

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	8
Topic:	*Forestry Program for Oregon Planning Work Session
Date of Presentation:	June 8, 2023
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SUMMARY

The Board and department leadership will continue working on developing a new strategic plan for the agency, known as the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO). The work session will be moderated by a facilitator to continue the dialog between the Board of Forestry (Board) and the department's Executive Team to explore and hone the plan's goals, as well as further identify the associated strategies. The Board subcommittee will report on any progress to date. The primary discussion will cover:

- Department leadership to share updates from the Oregon Kitchen Table community engagement effort
- Subcommittee to share the progress of the resilient community goal
- Discuss functional ecosystems goal

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Oregon Kitchen Table Community Engagement Timeline
- (2) Forestry Program for Oregon Work Plan and Timeline
- (3) Forestry Program for Oregon Working Draft

Timeline

APR

- Community connector interviews
- Design

MAY

- Community connector interviews
- Design

AUG

- Continue:
- Engagement activities

JUL

- Continue:
- Engagement activities

JUNE

- Begin:
- Engagement activities

SEP

- Identify emerging themes, unique perspectives
- Draft report

OCT

- Meaning making and follow up engagement

NOV

- Finalize OKT report

BOARD OF FORESTRY
Makes and shares decisions

2023 Forestry Program for Oregon Work Plan
(Subcommittee planning doc, subject to updates)
6-7-23 UPDATE

Winter 2022/23	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
<p>Refine and Confirm Vision, Mission</p> <p>Determine Community Engagement Process</p> <p>Affirm FPFO Elements / Doc format using Climate Smart Forestry Lens</p> <p>January Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Values/community engagement next steps 	<p>Develop Goal Themes</p> <p>Draft Mission, Purpose, Principles</p> <p>Culturally- specific community outreach (OKT)</p> <p>April Board Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals - Themes • Goal Resilient Communities- Definition, Strategy Ideas 	<p>Refine Goal Themes</p> <p>Develop ideas for Strategies</p> <p>Mid-process community engagement results, as available</p> <p>June Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal Ecosystem Function- Definition, Strategy Ideas
Fall 2023	Winter 2023/24	Winter/Spring 2024
<p>Draft ideas for Strategies, Metrics, Challenges</p> <p>Community conversations with Board and ET</p> <p>September Board meeting and October Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal Climate Leadership- Definition, Strategy Ideas • Water related symposium with other State Boards and Commissions 	<p>Agency Draft System for tracking progress, Potential Actions</p> <p>Final Community Engagement Report</p> <p>Final Board meeting 2023/ January 2024 Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review full suite of Goals and Strategies • Review indicators and system for tracking progress • Determine next steps with FPFO 	<p>Complete Dept Work Plans (Actions, Metrics) to reflect FPFO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Actions and System for tracking progress <p>Public Outreach on FPFO</p> <p>Finalize / Codify FPFO</p>

Forestry Program for Oregon

Oregon Board of Forestry

and

Oregon Department of Forestry

Strategic Planning Document

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Shared Vision -developed at October 2022 retreat

Complex and resilient forest ecosystems that endure and adapt

Joint Mission - developed by FPFO subcommittee on 1/18

The joint Mission of the BOF and ODF is to promote and guide management of Oregon forests and fire to benefit all Oregonians.

Values - under development, will be informed by October 2022 Board / ET retreat discussions and community engagement efforts within this process.

Agency Purpose - developed by ODF Executive Team and reviewed by FPFO subcommittee

Engage communities, staff, and resources to sustain and adapt forests and landscapes for social, economic, and ecological benefits.

Agency Principles - developed and refined by ODF Executive Team as of 4/13/23

- *Understanding and honoring the complexity of the relationships Oregonians have with their natural resources and recognizing the value of diverse objectives across ownerships.*
- *Creating and maintaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization that houses a well-trained, service-focused workforce.*
- *Honoring our government-to-government relationships with the Sovereign Nations the state of Oregon shares land with.*
- *Building and maintaining diverse, inclusive, and trust-based relationships with Oregonians, partners, urban and rural communities, and local governments through [community engagement](#), collaboration, communication, transparency and accountability.*
- *Using technology, best available science and recognized best practices to guide agency operations to build and enhance the resiliency of Oregon's forests, reduce the impacts of climate change, minimize wildfire impacts and encourage biodiversity.*
- *Promoting economic development and diversification in the forest sector that promotes the adaptive capacity of forests.*
- *[Recognizing and acting on place based approaches where appropriate.](#)*

About the Board of Forestry (est. 1907):

