OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

THE OREGON PLAN

2000 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many actions were undertaken during 2000 by forest landowners, the department, and other partners, in support of the Oregon Plan. Forest landowners retain a strong sense of commitment and ownership for the Oregon Plan. Oregon loggers have implemented an accreditation program that has enhanced the understanding and excellence in complying with the forest practices rules.

However, an increasing number of barriers to efficient and effective implementation are occurring. The relationship with our federal partners needs to be redefined to remove many of these barriers. The Oregon Plan vision is to emphasize technical assistance, planning assistance, funding and incentives, and shared effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management. The federal agency vision seems centered upon federal Endangered Species Act "compliance" through state regulatory programs. Despite these and other barriers, the Oregon Plan forestry measures continue to be implemented. Tremendous accomplishment has occurred in the *Road Erosion and Risk Project* measure. Monitoring efforts have been completed looking at both compliance and effectiveness of the Forest Practices Act. Monitoring data supported the Forest Practices Advisory Committee review of and recommendations on forest practices. These recommendations are now in process.

Introduction

This report summarizes Oregon Plan accomplishments of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and state and private forestry community partners, for the year 2000. The ODF Oregon Plan Work Program measures represent the commitment of a diverse group of partners. This diverse partnership includes state and private forest landowners and the organizations that support these groups, such as the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC), Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), OSU Extension Service, and Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL). Since much of the data for on-the-ground projects is solely reported to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), we refer to the OWEB 2000 Watershed Restoration Inventory to complete this snapshot of our accomplishments.

Accomplishment Highlights

- The Board of Forestry continued on its path toward defining a sustainable future for Oregon's forests through a variety of initiatives that placed it in the forefront of the international debate on sustainability and sustainable forestry. These initiatives include the sponsorship of a two-day "Forest Sustainability Seminar" in April 1999, co-sponsorship of the "Oregon Forests at the Millenium Symposium" in September 1999, which highlighted ODF's report on the social, environmental and economic values of Oregon's forests, *The First Approximation Report on Sustainability in Oregon* completed in January 2000, which collects information about Oregon's forests in terms of the criteria and indicators of sustainability that are being discussed at international levels; progress toward an integrated assessment of forest conditions in Oregon, the *Assessment of Oregon's Forests*, which will analyze the data from the *First Approximation Report* to present an integrated look at multiple forest resources, and develop tools for answering policy questions; and examination of concepts and methods for forest certification, which has become a topic of broader discussion throughout the past year in terms of its potential for benefiting landowners in the marketplace through non-regulatory means.

- The Forest Practices Advisory Committee on Salmon and Watersheds (FPAC), an advisory committee to the Board of Forestry (Board), concluded its work and presented 24 recommendations to the Board of Forestry. Guided by the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, and Executive Order 99-01, FPAC suggested changes to the forest practices rules and made other recommendations aimed at protecting salmon and improving water quality. Its recommendations followed more than 18 months of meetings, public comment, field trips, scientific review, and intense discussions.

  The proposed new salmon and water quality protection measures would increase shade along forest streams, provide more large wood for fish habitat, remove barriers to fish passage, offer channel migration zone protection, reduce sedimentation from forest roads, and produce other resource benefits. ODF also was advised to hire riparian specialists to assist landowners in designing harvest plans to improve protection of streams. Any proposed changes to the forest practices rules are subject to public involvement. Rulemaking implementation is expected to last through 2004.

- On January 3, 2001, the Board adopted management plans for state forests in northwest and southwest Oregon, following a six-year planning process that involved broad public involvement, and incorporated the latest available scientific information. The plans provide long-term direction for actively managing these state forests to achieve a broad array of benefits, including timber harvesting, revenue generation, habitat conservation and restoration, and recreation.

- Our biggest success story is not just one event, but the extraordinary manner in which industry, state, and private forest landowners have embraced the concepts of the Oregon Plan and implemented on-the-ground improvements to improve watershed health and habitats. Forest landowners have a strong sense of commitment and ownership for the projects they have voluntarily undertaken.

