

Agenda Item No.:	2
Work Plan:	Senate Bill 762 Work Plan
Topic:	20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy
Date:	January 4th, 2023
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SUMMARY

Oregon’s 20-year strategic plan, as outlined in Senate Bill (SB) 762 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Shared Stewardship, will be used to prioritize restoration actions and geographies to reduce wildfire risk and will be used to direct federal, state, and private investments. Combined with a functioning governance structure and engagement with tribes, stakeholders, and local collaboratives and partnerships, state and federal agencies will advance and support implementation of shared priorities and coordinated investments to achieve a shared vision of healthy and resilient landscapes.

This staff report is an informational update to the board specific to the development of the 20-year landscape resiliency strategy. As the strategy is an ongoing work in progress, it can be expected that elements of the strategy may change as additional input is provided throughout the development process.

CONTEXT

On August 13, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding on Shared Stewardship was signed by state and federal officials to document the commitment of the State and the United States Forest Service to work collaboratively to create a shared stewardship approach for implementing land management activities in the state of Oregon.

Subsequently, on July 19, 2021, Governor Brown signed into law SB 762 (An act relating to wildfire; and declaring an emergency) which, in Sections 18-20 (Reduction of Wildfire Risk) directs the State Forestry Department to design and implement a program to reduce wildfire risk through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuel on public or private forestlands and rangelands and in communities near homes and critical infrastructure. SB 762 also directs the department to develop a 20-year strategic plan, as described in the Shared Stewardship Agreement signed on August 13, 2019, that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction that will be used to direct federal, state, and private investments in a tangible way.

A framework for the development of the 20-year strategic plan was developed and endorsed by agency directors in August 2022 and has been guiding the development of the strategy. The framework addresses how state and federal agencies plan to implement the directives and intentions of the MOU and SB 762. It is part overview and part workplan. Its aim is to clarify the work needed and to create alignment among interested parties. It includes a proposed governance structure to support agency coordination and decision-making, a proposed mechanisms for Tribal and Stakeholder consultation and engagement, and proposed processes and approaches for developing the 20-year Strategic Plan.

Currently, each state and federal agency establishes its priorities and investments largely independently of one another. By standing up a shared stewardship governance mechanism, developing a 20-year Strategic Plan shared by federal and state agencies, and jointly implementing the Plan over time, it is hoped Oregon can transform how landscape-level challenges are addressed and can realize a vision of healthy and resilient forests, ecosystems, and landscapes.

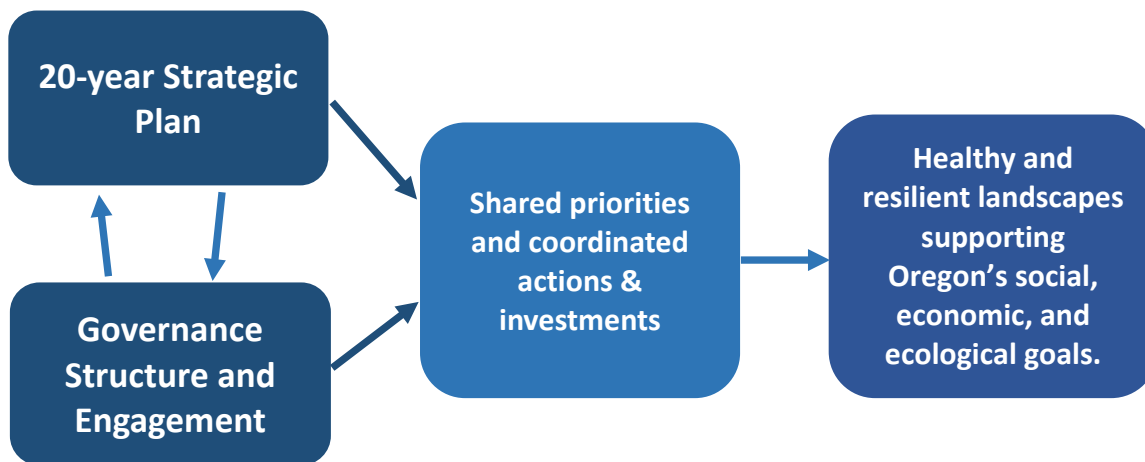
NEXT STEPS

Implementing Shared Stewardship in Oregon

The Shared Stewardship MOU and SB 762 both point to the long-term vision of healthy and resilient forested ecosystems, vibrant local economies, healthy watersheds with functional aquatic habitat, and quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians. To achieve that vision, the MOU and SB 762 direct federal and state agencies to develop shared priorities and coordinated investments.

There are two key components that advance and support implementation of shared priorities and coordinated investments. One is the 20-year Strategic Plan, which will articulate shared priorities among state and federal agencies to achieve the vision. The other is the governance structure, which provides forums for consultation and coordination among agencies, Tribes, and stakeholders. The governance structure also provides a forum for decision-making among state and federal agency leaders related to Shared Stewardship implementation. Thus, the 20-year Strategic Plan and the Shared Stewardship governance structure are the mechanisms for implementing Shared Stewardship in Oregon.

The following sections describe the proposed governance structure and the proposed approach for developing the 20-year Strategic Plan.