-under development, ODF Public Affairs drafting

About the Department of Forestry (est. 1911):

-under development, ODF Public Affairs drafting

Climate-Smart Forestry in Oregon for a Resilient Future

- drafted by ODF technical staff

Climate-smart forestry is a holistic approach for addressing the management needs related to the existential pressures exerted from climate change. Recent impacts go beyond the biotic aspects of the forest and include social dimensions including economics and State financial obligations. Abiotic and biotic forces are driving a divergence of existing ecosystems and the future environment.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Board of Forestry have accepted a definition of climate-smart forestry that includes three legs: adaptation, mitigation, and the social dimension (including communities and economic aspects). Building the Forestry Program for Oregon around this stool will help the Board and the Department be in line with each other on climate policy. It also helps to align the work the State is doing with its federal counterparts which have been directed to center climate-smart agriculture and forestry in their own work and processes.

So, what does a climate-smart forestry framework look like?

In previous iterations of the Forestry Program for Oregon, the Board has identified sustainable forest management as a key principle. Climate-smart forestry has been built out of sustainable agriculture and links with previous efforts to build criterion and indicators for sustainable forest management, like the Montreal Protocol.

Starting with **adaptation**. The changing environment has passed through tipping points that forests are unlikely to move back through. Forests see this through more extreme events, longer and more severe fire seasons, and a megadrought not seen since the dark ages (roughly 1200 years ago). These impacts do not spare any management approach or landowner. Adaptation policy can help forests adapt towards more resilient landscapes through human intervention. Changing forest structure, different management approaches, and incentivizing efforts to incorporate climate change into management decisions will be key. Additionally, providing tools that help forest landowners and managers assess their vulnerability to climate change can have broad benefits.

Next think of climate (or atmospheric carbon) **mitigation**. To reach internationally accepted targets (global temperature rise less than 1.5°C) to limit catastrophic impacts from climate change the global population will need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as well as work on adaptation measures. Natural climate solutions like forests, agricultural lands, and blue carbon all offer options to increase this mitigation through biologic sequestration. Forests, especially those on the west side of the state, are widely regarded as being highly capable ecosystems for this needed sequestration. Policy approaches and levers that can be utilized include incentivizing practices to increase stored carbon in the forests, reducing emissions from forest activities (e.g., limiting slash burning and increasing alternative slash use), among others.

Social license to achieve the other parts of CSF comes from the **social dimension**, a bifurcated part of CSF. Made up of communities and economies, this social aspect of CSF considers the impacts of adaptation and mitigation action on people, personal and community health, and community and rural economies. Utilizing climate smart forestry to create healthy, resilient forests that also provide ecosystem and economic benefits can help lift disadvantaged, underserved, natural resource dependent, and those living with intergenerational poverty. This adaptive

management will require a sea change from past management and there are opportunities for increased partnership with both public and private entities as well as community-based organizations and the people that they serve.

Climate-Smart Forestry will be used to stitch together the various aspects of this FPFO and will be present in each of the various goals that the Board and Department have mutually developed. More on this context, the structure of the goals and their assessment is on the following pages.

Terms and Definitions Key:

Goals are the high level policy areas of importance to the Board and Agency.

Each goal identifies partners ODF and the BOF need to achieve the goals, and the actions describe where ODF is assumed to lead the action, influence the action, or co-perform with action with others.

Strategies are the broad brushes that are used to successfully achieve a goal.

The strategies should reflect the Climate Smart Forestry lens to address climate adaptation, mitigation, and social dimensions of forestry.

Metrics gauge the measurable changes to specific goals and strategies. Metrics will be determined through:

- consideration of available data, resources, and ability to measure and track the metric;
- identifying those actions the board and department have the ability to alter or influence; and
- include the ability to look back in time as well as project into the future to ascertain if the Action and Strategy are meeting the intended targets.

Challenges identify barriers to achieving the goal. These can be social, economic or environmental.

Actions are the operational aspects of the FPFO and are largely identified by agency leadership working together with the Board.

Goals - goal headings developed / refined by FPFO Subcommittee, as of 4/19

NOTE FROM FPFO SUBCOMMITTEE (4/19 Subcommittee discussions)

- Adaptation, mitigation and social dimensions are different and important prongs that should show up as distinct strategies in all goals.
- Distinguish what the Agency and Board can directly lead on and what it can partner/influence others to do.

Functional and dynamic ecosystems (forest-centric goal):

Definition/Identification: (Notes from FPFO subcommittee 4/19)

- This is the framework to support all other goals; is foundational and also should remain distinct / stand alone from the other goals.
- **What is the range of ecosystem processes** (disturbance resistance/resilience, full range of plant and animal species, clean water, long lasting resilient forest products system)?