Private forest landowners continue to make significant contributions toward improving water quality and salmon habitat as reported in the year 2000 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Watershed Restoration Inventory. Over half of the restoration investments are made by state and private forestland owners. Activities include road improvements, fish passage, in-stream habitat enhancement, and restoration projects. These activities are reported to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and documented in the 2000 Watershed Restoration Inventory, which can be read at http://www.oweb.state.or.us/monitoring. Copies are also available by contacting OWEB at 503-986-0187.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel work intensively with private forestland owners to plan and implement these projects and deserve special recognition and appreciation for their assistance.

- Forestry Assistance program staff and field personnel help family forestland owners in developing and completing projects to implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds voluntary habitat enhancement measures. Family forestland owners manage about 40 percent of Oregon's private forestlands.

Additional information about the department's accomplishments can be found under ***Status of Agency Measures*** below, or in the *Forest Log, Oregon Department of Forestry Annual Report 2000*, which may obtained at ODF's office in Salem or via internet at http://www.odf.state.or.us/PUBLICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS.htm.

Challenges, Opportunities, and Constraints

Within a framework of both regulatory and voluntary measures, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Forest Practices Act work to address a range of watershed protection and restoration issues. A number of trends are undermining the success of the Oregon Plan and Forest Practices Act. These issues include: (1) pressure to adopt regulatory programs rather than rely upon voluntary efforts; (2) additional regulatory barriers and more confusing regulations; (3) positions and regulations that are less supported by science (leaving a less supportive regulated community); (4) process barriers created by federal programs and actions; and (5) unequal levels of regulation among the various land uses. These issues have caused unintended consequences that prevent, limit, or otherwise discourage a significant number of actions that could be supportive of resource protection.

Two divergent points of view are affecting these issues. One view is that active management should not be undertaken unless it can be shown to not adversely affect salmonids, whereas the other view is that active management is necessary and lack of action will adversely affect salmonids. To some degree, these points of view are based upon perspectives about whether natural systems are dynamic or static, and/or that mature forests provide good habitat, while other forest types do not.

As a consequence, landowners, who in the past were highly motivated to voluntarily place large wood and boulders for fish habitat improvement projects, may be reluctant to continue these projects in an increasingly regulatory atmosphere. Landowners wanting to make a positive difference may be somewhat reluctant to do volunteer projects that may be viewed by the federal regulatory agencies as potentially detrimental and could result in enforcement actions. All involved are struggling to find ways to increase understanding, acceptance, and support. Our challenge is to find common ground among these points of view. Our efforts need to encourage, rather than inhibit habitat improvement projects. To meet this challenge will require that each of us take risks, develop collaborative relationships, and work through our differences to accomplish the tasks at hand.

Our internal and external challenges include:

- A need for a better way to pull together the annual report of this diverse group's accomplishments. For example, some means of providing closure and updates to *ODF 2: Landowner Monitoring and Assessments* is needed. In addition, some means of gathering input from ODF's many partners (OFIC, OSWA, AOL, OSU, OFRI, and others) is needed.

- The agency work plans were created in response to Executive Order 99-01, with the approval of boards or commissions. A process for updating the documents without formal approval is needed for minor changes and updating information as projects are completed.

- Between 1997 and 2000, the number of in-stream habitat improvement projects has steadily increased. However, changing federal permit requirements threaten landowner relations and will limit the previous momentum and willingness to continue these types of projects. Not allowing basal area credit and limiting cable yarding to only the in-water work period are two

disincentives. Barriers identified by landowners include liability, confusing rules/permits/processes, permit uncertainty, availability of ODF biologists, work outside the in-water work period requires approval from two agencies, basal area credit (not allowed under the Regional General Permit (RGP)), and resources needed to conduct the additional monitoring required in the RGP.

- At the direction of HB 3393, a work group was formed to study issues related to the protection, retention, and recruitment of large wood. The work group included participants with a wide range of views on the subject. The wording of proposed HB 2939 represented the best that could be produced as a result of this diverse group's considerations. Ultimately, the bill did not move forward for a variety of reasons. Nonetheless, it is important to review the barriers to developing an equitable means for managing large wood in our watersheds. Rather than let the issue rest, we must seek other means of developing the understanding, acceptance, and support needed in order to achieve the objectives of the Oregon Plan.

