



- BACKGROUND -

Forest policy and planning

Promoting and practicing sustainable forestry

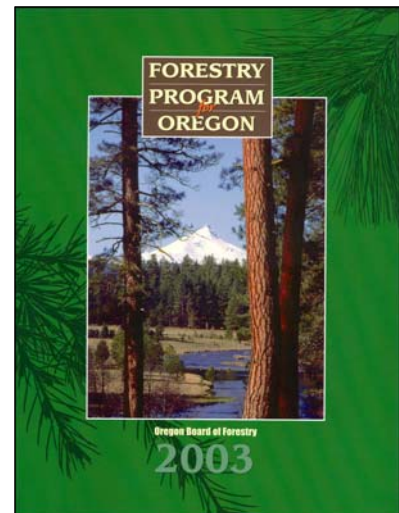
“Forest policy – like the forests themselves – is fluid and dynamic.”

-- Ted Lorensen, Assistant State Forester

An overview

The Forest Resource Planning Program:

- Leads strategic planning for the Board and Department of Forestry.
- Provides analysis, policy and planning expertise, information about forests and forestry, and forward-looking ideas for the Board, the Department, and other decision- and policy-makers and leaders.
- Promotes policies that encourage sustainable forest management and support the Board’s strategic plan – the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon* – on all of Oregon’s forestlands.



Implementing the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon

The Forest Resource Planning Program leads the implementation of the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*. One critical piece of this leadership has been communicating about the plan and the Board’s goals for Oregon’s forestlands with other agencies, organizations, and citizen groups, promoting sustainable forest policy development for all of Oregon’s forests.

Addressing federal land issues

Federal forestlands comprise 58 percent of Oregon’s forests – about one-quarter of Oregon’s total land base – and are critical to Oregon’s economy, social fabric, and environmental health. The Forest Resource Planning Program has long been active in federal forest policy issues.

In 2004, the Governor directed the Board of Forestry to “create a unified vision of how federal lands should contribute. . .” and to “make that vision action-oriented and comprehensive – following through to the last step, including implementation.” In 2005, the Legislature passed SB 1072, which encourages the Board, in consultation with the Governor, to create a forum for interagency cooperation and collaborative public involvement regarding federal forest management issues.

Highlights:
Addressing
federal lands
issues,
developing
sustainability
indicators, and
more

Highlights

(Cont.)

The Board subsequently adopted an objective to “Create a unified vision of how federal forestlands should contribute to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of all Oregon forest resources.” The program is coordinating the work of the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee - a group representing a broad range of interests - which has been charged with developing a document that articulates this vision and that will be submitted to the Governor for review. In its final form, this document is

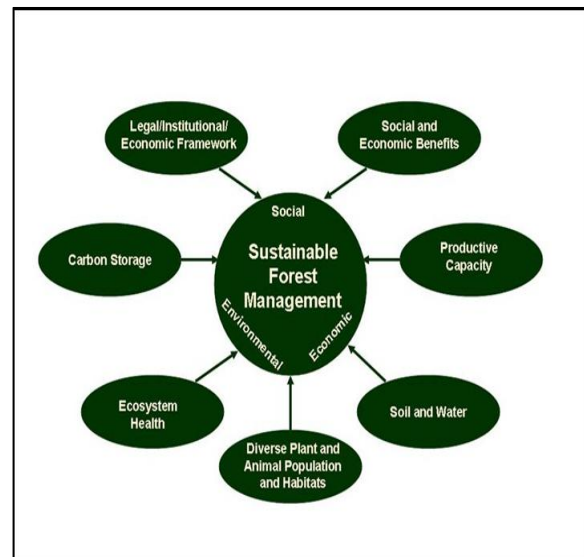
“Investment in our national forests has been declining. Federal-level forest policy and budget decisions have led to increased wildfire risk and severity, and reduced recreational opportunities and scenic and biological values. These are just some examples of this disinvestment, which ultimately impacts all Oregonians.”
--Marvin D. Brown,
State Forester

intended to be used to articulate Oregon’s interests at the national policy level, and to guide the state’s participation in local processes for planning the future of federal forests.

Developing Indicators of Sustainable Forestry

Over the past two years, the program has coordinated a pioneering effort to achieve consensus on a set of indicators and desired trends that are based on the seven strategies in the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*.

These can now be used to begin to measure progress towards sustainably managed forests. This work can inform the Board, other policy-makers, and the public about the environmental, economic, and social conditions of Oregon’s public and private forests, and can provide a cost-effective way to collect data needed to monitor changes in these conditions. They can also convey critical information more simply to build public confidence, and facilitate better communication and cooperation among all who are interested in forest resources.



The Seven Sustainable Forest Management Strategies in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*

Assessing our forest resource

In 2010, as part of the “kick-off” for developing an updated strategic plan for the Board of Forestry, the program will sponsor and lead an Oregon Forests Assessment Symposium. In preparation for this event, the program will be compiling and analyzing data and trends, including information on Oregon’s indicators of sustainable forest management.

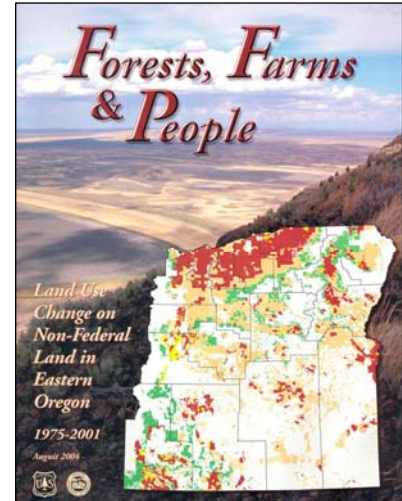
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Evaluating Oregon's forest land base

A common set of concerns across Oregon involves fragmentation, parceling, and the conversion of Oregon's forestlands to other uses such as development. Forest-related values that all Oregonians enjoy are at risk. The program recently published *Forests, Farms and People: Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Eastern Oregon, 1975-2001*. This piece complements a previously completed report on western forestlands. These reports and the data that the program collects provide critical information on the forest land base over time. They are particularly timely given the passage of Ballot Measure 37, because they allow for tracking of how the measure affects the forest land base.

By actively promoting sustainably managed forest resources, and providing the vision and credible technical information needed by policy- and decision-makers, the Forest Resource Planning Program serves all Oregonians as the state moves toward sustainability for Oregon's forestlands.



For more information

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