

Oregon Board of Forestry
Eight Priority Issues
Revised: June 2008

The Board of Forestry identified seven priorities to shape its 2005 agenda. Each relates to strategies or other elements of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. In April 2008, the Board added Issue 8. The priority areas are substantial and brief summaries are provided below.

Issue 1: Implementation of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. The intent is to build Oregonians' understanding, acceptance, and support for sustainable forest management, and to increase recognition of the Board's leadership role, using the *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies and actions as the basis for discussion. Actions will include efforts to explain and promote *Forestry Program for Oregon* strategies, and to develop sound indicators that can be used to measure progress toward implementing them.

Issue 2: State Forests Management. This priority area addresses a range of issues associated with state forests. *Adaptive management* involves working with a wide variety of stakeholders to determine whether new scientific and other information should lead to changes in management plans. The second key element involves continued work toward possible development of a *Habitat Conservation Plan* for state forests in Western Oregon. The third involves developing an approach for the *systematic review of new scientific* information. The intent is to develop a process for the identification, evaluation, and synthesis of unbiased, credible research results that can be effectively incorporated into the decision-making process.

Issue 3: Forest Vitality. This area incorporates a variety of actions focused on maintaining a healthy and productive forestland base, and encouraging landowner investments that enhance forest health. Among the many elements here are:

- Responding to Governor Kulongoski's direction that the Board work with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department to develop a strategy to ensure the sustainability of Oregon's forest sector and to enhance the sector's contributions to our economy.
- Responding to the Governor's direction to work with a broad range of groups to develop a unified vision of how Oregonians would like to see federal lands managed.

Issue 4: Outreach to Urban Populations. This priority area seeks to build urban Oregonians' connections with forestry and its importance to our state's quality of life. The work area envisions the use of various tools, such as urban forestry assistance, the Tillamook Forest Center, and public education opportunities, to raise urban Oregonians' awareness about the principles and importance of sustainable forestry.

Issue 5: Dynamic Ecosystems. This area involves the notion that landslides, blow-down and other disturbances often thought of as "damage" are in fact natural processes with some positive effects, such as benefits for wildlife habitat. The objectives include increasing scientific understanding of these processes, to improve policy-setting and resource-protection strategies.

Issue 6: Private Forests (Forest Regulation). This priority area reflects the approach, expressed in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, of using incentives and other non-regulatory means when possible, to lead landowners toward achieving public benefits – such as habitat protection – on private land. At the same time, however, this work recognizes the role regulations will continue to serve, and will incorporate several existing rulemaking efforts, along with analysis of the effects of Measure 37, and other activities.

Issue 7: Wildfire Risk Management. A key objective is implementation of recommendations produced by a recent, comprehensive review of the department's firefighting program. The recommendations cover a range of topics, including fuels reduction, fire prevention, business systems and workforce capacity. Another objective is completion of an ongoing review, conducted with many stakeholders and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, of the department's smoke management program.

Issue 8: Invasive Species. This priority area reflects the increasing concern over invasive species that affect Oregon's forestlands. Through this work plan, the Board will consider whether changes in existing Board strategies and actions, statutes, rules, or voluntary measures are needed to effectively address invasive species on forestland. The Board will also support development of a cooperative strategic plan addressing invasive species.