  The department recognizes that additional work is needed to develop a viable policy and supporting methods for the management of large wood. Rather than using a simplistic approach, we believe it is possible to develop a management framework which takes competing values into account through other means of coordination with agencies and citizens involved in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. At a minimum, a statewide policy on the management of large wood is needed. Other possible actions include providing an analysis framework for the management of large wood in a future edition of the ODF and ODFW *Guide to Placing Large Wood*, dated May 1999.

- More funding is needed to plan and implement monitoring for effectiveness of projects and to synthesize this information into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

- A reinvention of state/federal/landowner relationships with regard to the volunteer aspects of Oregon Plan implementation. Our vision is to develop trust among the partners, to de-emphasize regulation and emphasize technical assistance, planning assistance, funding and incentives, and shared effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management.

- Non-regulatory conservation easement program.

- State and federal agencies involved in the implementation of the Oregon Plan are interacting and coordinating in unprecedented ways to synthesize and share our understanding toward creating a shared vision, policy, and coordinated rule analysis and implementation. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife plays an important and valuable role in assisting with this integration among the various state agencies. Emerging from this effort is the development of a Statewide Riparian Policy. Some agencies and/or landowner groups are further along in implementing riparian actions, while other groups are struggling with the concept. As we implement the riparian policy, consideration must be given to equity, incentives, education, and recognition.

- On November 7, 2000, Oregon voters narrowly approved Ballot Measure 7. This measure is a constitutional amendment that requires, with limited exceptions, compensation for

regulations that restrict the use of real property where the restriction reduces the value of the real property. The measure is not clear in several important respects, including its application to previously adopted regulations and to regulations setting general health, safety, and public welfare requirements. The Governor has asked for legal advice from the attorney general regarding the meaning of the measure. Measure 7 becomes effective on December 7, 2000. Measure 7 means that we may choose between applying regulations with compensation, or not applying them at all.

Status of Agency Measures

On June 7, 2000, the Board of Forestry approved the Oregon Department of Forestry and State and Private Forestry Community Oregon Plan Statewide Work Program, which was revised in response to the Governor's Executive Order 99-01. The document provides detailed descriptions of over 60 activities that the department and partners have undertaken as our commitment to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The activities have been grouped into nine broad categories, which are listed below with highlights of our accomplishments.

ODF 1: Oregon Department of Forestry Monitoring

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
Oregon Department of Forestry Monitoring Activities

Compliance

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) monitored compliance with forest practices rules on non-federal forest land from 1998-2000 at 52 pilot study sites and 190 final study sites. Most of the sites were on private forestland and the study focused on rules that are designed to protect waters of the state. The 1998 pilot study results indicate very high compliance rates (average compliance = 98%) overall. Compliance rates were particularly high for vegetation retention along streams, road construction, and yarding practices. The pilot study results indicated lowest compliance rates associated with felling away from small Type N streams, removal of temporary crossings, and road drainage issues. Results of the pilot study initiated an ODF review of the felling rules, and an outreach to landowners and operators on how to improve compliance in these areas. The final fieldwork has been completed and final results will be available in 2001. Effectiveness of forest practice rules in protecting and maintaining riparian function has been addressed in separate studies as described under the Factors of Decline and the Status of Agency Measures portions of this document.

From 1998-2000, ODF also monitored compliance with fish passage and peak flow guidelines for stream crossing installations at 57 pilot study sites and 100 final study sites. Pilot study results indicate relatively low compliance rates (67%) with fish passage guidelines and high compliance rates with peak flow guidelines (91%). The low compliance rate for fish passage appears to be a result of a steep learning curve on how to successfully install fish-friendly culverts. Preliminary data from the 1999-2000 monitoring data indicate improved compliance with fish passage guidelines. The final fieldwork has been completed and final results will be available in 2001.

Efforts are currently underway to finalize compliance monitoring on state-owned forestland. See the description below for State Forests Monitoring Plan.

