

2003 Forestry Program for Oregon

OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY

FORESTRY PROGRAM for OREGON

P o c k e t G u i d e

B.11. The board will support programs that enhance urban and community forest values and that increase Oregonians' understanding of the important role urban and community forests play in providing environmental, economic, and social benefits.

B.12. The board will work with other organizations to revitalize the economy and social fabric of rural communities and ensure that the values they provide to all Oregonians are maintained and compensated. The board will consider the social effects on rural communities from current and proposed forest management policies and practices.

Strategy C. Maintain and enhance the productive capacity of Oregon's forests to improve the economic well-being of Oregon's communities.

ACTIONS:

C.1. The board will promote retention and improvement of the forestland base and long-term forest investments by landowners through Oregon's land-use and tax programs, regulations, forest products market development, and appropriate incentives. (KEY ACTION)

C.2. The board recognizes that different owners have different objectives for land ownership with different emphases on conservation, commodity production, multiple use, and residential values. The board will promote a policy framework that recognizes that the management of these different ownerships can provide a suite of benefits which collectively will meet Oregon's environmental, economic, and social needs.

C.3. The board will encourage the federal government land management agencies to achieve their statutory objectives by actively managing federal forestlands, including the use of commercial timber harvests where appropriate.

C.4. The board will support proper management to protect and enhance the multiple values of Oregon's urban and community forests and forests in the wildland/urban interface.

C.5. The board will encourage forest landowners to manage their forests in a manner that ensures long-term wood volume growth in Oregon equals or exceeds rates of timber harvest and mortality across all ownerships.

C.6. The board will support continued assessments and research on the capability of Oregon's forests to produce timber, non-wood forest products, recreation, water, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values.

Strategy D. Protect, maintain, and enhance the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.



ACTIONS:

D.1. The board will support and contribute to continuing statewide efforts under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to protect and enhance Oregon's native fish populations and water quality, while sustaining a healthy economy. (KEY ACTION)

D.2. The board will continue to use the Forest Practices Act as the primary means to protect soil productivity and water quality and also promote ongoing voluntary resource restoration and enhancement efforts by forest landowners through the Oregon Plan.

D.3. The board will promote understanding, acceptance, and support across all land uses for relevant indicators of water quality conditions based on beneficial uses, and the use of these indicators to develop stream protection policies that result in consistent application of state water quality standards across land uses.

D.4. The board will ensure that forest landowners comply with state non-point source water quality standards as their contribution to providing Oregonians with high quality drinking water.

D.5. The board will promote renewed, long-term watershed research to study the effectiveness of the most current forestry best management practices in providing protection for soil and water resources.

D.6. The board will promote continued research and monitoring on the condition of forest roads and the effectiveness of forestry best management practices for roads.

D.7. The board will promote the maintenance of

forestland in forest uses and promote the establishment of new forests as key elements in promoting high quality water and protection of soil productivity.

D.8. The board will support adequate funding for appropriate regulation and incentive programs that serve to encourage the establishment and retention of forestland.

Strategy E. Contribute to the conservation of diverse native plant and animal populations and their habitats in Oregon's forests.

ACTIONS:

E.1. The board will collaborate with other state, federal, and tribal agencies; universities; conservation groups; and private landowners to promote the development of a comprehensive, science-based, coarse-scale statewide assessment that evaluates the characteristics, conditions, and trends of native vascular plant and vertebrate animal populations and habitats on all land uses and ownership classes. (KEY ACTION)

E.2. Following completion of the assessment, and within the broader context of continuing to meet Oregon's environmental, economic, and social needs, the board will collaborate with other agencies, universities, organizations, and landowners to promote development of a coordinated, statewide Oregon native plant and animal conservation policy addressing all land uses and ownership classes. This policy should be ratified by all of Oregon's natural resource boards and commissions, as well as the Oregon Legislature, and acknowledged by federal natural resource agencies. The adopted policy should:

- Recognize that the primary purpose of most private forestland is to grow and harvest commercial tree species.
- Clearly consider public expectations for the contributions of private landowners on all uses to achieve state goals and how, in light of the technical assessment results, those expectations can be met in a fair and equitable manner.
- Ensure that any additional contributions by private forest landowners are sought first through non-regulatory methods and only through regulation if the assessment shows a clear, compelling need, consistent with ORS 527.714. (KEY ACTION)

E.3. The board will promote a variety of non-regulatory tools, such as landowner recognition, incentives, easements, exchanges, and technical assistance, to help implement the state native plant and animal habitat conservation policy. (KEY ACTION)

E.4. The board will support continued active management of Oregon's state forests through the use of structure-based management combined with ongoing science-based implementation monitoring and evaluation. (KEY ACTION)

E.5. The board will evaluate and develop state forest policies in the context of the diverse roles and management objectives of Oregon's public and private forest landowners, along with other land uses, to sustain the state's natural heritage of native plant and animal species and communities.

