



NW & SW Forest Management Plans Adopted

Board of Forestry Action Jan. 3 Culminates Six Years of Rigorous Development

The Board of Forestry (BOF) adopted the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan Jan. 3, concluding a half-dozen years of planning by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

The plan charts a long-range course for 615,000 acres of popular state forestland in 12 northwest counties. Tillamook State Forest, Clatsop State

Forest, Santiam State Forest, and scattered forestlands in Polk, Lincoln, Benton and Lane counties are included in the northwest plan.

Also at the Jan. 3 meeting, the BOF adopted the Southwest State Forest Management Plan for 18,000 acres of forestland in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas and Curry counties.

The long-range management plans seek compatible use of the state forestlands to achieve a broad array of benefits. These benefits include timber harvesting, habitat conservation and restoration, and recreation.

Board Chair David Gilbert expressed appreciation to the many individuals and interest groups that participated in the planning process.

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Input Wanted on District-level Plans ***Comments on Land Classification Maps also Sought***

The Oregon Department of Forestry has scheduled a 90-day public comment period to seek public comment on district-level implementation of the long-range forest management plans approved by the Board of Forestry in January.

The 90-day comment period runs from June 12 to Sept. 11. The 10-year implementation plans use the principles and guidelines of the adopted long-range forest management plans to specify desired forest conditions in each of the districts.

During this same 90-day period, comments also will be accepted on the Land Management Classification System. The system classifies and maps state forestland into three categories, designating different levels of resource management and protection.

Six northwest districts and one southwest district are collecting public comments. Comments should be made in writing directly to the districts, or to Jane Hope, Planning Specialist, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem OR 97310; e-mail Jane.Hope@state.or.us; fax 503-945-7376. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. Sept. 11.

Persons wishing information or copies of the implementation plans may contact individual districts or Jane Hope by phone 503-945-7359 or (800) 482-6866, or at her e-mail address.

Implementation Plans Specify Current-Day & Future Conditions

A new round of planning started up with the adoption of the northwest and southwest state forests management plans.

The long-range plans, themselves, are complete. They provide broad, general direction for the forestland managed by seven Oregon Department of Forestry districts.

The next phase is more specific. Each of the districts must now develop implementation plans that take the over-arching principles and strategies of the larger landscape plan and apply them "on the ground" within their districts.

The 10-year district implementation plans project a "desired future condition" for the forests that extends several decades into the future. The plans also provide a

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New Plans Chart Course to Diverse Landscapes

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Development of the plan included extensive public involvement and scientific review.

“In a state that leads the nation in progressive forest management,” said Governor John Kitzhaber, “these plans represent a bold new course and framework of forest stewardship that will provide for a multitude of sustainable products and revenues to support local governments and communities.”

The plans call for the ODF to actively manage the land, using an approach – structure-based management – that seeks to develop and maintain diverse forest stand structures in a way that imitates natural conditions. The stand types range from open spaces to older forest types.

“The mosaic of different stand types across the landscape is designed to create habitat for all native wildlife,” said Ross Holloway, ODF State Forests program director and key architect of the plans. “Some species – particularly the threatened northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet – need the older forests for

nesting. But many other species prefer younger stands and open spaces.”

Providing for Wildlife

To meet the needs of wildlife, the forests of predominately 40- to 80-year-old stands must progress toward more diversity, in terms of types and sizes of trees. Foresters and biologists agree that this can be done more quickly by actively thinning the young stands – speeding up nature’s culling process of the smaller, weaker trees – and accelerating the growth of remaining trees.

Foresters say they can move these young forests to older forests – with old-growth characteristics like big trees, down wood, snags (standing dead trees) and a healthy understory of trees – in a few decades. The same structure would take nature centuries to create.

Economy and Jobs

These forests are important to local community residents who depend on forest resources for jobs. Counties, schools and other local taxing districts also depend on the revenue they receive from timber harvests.

Recreation, Cultural Assets

In addition to the environment and economy, the forest management plans address the growing interest Oregonians have in these forests for recreation.

Recreation opportunities on these state forests include camping, hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, boating and riding motorized off-highway vehicles.

The plans also recognize historic sites, relics and structures as cultural resources that need to be preserved.

A Different Approach

Oregon’s state forest make up only 3 percent of the forestlands in the state, with the remainder split between federal and private ownership.

“This plan proposes a third alternative to the reserve-based approach in place on most federal forestlands, and the shorter-rotation, more intensive management common on private industrial forests,” Holloway said. “It is an approach that seeks to achieve a balance of the economic, environmental and social values that Oregonians hold dear.”

Implementation Plans Build on FMPs, GPV Foundation

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starting point, an assessment of their current condition.

The diverse stand types – ranging from open spaces to older forest structure (old-growth characteristics) – called for in the forest management plans will guide the district implementation plans.

Districts will identify the types of management activities (thinning, partial cuts, clear cuts and reforestation), and show how and why they will be used to move basins toward their desired future condition.

The implementation plans also will address the construction, improvement, maintenance and closure of roads – with the goal of meeting district transporta-

tion needs without significantly impacting water quality.

Other components of the plan include stream enhancement projects, cultural site identification and protection, and recreation management projects.

Public Involvement

Before the implementation plans are approved, districts will actively seek public input. Open houses are planned, where citizens can study in detail exactly what is being proposed in the plans, ask questions and offer their comments.

District foresters will consider the comments before

submitting the final draft implementation plans to the State Forester for review and approval.