Factors of Decline

Water Quality

Temperature: ODF monitors stream temperature to determine if the forest practices rules are effective at preventing increases in stream temperature as a result of harvesting. The stream temperature studies are long-term (10-year), basin- and reach-level studies. A preliminary report will be available in 2001. Preliminary results indicate that the greatest potential for impacts to stream temperature as a result of harvesting are on small streams or streams harvested with a hardwood conversion prescription. Forested streams monitored in the Coastal, Siskiyou, and Northeast Oregon georegions commonly meet the DEQ standard for stream temperature. Forested streams in the Interior georegion more commonly do not meet the DEQ stream temperature standard. DEQ has conducted temperature trend monitoring in streams on the Tillamook State Forest that generally confirm these findings. The data indicate that compliance with temperature standards depends, to a large degree, on the extent of the management activities. Forested streams on the Tillamook State Forest, with little or no harvest activity, commonly met the DEQ standard for stream temperature.

Sediment: ODF monitors forest roads on non-federal forestland to determine effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs) in preventing sediment delivery to stream channels. Monitoring data indicate that stream crossings have the highest potential for sediment delivery to stream channels. ODF is currently monitoring forest roads with log hauling during wet weather. Road surface, drainage, and turbidity data are gathered at small stream crossings. These data will be used to revise the current wet-weather hauling rules. ODF has also monitored road conditions on the Tillamook, Santiam, and Elliot State Forests. These surveys are being used to prioritize road maintenance and culvert replacements.

Physical Habitat

Riparian Areas: ODF monitors the effectiveness of riparian forest practices rules on privately owned forest land. The study evaluates if the rules are effectively promoting riparian forest structure that provides for large wood recruitment and shade to fish-bearing stream channels. Current monitoring findings indicate that large wood recruitment and shade are most heavily impacted on small and medium streams. Average reduction in potential large wood recruitment ranged from 18% for large streams, 32% for medium streams, and 59% for small streams. Average reductions in shade were 1% for large streams, 7% for medium streams, and 12% for small streams. Recommendations have been made to the Forest Practices Advisory Committee and the Board of Forestry for increasing leave tree requirements near streams.

In a separate study, ODF monitored shade on private forested streams in northeast Oregon and northwest Oregon. Preliminary results suggest that shade is most strongly related to aspect, valley form, stocking density (basal area or trees per acre) and the average live crown ratio. Final results will be available in 2001.

ODF also initiated a riparian needs assessment and pilot project. This project is designed to support ongoing riparian-related forest planning efforts, including work by local watershed councils and the evolution of forest practices rules. The needs assessment found that the data does not exist in a comprehensive and compatible database suitable for the types of integrated landscape level analyses needed by policy makers, analysts, and the public. Work is ongoing to

evaluate existing inventory information with respect to riparian information needs, to research methods to better integrate remote sensing information with ground data on riparian vegetation, and to design and pilot test a new riparian inventory design that meets information needs identified in the needs assessment.

Landscape Level Trends

Trends in forest conditions across the landscape are being monitored and modeled by Oregon Department of Forestry on both state and private forest lands. ODF works closely with three multi-agency projects developing models to simulate landscape and watershed conditions in Oregon: the Coastal Landscape Analysis and Modeling Study (CLAMS), the Inland Northwest Landscape Analysis System (INLAS), and the Cascade Project. These studies will provide a foundation for assessing current and future conditions of Oregon's forest-related resources, including analyses of fish and wildlife habitat in riparian areas. These projects are designed to totally support the Oregon Plan and the watershed approach to the analysis of forest policy.

The Service Forestry program is responsible for monitoring and making recommendations for management of insect and disease issues throughout the state of Oregon. Service Forestry has completed aerial and ground-based surveys to evaluate such issues as Swiss needle cast and Tussock Moth. Recent reports indicate 174,197 acres (a dramatic increase over previous years) have been defoliated by the Douglas-fir Tussock Moth, primarily on land managed by the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests. The USFS is making efforts to control the outbreak. Likewise, 57,354 acres of forest land have been affected by Douglas-fir Beetle outbreak in the Wallowa County, Cascades and Northeast Region. Control action include salvage harvest of windthrow and infested trees or protecting down or standing trees with beetle repellant. Similar information is available on root disease, balsam wooly adelgid, and bear damage.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is an important component of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Practices Monitoring, State Forests Monitoring and Research, and the Resource Planning Programs. Information from these programs is used in the evaluation of trends, effectiveness, and implementation of forest management policies. Program staff report to the Board of Forestry on findings and make recommendations with regard to protection of Oregon forest resources. Mechanisms for rule revision, monitoring designs, and questions are described in monitoring strategies. The following is a brief description of the State Forests monitoring strategy.