E.6. The board will promote continued monitoring and evaluation of both the short-term and long-term effects of current forest practices on Oregon's biological resources

Strategy F. Protect, maintain, and enhance the health of Oregon's forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds within a context of natural disturbance and active management.

ACTIONS:

F.1. The board will promote active fuels and vegetation management, along with aggressive wildfire suppression, as key tools to manage forest health on public and private forestlands. (KEY ACTION)

F.2. The board will promote forest landscape conditions that are resilient to natural disturbances, reducing the adverse environmental impacts and losses of forest resources to wildfire, insects, diseases and other agents in a cost-effective, environmentally, and socially acceptable manner.

F.3. The board will encourage state and federal agencies to closely monitor and aggressively act to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of air pollution and invasive, non-native species on Oregon's forests.

F.4. The board will continue to promote smoke management programs that maintain and improve air quality while allowing sufficient opportunities for prescribed burning, fuel reduction, and forest health improvements.

F.5. It is the policy of the board that wildfire suppression actions in all of Oregon's forests reflect the following protection priorities: (1) human lives, (2) forest resources, (3) dwell-

ings and other developments.

F.6. The board will promote shared public and landowner funding to maintain the most efficient level of fire protection and other forest health activities on non-federal forestland.

Strategy G. Enhance carbon storage in Oregon's forests and forest products.



ACTIONS:

G.1. The board will encourage maintaining and increasing Oregon's forestland base and promoting urban forests to enhance carbon storage and reduce greenhouse gases.

G.2. The board will encourage development of tools to predict how forest management and wildfire affect carbon pools and calculate the amount of carbon stored in these pools.

G.3. The board will promote increased public and forest landowner understanding of the potential contributions of trees and forests in storing carbon.

G.4. The board will promote the development of forestry carbon-offset markets, and provide landowners information about the market rules for the sale or exchange of carbon offsets.

G.5. The board will promote the use and reuse of Oregon forest resources, avoiding the higher level of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the manufacture of many wood product substitutes.

G.6. The board will work with forest landowners and encourage other organizations to work with wood products manufacturers and retailers to develop local markets for wood products from Oregon forests.

G.7. The board will encourage greater consumer awareness of the environmental advantages of using renewable and recyclable Oregon forest products.

Different forests for different purposes

Long-term sustainability depends on sustaining our forestland base and encouraging different management strategies for different forests.

Wood production forests

Much of the world's wood will come from this forest use.

Goal: Most efficient wood/fiber production

Challenges:

- Increase wood yield
- Reduce environmental footprint
- Improve product quality
- Produce high return on investment
- Maintain social license to operate

Multiple-resource forests

Most of the world's accessible forest will be in integrated management.

Goal: Meet various landowner objectives

Challenges:

- Optimize joint production of products and benefits
- Sustain desired diversity of environmental, economic, community conditions and results; i.e., risk, forest health, vitality, productivity
- Produce multiple benefits at reasonable costs

Reserve forests

Parks, reserves, wilderness, special areas for natural, cultural values.

Challenges:

- Manage people to reduce impacts
- Manage forests to restore "naturalness"
- Manage ecosystems to be resilient to natural disturbances

Residential value emphasis forests

Urban and community forests, forested rural residential areas, wildland/urban interface areas.

Challenges:

- Connect people with forest resources
- Maintain pleasant neighborhoods
- Conserve resource
- Minimize sprawl
- Safety to life and property
- Maintain and enhance wildlife habitats

Welcome to the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon

Oregon is justly renowned for the magnificence of its forests—some of the most beautiful and productive in the world. Forests have shaped Oregon's history since presettlement times, and they continue to define the state's economy, society, and culture. Oregon's forestlands contribute greatly to our state's environmental, economic, and social well-being.

This is a pocket guide to the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*, the strategic plan established by the Oregon Board of Forestry. The plan sets forth the board's mission and vision for Oregon's forests and the values and strategies that will guide the board's decisions over the next eight years.

The 2003 edition of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* also introduces a new framework for discovering, discussing, and assessing the sustainability of Oregon's forests. It expresses the Board of Forestry's vision of how Oregon's private and public forest landowners can work with the rest of Oregon's citizens to ensure that our forests are managed for the best mix of economic, environmental, and social benefits.

This pocket guide is intended as a handy reference to the main points of the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*. These points are more fully explained and supplemented with extensive background information in the full document, the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*, available from the Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310. The web edition may be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Board of Forestry website, <http://www.oregonforestry.org>.

Mission

Establishes the overall purpose of the Board of Forestry.