Building-block Foundation

The ODF forest management concept uses the “greatest permanent value” (GPV) administrative rule as its “purpose of the lands” foundation. In turn, the forest management plans (FMP) are built upon the GPV rule.

The implementation plans are based on the FMPs; then the annual operation plans – developed each year to spell out exactly what activities are planned – are based on the 10-year implementation plans.



Monitoring Plan To Assess Effects of Implementation

A draft Monitoring Implementation Plan describes a monitoring program to assess whether the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is doing things right and also whether they are doing the right things.

One objective of the monitoring program is to evaluate if management strategies are being achieved during the initial 10-year implementation period, and it takes a hard look at the strategies themselves to make sure they result in anticipated habitat for species of concern.

Monitoring provides information to assess the implementation and effectiveness and to evaluate the fundamental assumptions that form the planning basis for the forest management plans. The evaluation of these assumptions will focus the development of specific monitoring projects to determine if the strategies are achieving their objectives.

The draft plan may be viewed on the ODF website: www.odf.state.or.us/stateforests. Copies may also be requested from Jeff Brandt (contact information listed below).

Comments on the draft Monitoring Implementation Plan may be provided to Jeff Brandt, Research and Monitoring Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem OR 97310; (503) 945-722; e-mail jbrandt@odf.state.or.us.

Visit the Oregon Department of Forestry's State Forest Website at:

www.odf.state.or.us/stateforests
to access documents discussed in this newsletter.

To add names to this newsletter's mailing list write:

Jane Hope
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

E-mail:
jane.hope@state.or.us
or call: (503) 945-7359 or (800) 482-6866

ODF Continues Outreach to Public Focus Groups, Advisory Committee Formed to Collect Opinions

In a continuing effort to stay connected with the public over state forestlands issues, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has formed focus groups in three districts and is in the process of forming a northwest area advisory committee.

The focus groups have been formed in Tillamook, Forest Grove and Astoria ODF districts.

Each focus group is reviewing and discussing the draft 10-year implementation plan for its district, making sure the district plan aligns with the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan.

The focus groups are made up of local community members who represent diverse interests. Each group is meeting during the summer and will provide a report to its district forester.

District foresters will consider the input from the focus groups, along with the feedback they receive from public meetings and a 90-day public comment period, as they prepare final drafts and submit them to State Forester Jim Brown in the fall. The state forester is responsible for approving the district implementation plans.

An ODF Implementation Advisory Committee is being formed by Mike Bordelon, northwest Oregon area director. The committee will meet several times a year and consider implementation and monitoring issues on a landscape level across the six districts in the northwest area.

The committee will have a variety of interests, including representation from the counties, the environmental community, recreational interests, and the timber industry.

Land Classification System Maps also Offered for Review During 90-day Comment Period

Land classification system maps for each of the seven Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) districts covered by the northwest and southwest forest management plans are available for review and comment.

The 90-day comment period for the implementation plans – June 12 to Sept. 11 – also serves at the time frame for commenting on the land classification maps.

Maps may be viewed at the district offices. They also are available on the ODF website (www.odf.state.or.us/stateforests).

The seven districts are collecting public comments. Comments should be made in writing directly to the districts, or to Jane Hope, Planning Specialist, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem OR 97310; e-mail Jane.Hope@state.or.us; fax 503-945-7376. Comments must be

received by 5 p.m. Sept. 11.

Persons wishing information about the land classification maps may contact individual districts or Jane Hope by phone 503-945-7359 or (800) 482-6866, or at her e-mail address.

The land classification system is a method of describing management emphasis for parcels of state forestland. The management emphasis identifies to what extent a parcel of land can be managed.

Under the system, all state forestlands are placed in one of three management classifications:

- 1) General Stewardship – all forest resources are actively managed.
- 2) Focused Stewardship – modified management is necessary.
- 3) Special Stewardship – management activities are limited to those compatible with a specific use.



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
 2600 STATE STREET
 SALEM, OR 97310

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

ODF Looks to Set Rules for Acquiring, Trading Land

Draft Administrative Rules Address Topics Not Included in Existing Board Policy

Public hearings are scheduled in late June to consider draft administrative rules that spell out in detail a process for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to acquire and trade land.

The draft rules address several topics not included in the existing Board of Forestry (BOF) policy for the acquisition and exchange of state forestland:

- Land classification – addresses procedure for assigning and reviewing land designation as required by administrative rule.
- Public hearings – specifies methods and standards for conducting public hearings on individual acquisition or exchange proposals.
- Biological and recreational assessments – adds language to ensure these resource assessments are conducted and that the Board of Forestry consider them when deciding on individual acquisitions or exchanges.
- Appeal process – describes specific process and criteria for appealing decisions on individual acquisitions or exchanges.

The proposed changes to existing board policy and the creation of land acquisition and exchange administrative rules align with the forest management plans adopted in January and the greatest permanent value rule adopted in 1998.

A schedule of the public hearings – their dates, times and locations – is listed on this page.

Persons interested in submitting written comments should send them to: Patty Cate, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem OR 97310 or via fax to 503-945-7376.

Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on July 3.

Following the public hearings, ODF plans to bring the final rules before the BOF for adoption in September.

State Forest Land Acquisition and Exchange Rule-making Hearing Dates and Locations

June 26, 9 a.m. – Noon	Oregon Department of Forestry Conference Room, Building 2 2600 State Street, Salem, OR
June 26, 7 – 9 p.m.	Comfort Suites 3420 Lief Erickson Drive Astoria, OR
June 27, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	ODF Tillamook Office 4907 East 3rd Street Tillamook, OR