Strategies: *to be developed and reflect the following three Climate Smart Forestry pillars*

(Carry over from Resilient Communities discussions)

Biodiversity/Ecological focus:

- Integrated landscape (forests, grasslands)
- Clean water, cleaner air and carbon sequestration from forests = more resilient communities statewide that can both better adapt to climate change challenges and to the changes associated with growing population and associate resource demands
- Recognizing diversity of state
- Dynamic/changing environment

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Social

Metrics: *to be developed by the Agency after Strategies and Goals are determined*

Challenges:

Actions:

Partners, Partner Agencies and Constituents:

- Sovereign Tribes
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Forest Collaboratives and related groups
- Forest Industry and related groups

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

Climate Leadership:

Definition/Identification:

(Notes from FPFO subcommittee 4/19)

- **What role do we play in climate leadership?**
- Opportunity to be visionary and bold.
- High level broad policies, directives and statements that help move the Agency and others forward.
- Areas for potential leadership include land management, regulatory, fire/mitigation.
- Engage with other Boards and Commissions on a more holistic vision.

Strategies: *to be developed and reflect the following three Climate Smart Forestry pillars*

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Social

Metrics: *to be developed by the Agency after Strategies and Goals are determined*

Challenges:

Actions:

Partners, Partner Agencies and Constituents:

Resilient Communities (people-centric goals)

Definition/Identification: **BEING DEVELOPED BY SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Commented [1]: Under construction

DRAFT_UNDER CONSTRUCTION - strategic areas under consideration:

Educated and engaged community

Economic viability/vitality

Public health

Policy and regulatory certainty

Management across ownerships

Wildfire resiliency

Diversity of human communities / place based strategie

Metrics: *to be developed by the Agency after Strategies and Goals are determined*

Challenges:

Actions:

Partners, Partner Agencies and Constituents:

Organizational Excellence: *drafted by ODF Executive Team, as of 4/13/23*

Definition/Identification

Oregon state agencies have an obligation to the Oregonians they serve to continually improve business processes to promote organizational efficiency and effectiveness in their delivery of services. This includes being transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible. In order to achieve this, ODF's operations must be integrated and aligned through shared common policies, goals and objectives that support direction provided by the Board, Executive Branch and Legislature. Engaging with partners, urban and rural communities, local governments and Sovereign Nations is essential. Operational excellence requires a well-trained, highly competent and diverse staff of professionals.

Strategies:

1. Create and maintain strategic and operational plans that support accomplishment of FPFO goals.
2. Collaboratively develop strategic and operational plans.
3. Work with other state and federal agencies to leverage efficiencies and opportunities to accomplish individual and shared goals and objectives.
4. Increase transparency into agency operations and performance through clear, accurate and easily accessible reporting.
5. Continue to build a strong and diverse agency workforce.
6. Establish and maintain visible regulatory programs with consistent enforcement of laws and rules.

Metrics:

1. Board, ODF staff, external agencies, stakeholders and public indicate that common themes of FPFO are clearly visible and understood in other agency plans.
2. Clear reporting of engagement process for plans from standing advisory committees and workgroups created for specific planning efforts.
3. Monitoring plans that clearly articulate the efficient use of ODF and external resources.
4. Usage statistics for dashboards and number of information requests received that are answered by existing dashboards.
5. Reporting on recruitment venues used and diversity statistics on candidate pools and resulting hires.
6. Number of agreements with colleges and universities, numbers of interns and diversity statistics on interns.

Challenges:

- Current unfunded positions in the Planning Branch to help coordinate plan development across the agency.
- Lack of consistent process for engagement of tribes, partners, stakeholders and public in planning processes. Some standing committees not being leveraged to their full potential.
- Monitoring positions and processes that are contained within different divisions.
- Lack of existing dashboards and integration of supporting information systems across agency.
- (Need HR help on challenges for recruiting)
- Lack of existing intern program and cost of sustaining program.

Actions:

- Transparency: Create and maintain dashboards for key metrics that are publicly available on ODF's external website. Provide internal and external access to areas of interest like status of enforcement actions, budget setting process, and public records requests.
- Workforce: Continue to incorporate DEI tools into ODF hiring practices and expand advertising of recruiting positions to broaden employee diversity.
- Workforce: Reinstigate and expand intern program.

Partners, Partner Agencies and Constituents:

- DAS
- Sibling state agencies
- Universities and community colleges
- **Federal land managers**