The Board of Forestry's mission is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's 28 million acres of public and private forests.



2003 Forestry Program for Oregon

OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY

Strategies

Identify what the Board of Forestry wants to achieve over the next eight years.

These strategies have been adapted from internationally recognized criteria for discussing and measuring progress toward sustainable forest management. They provide the framework for establishing actions and designing and carrying out programs.

No priority is implied in the order in which the strategies are listed, and it is not intended that all strategies be applied equally on every forest ownership. Strategies should be viewed from a statewide, landscape perspective, and different landowners will make different contributions.

Strategy A. Promote a sound legal system, effective and adequately funded government, leading-edge research, and sound economic policies.

Strategy B. Ensure that Oregon's forests provide diverse social and economic outputs and benefits valued by the public in a fair, balanced, and efficient manner.

Strategy C. Maintain and enhance the productive capacity of Oregon's forests to improve the economic well-being of Oregon's communities.

Strategy D. Protect, maintain, and enhance the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.

Strategy E. Contribute to the conservation of diverse native plant and animal populations and their habitats in Oregon's forests.

Strategy F. Protect, maintain, and enhance the health of Oregon's forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds within a context of natural disturbance and active management.

Strategy G. Enhance carbon storage in Oregon's forests and forest products.



Vision

Describes what the Board of Forestry wants to accomplish through its seven strategies, looking at a 20-year horizon.

If the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon is implemented successfully, Oregon will have:

1. Healthy forests providing a sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits.
2. Public and private landowners willingly making investments to create healthy forests.
3. Statewide forest resource policies that are coordinated among Oregon's natural resource agencies.
4. A Board of Forestry recognized as an impartial deliberative body operating openly and in the public interest.
5. Citizens who understand, accept, and support sustainable forestry and who make informed decisions that contribute to achievement of the vision of 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon.
6. Adequate funding for the Department of Forestry to efficiently and cost-effectively accomplish the mission and strategies of the Board of Forestry, and department personnel policies that encourage and recognize employees, allowing them to meet their full potential in providing excellent public service.

Values

Identify the board's guiding philosophies related to forestry.

The Board of Forestry values:

1. **A global context.** We believe Oregon's forests are important to the global environment, economy, and society, and that forest managers, government agencies, interest groups, and all other Oregonians should consider the impact of their decisions at local, state, national, and international levels.
2. **The dynamic nature of Oregon's forests.** We recognize that Oregon's forests are diverse, dynamic, and resilient ecosystems at

a landscape scale. A broad range of forest conditions exists naturally, and various forest values, in proper proportion, are mutually compatible over time.

3. **Active management.** We believe Oregon's forests should be actively managed to maintain forest health, to conserve native plant and animal species, and to produce the products and benefits people value. In this context, we define "active management" as the application of practices through planning and design, over time and across the landscape, to achieve site-specific forest resource goals. Active management uses an integrated, science-based approach that promotes the compatibility of most forest uses and resources over time and across the landscape.
4. **Landowners and the public sharing responsibility for sustainable forests.** We believe forest sustainability depends on the contributions of both landowners and the public. We support the private landowner's right to practice forest management in an environmentally sound manner that is already regulated by Oregon's strong Forest Practices Act. The public must also play an active role by supporting incentives and other non-regulatory methods that encourage continued investment in Oregon's forests to maintain and enhance environmental, economic, and social benefits.
5. **Forests that contribute to quality of life.** Oregon's forests play a significant role in providing for Oregon's quality of life, including products, jobs, recreation, tax revenues for purposes such as education and public safety, and a quality environment.
6. **Meeting current and future needs.** We believe forest resources should be used, developed, and protected at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current environmental, economic, and social needs, and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs.
7. **Different landowners playing different roles.** We believe different land ownerships play different roles in achieving the full suite

of environmental, economic, and social needs met by the forested landscape. Family forest landowners play unique and valuable roles in Oregon's forest landscape, but their continued existence is threatened by development, regulation, and economic challenges.

8. **Informed public participation.** We value broad-based, informed public participation and consensus-based decision-making whenever possible, utilizing the following working principles adopted by the Western Governors' Association:¹
 - National Standards, Neighborhood Solutions—Assign responsibilities at the right level
 - Collaboration, Not Polarization—Use collaborative processes to break down barriers and find solutions
 - Reward Results, Not Programs—Move to a performance-based system
 - Science for Facts, Process for Priorities—Separate subjective choices from objective data gathering
 - Markets Before Mandates—Pursue economic incentives whenever appropriate
 - Change a Heart, Change a Nation—Environmental understanding is crucial
 - Recognize Benefits and Costs—Make sure all decisions affecting infrastructure, development, and environment are fully informed
 - Solutions Transcend Political Boundaries—Use appropriate geographic boundaries for environmental problems
9. **Continuous learning.** We are committed to continuous learning. The results of forest management policies and programs should be evaluated and appropriately adjusted based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research.
10. **Healthy rural Oregon.** We believe a healthy rural Oregon, which relies on working landscapes, is vital to the quality of life enjoyed by all Oregonians.

