

Forestry Program for Oregon Subcommittee to review mission statements on Jan. 18, 2023

Brenda McComb offered a draft for the group to consider as a starting place:

***The joint mission of the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Board of Forestry is to oversee and guide management of Oregon's forests and fire to meet Oregonian expectations while respecting private property rights and addressing climate change.***

And a draft from the ET from a few weeks ago:

***Realize healthy forests through promotion of conservation, management, and protection of Oregon's forests to enhance ecologic, economic, and community welfare for all Oregonians.***

DRAFT

# Broad Overview of Planning Hierarchy at ODF



**Oregon Board of Forestry**  
**January 5 FPFO Agenda Topic**  
**Facilitator's Summary for Subcommittee reference**

**FPFO Progress to Date**

- Robin acknowledged the Subcommittee (Ben, Brenda, Joe, Mike, Ryan, with support from OC and ODF staff Hilary, John and Danny) and reminded everyone of the subcommittee purpose and work to date:
  - Purpose = collaborative work forum for Board and Agency leadership to advance efforts to jointly develop a modern Forestry Program for Oregon. Subcommittee will meet once per month through 2023 to provide direction and keep momentum going to complete the FPFO by December.
  - Work to date = preliminary work to advance the FPFO including input on draft FPFO template; providing guidance on community engagement efforts; getting clear and aligned on partnership between Board and Dept leadership in this work; and developing the Jan. 5 Board meeting agenda.
- Robin also recapped the **October Board retreat** discussions and outcomes:
  - Agreed on high level approach to use Climate Smart Forestry lens, all-lands, reimagining the FPFO
  - Committed to work in partnership to co-create a plan that will be reflective of Oregonians' values as well as operational for the Dept; and
  - collaborated to develop a joint Vision statement that all agreed on as a working vision for guiding the effort.
  - In addition, a robust conversation about Values was had that led to more thinking about the need to engage Oregon communities in this effort.

Board members offered initial comments and questions about the arc of the FPFO efforts:

- Some confusion about the connection and intersections of the FPFO and the Governance work, and the parallel track of the SB 762 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy. How can we most efficiently and effectively connect these efforts and not overwhelm or duplicate Department staff's work?
- Some concern about the pace of the FPFO effort so far. Feels slow, like we have not made a lot of progress.

**Oregon Values and Beliefs Center Oregon Forest Management Survey**

- Adam Davis shared methodology and key findings from the survey, and offered follow up next steps that could help further tease out information from this work as well as connect interested survey respondents to the FPFO process.

- The Board discussed their takeaways:
  - Curious about any limitations to this survey - including potential bias introduced by the way questions were framed and the fact that the survey was only done on-line.
  - Curious about how we might see gaps between the values and beliefs indicated from this survey and the policies of the agency. Adam cautioned the group not to take whole cloth the results to develop policy; rather to gather this as a real-time reflection of Oregonians' perceptions about forest management.
  - Struggled with the conflation of federal forest management and state forest management, given these are two very different approaches. Are we asking the right questions?
  - What about the urban vs. rural breakdown of beliefs, or breakdown of other demographics? Adam suggested cross-tabulation could be done, and that he would be willing to help with any follow up on this.
  - Not surprised by the findings, but curious whether the emphasis on clean water in the context of forestry was a long standing trend or new.
  - Would love to follow up with the respondents to ask, 'why' do you have these beliefs?

### **Community Engagement**

- Ryan reported that the Subcommittee had been in conversation about the need for broader/deeper community engagement as a way to verify, and then better reflect, Oregon community values about forest management in the FPFO. He shared that Oregon's Kitchen Table, a statewide community engagement program, is working with ODF and the subcommittee to scope out a process but that this had not yet been finalized.
- Karla asked about the overall purpose and value and wondered about cost:
  - Ryan: cost is a question and I am working with ET to determine what resources we can bring to this project.
  - Ben: purpose is to add depth to the values conversation we had in October; connecting the dots and, per what we learned from Adam's research, help bridge the knowledge gulf that exists between perceptions and reality of forest management.
  - Joe: the ultimate aim is a better FPFO for Oregon.
  - Brenda: we need a richer discussion - how can we best represent Oregonians, by first understanding their values and using this as a foundation for continuing dialogue and building trust.
  - Overall, is the FPFO timeline we are holding realistic?

## Relationship Between the Strategic Planning Activities

- Ryan addressed the questions and concerns about connecting the various strategic planning efforts, and invited Nathan Beckman to share his perspective as well. The two strategies are meant to align and inform each other. The 20-year landscape resiliency work has been underway for a year and is making progress with outside partners. It is intended to be owned by the multiple agency partners who are part of the shared stewardship agreement. The FPFO is specifically the BOF and ODF's high level strategy, and will live inside the organization but align with the strategies of the shared stewardship plan. Both have goals and objectives, which should align, both have levers of influence for each other; both are foundation building for longer term action and accomplishments. The FPFO needs to find its momentum.
  - Brenda - should we take a step back and pick up the FPFO once the landscape plan is complete? Ryan - we can, and I think should, work in concurrence.
  - Ben - may not be feasible to complete our FPFO work in Dec. 2023. But let's keep going and get a solid draft.
  - Karla - I need a visual of how these pieces fit together; timelines, etc.
  - **ACTION:** Ryan will put together a visual road map of current thinking on what these various strategies are meant to accomplish and how they intersect.

## FPFO Template

- Danny provided an outline of the FPFO template which he structured as a composite of different high level strategies from other states, in particular that of Minnesota. It includes the Vision developed at the October Board retreat and placeholders for Mission, Purpose, Principles and Values. It includes a description of the Climate Smart Forestry lens and is organized so that high level Goals are accompanied by Strategies, Trends, Challenges and Actions - looking specifically through the prism of climate adaptation, mitigation and social-climate interactions per the CSF model.
- Feedback from BOF members and ET included:
  - Flesh out the 'trends' section to include accountability measures
  - Establishing goals - how will we do this? (Robin suggested the subcommittee will take this up as an immediate next step for fleshing this template out - in addition to working on Mission, Purpose, Principles)
  - We need to insert strategies to leverage actions of other agencies - tie to goals and reflect appropriately what ODF will and can do on its own; and where ODF needs to influence and partner with others to accomplish goals.

- As a communication tool, clarity is needed related to the above comment.
- We agreed to reimagine our FPFO and as such, should consider ways in which we distinguish this version from the past - including formatting. (E.g. maybe make the Goals something other than A, B, C, etc.?)
- Will we break out the federal/state/private forest management strategies differently?
- Next Steps - The Board will have workshop time at the April retreat to continue to evolve the FPFO; in the meantime efforts will continue in earnest through the subcommittee and communication around that work will be well documented and shared to help everyone stay apprised of progress. Priority next steps include working on draft Mission, Purpose, and Principles; and a first draft of a set of Goals. Ryan will assist with making a visual to connect the strategic dots with other work and will also firm up the community engagement plan. d