Governance Structure and Engagement Mechanisms

The Shared Stewardship governance structure is the mechanism for operationalizing Shared Stewardship in Oregon. It is intended to respect the intentions of the MOU and SB 762 by supporting an open, transparent, inclusive, and accountable process. The structure is designed to provide forums for consultation and cooperation with Tribes, a range of stakeholders and units of

local governments, and federal and state agency representatives. Ultimately, decision authority rests with the Strategic Leadership Group, and with individual federal and state agencies.

The proposed governance structure represents an initial set of forums and flows of information to support development of the 20-year Strategic Plan and the goals of Shared Stewardship. Additional or modified forums may be created over time as needs emerge or as improvements are suggested. Once the 20-year Strategic Plan is completed and Shared Stewardship transitions into implementation of investments and tracking results, the structure will be reconsidered to ensure it is effectively supporting these new roles.

20-year Strategic Plan

The MOU and SB 762 both call for the development of “a 20-year strategic plan that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction that can be used to direct federal, state, and private investments in a tangible way.” The MOU further states that the state shall convene, and the Forest Service shall participate with, “a diverse group of stakeholders to help develop a statewide 20-year strategic plan focused on fire-prone forests and ecosystems of eastern and southwestern Oregon. Help set priority treatment areas using values at risk and scenario planning to focus investments on areas that will yield the greatest return.” The MOU also directs the state to “Develop a financial implementation plan that incorporates public-private partnership, including conservation finance to increase scale, by investing in appropriately-scaled infrastructure in rural communities.”

Ultimately, in addition to the directives in the MOU and SB 762, the objective of Shared Stewardship and the 20-year Strategic Plan is to develop a strategy with three core elements:

1. Jointly determine management needs at the statewide scale;
2. Do the right work in the right place at the right scale; and
3. Use all available tools

Draft Outline of the 20-year Strategic Plan

The components and outline of the 20-year Strategic Plan are expected to evolve and change during the process of consulting with interested parties and compiling relevant information. At this early stage of development, the draft working outline of the 20-year Strategic Plan includes the following:

- I. Introduction/context/purpose
 - a. Shared Stewardship, MOU, SB 762 and why it is needed;
 - b. Challenges (fire, forest health, climate change, etc.);
 - c. Opportunities (funding, coordinated investments, etc.)
- II. Vision statement and strategic elements
- III. Governance and engagement
- IV. Shared Priorities
 - a. Geographic
 - b. Types of activities and investments
- V. Goals and Targets
 - a. Actions to achieve goals
- VI. Investment strategy
 - a. Existing funding sources, programs, and authorities

- b. Additional financing opportunities
 - c. Financial implementation plan
- VII. Accountability mechanisms and metrics
- VIII. Near-term actions
- IX. Appendices
 - a. Existing plans and processes
 - b. How the Plan was developed: Participants and process

Proposed Vision Statement for the 20-year Strategic Plan

The MOU articulates “A shared vision of healthy and resilient forested ecosystems, vibrant local economies, healthy watersheds with functional aquatic habitat, and quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians.”

During initial planning meetings, federal and state agency representatives considered the MOU vision statement for the 20-year Strategic Plan and proposed changes, resulting in a simplified vision: **Healthy and resilient landscapes supporting Oregon’s social, economic, and ecological goals.**

Proposed Strategic Elements

The 20-year Plan’s Strategic Elements are intended to articulate the range of activities and investments the plan will support. They provide a level of specificity beyond the Vision Statement and describe the broader intentions of the Plan. The proposed Strategic Elements are designed to reflect the goals and intentions articulated in the MOU and SB 762.

The 20-year Strategic Plan’s current proposed Strategic Elements are:

- Reduce wildfire risk to communities
- Enhance resilience in landscapes in the face of climate change
- Create functional aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- Support vibrant local economies and family-wage jobs
- Protect healthy watersheds and water resources
- Provide quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians
- Promote equity through the stewardship of landscapes

As the 20-year Strategic Plan is developed, the Strategic Elements will guide planning related to activities and investments. They will be used to establish goals and actions that collectively add up to realizing the vision of healthy and resilient landscapes.

Timeline

To develop the 20-year Strategic Plan (Plan), four general phases of work are identified below. These phases are intended as conceptual guides rather than distinct categories since specific activities will evolve over time and possibly occur earlier or later than specified. Consultations with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies will continue throughout on a consistent basis via the governance structure as processes and products are designed and produced.

Phase 1: Build the Foundation: Jan 2022 - July 2022

- Designate ODF Lead.

- Develop governance structure and engage federal and state agencies.
- Initiate consultations with Tribes and stakeholders.
- Draft framework for plan development.

Phase 2: Compile Information: July - Dec 2022

- Identify and gather reports, maps, data, etc.
- Produce supporting materials (priority maps, capacity & readiness assessment, etc.)
- Develop goals and targets and identify steps to achieve goals.
- Develop metrics and accountability mechanisms.
- Consult with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies on a consistent basis through the governance structure.

Phase 3: Draft the Plan: Jan - Jun 2023

- Produce draft 20-year Strategic Plan.
- Review Plan with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies through the governance structure.
- Finalize the Plan with endorsement from the Strategic Leadership Group.
- Publish the 20-year Strategic Plan.

Phase 4: Implement the Plan: July 2023

- Publicize the Plan.
- Implement near-term action steps with Tribes, stakeholders, agencies, and others.
- Consult with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies on a consistent basis through the governance structure.
- Conduct and publicize accountability reviews.
- Adapt goals, actions and governance as needed.

RECOMMENDATION

This is item is informational.