Actions

What the Board plans to do to achieve its values and accomplish its mission.

The Board of Forestry believes the actions listed below will be needed to achieve the board's mission, strategies, and vision, reflecting the board's values. Key actions are highlighted.

Strategy A. Promote a sound legal system, effective and adequately funded government, leading-edge research, and sound economic policies.



ACTIONS:

- A.1. The board will continue to support an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act and a strong but flexible Land Use Planning Program as the cornerstones of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon. (KEY ACTION)
- A.2. The board will foster collaborative partnerships with federal natural resource regulatory and forestland management agencies. The board will actively support federal policies that are consistent with the board's strategies and actions and actively seek changes to federal policies that are inconsistent with the board's strategies and actions. (KEY ACTION)
- A.3. The board will promote active, adaptive forest management and the outreach monitoring, assessments, research, and evaluations that support it as a continuous learning and improving process for all seven strategies. (KEY ACTION)
- A.4. The board will promote congressionally approved experiments in Oregon and other states where local communities with mature, successful histories of collaboration are empowered to demonstrate their stewardship of federal forestlands and are held accountable for the results. Such experiments should be implemented under a framework of national management and monitoring standards. (KEY ACTION)
- A.5. When forest practice regulations are necessary, the board, consistent with state statutes, will work to minimize the adverse financial effects of regulations that may require private landowners to contribute forest resources to provide increased public benefits.

- A.6. The board will continue to support local land-use planning to stabilize the forestland base and encourage long-term investments in forestland.
- A.7. The board will encourage the use of nonregulatory methods, such as landowner incentives, to achieve public-policy goals on private forestlands.
- A.8. The board will promote collaboration, partnerships, dialogue, and consensus-building as preferred pathways to resolve natural resource conflicts.
- A.9. The board will promote policies and programs that will reinvigorate rural areas by promoting active forest management, economic and community investment, urban/rural partnerships, and public education about the benefits that forests and rural areas provide all Oregonians.
- A.10. When developing Oregon forest policies, the board will consider them in the context of the Oregon environment and economy, but also in the context of the global environment and the global economy.

Strategy B. Ensure that Oregon's forests provide diverse social and economic outputs and benefits valued by the public in a fair, balanced, and efficient manner.



ACTIONS:

- B.1. The board will work with other organizations to create and maintain a favorable investment climate for environmentally sensitive, socially responsible, and globally competitive forest-based businesses throughout Oregon that will generate high quality, value-added products; high quality, stable employment; and increased export capacity. (KEY ACTION)
- B.2. The board will promote the development of programs that enhance Oregon's forest industry competitiveness, industrial development, and both in-state and global recognition that Oregon forest products come from sustainably managed forests. (KEY ACTION)
- B.3. The board will promote increased public dialogue about the challenges of satisfying increasing consumer demand for forest products, the need to keep private forestland in forest uses, the desire for healthy forests, and the need for greater rural economic and community resilience. (KEY ACTION)
- B.4. The board will continue to assess the unique challenges and opportunities facing family forest landowners and promote policies that encourage continued retention of, and investment in, family-owned forestlands. (KEY ACTION)
- B.5. The board will promote environmentally sound, active forest management policies that encourage long-term investments, sustainable timber supplies, recreation and cultural opportunities, special forest products, fish and wildlife habitat, clean air and water, renewable energy, other forest outputs and benefits, and high levels of employment and income.
- B.6. The board will direct the Department of Forestry to analyze barriers to forest industry investment and to assess the ability of Oregon's forest-related industries to remain globally competitive and to sustain production of other desired environmental, economic, and social values from Oregon's forests.
- B.7. The board will direct the Department of Forestry to conduct a study of economic contributions and trends of Oregon's forest recreation and non-wood products industries.
- B.8. The board will promote new employment opportunities by encouraging an assessment of what and where wood could be removed from federal forests to improve forest health, consistent with other management objectives, and encouraging the development of the infrastructure needed to accomplish the desired future condition for these forests.
- B.9. The board will develop and implement forest policies potentially affecting recognized Indian tribes in consultation with those affected tribes.
- B.10. The board will support programs that maintain and protect archeological and cultural sites on forestlands.

¹ Western Governors' Association. 1999. Policy Resolution 99-013: Principles for Environmental Management in the West. http://www.westgov.org/wga/policy/02/enlibra_07.pdf