, where appropriate, and incorporate feedback from the Board on the proposed *Goals, Strategies, and Measurable Outcomes*.
- Direct the Division to continue FMP development using an adaptive management framework.
- Direct the Division to develop the Forest Management Plan for all state forest lands outside of the Klamath-Lake District, with the flexibility needed to account for the range of variability in forest conditions.

NEXT STEPS

The Division will next return to:

- Provide the final report on the current condition and assessment of forest resources in the planning area in January.
- Present final proposed *Goals, Strategies, and Measurable Outcomes* for Board approval in March.
- Present initial recommendations of information needs that inform the Board's policy decisions in April.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Forest Management Plan goals, strategies and measurable outcomes