<u>ODF Forest Management Monitoring Implementation Plan</u>

The Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Management Program is finalizing a *Monitoring Implementation Plan* (MIP). The monitoring plan describes the approaches and activities that ODF will undertake to assess compliance with and effectiveness of the resource management strategies described in the *Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plans* (FMPs). The MIP guides research and monitoring activities in the planning areas during the initial ten-year implementation period of the FMPs.

The objectives of the monitoring program are:

- To help evaluate that state forests are managed to achieve the greatest permanent value by providing the full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon;
- To determine whether FMP programs and strategies are implemented as stated;
- To determine whether FMP programs and strategies result in anticipated habitat or other conditions for the species of concern; and
- To assist the adaptive management process by providing information on the species of concern, testing critical assumptions in the plan, and by providing a learning opportunity to refine management decisions to better meet plan objectives.

Monitoring will provide information to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the management strategies and to evaluate fundamental assumptions which form the planning basis for the FMPs.

The monitoring program must incorporate not only the assessment of ecological processes and management activities, but also the cultural and economic circumstances linked to them. Monitoring projects must be designed to provide information to evaluate the integration of natural and social systems. Systems and procedures are in place that address the social and economic aspects of state-owned forestland operations. They include tracking volumes and revenues, administering timber sales, analyzing harvest schedules, monitoring recreational uses and needs, etc. Therefore, during the initial implementation period, the monitoring program described in this plan will concentrate on the environmental and ecological aspects of the FMPs.

The specific objectives of this Monitoring Implementation Plan are:

- To describe general monitoring issues that are anticipated to be addressed during the initial ten-year implementation period;
- To describe implementation monitoring that will occur on an annual basis to provide information for internal staff reports and for annual reports to the federal services and other entities;
- To provide a framework to aid prioritizing and developing specific monitoring projects to assess the effectiveness of the management strategies;
- To describe how these monitoring activities will help assess the validity of key assumptions that underlie the management approaches or strategies, and;
- To describe the funding mechanisms and level of commitment to monitoring during the initial ten-year implementation period.

Initially, the department will emphasize implementation and effectiveness monitoring. A more formal research effort may be necessary to evaluate the underlying assumptions of the management strategies. There are a variety of research efforts already underway that may contribute information to our program. ODF will help support necessary additional research at selected research institutions.

The FMPs describe a set of landscape management strategies designed to meet long-term habitat goals and to provide for properly functioning aquatic systems at the landscape level. Specific

strategies will be implemented to protect and provide habitat in the short-term for salmonids, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and other species of concern. All of the strategies are based on assumptions that will become the object of implementation and effectiveness monitoring. Monitoring and adaptive management will be the essential information source and approach that will guide implementation of all the strategies.

The monitoring activities described in this plan will concentrate on a series of key questions and issues related to the species, resources, conditions, and processes. These overarching questions and issues may often not be answered directly. They must first be broken down into components that can be addressed by specific monitoring projects. The anticipated projects described in this plan will be further developed around precise monitoring questions that focus on specific information needs. Well-focused monitoring questions determine which system attributes, or indicators, will be monitored. The need for monitoring projects will be based on an analysis of recent and current research, information needs, and the requirements of the management approaches. It is intended that the Monitoring Implementation Plan will be available for public review during 2001.

Oregon Department of Forestry monitoring data on factors of decline.

Factor of Decline	ODF Study	Scale	Data Availability	ODF Contact
Temperature	Effectiveness of riparian rules in maintaining stream temperature			
	1. Pre-post harvest comparisons	1. Reach-level: interior georegion	1. Available	1. Liz Dent
	2. Watershed level trends	2. Watershed-scale: Interior, Coast Range, Northeast, Siskiyou georegions	2. Available	2. Liz Dent
	3. State lands status	3. Watershed scale: Tillamook State Forest	3. Available	3. Jeff Brandt
Sediment	Implementation and effectiveness of road BMP's in protecting water quality			
	1. Wet weather hauling	1. Site-level; western Oregon	1. Not yet	1. Liz Dent
		2. Site level; statewide	2. Available	2. Liz Dent
	2. Implementation	3. Random blocks; western Oregon	3. Available	3. Jason Hinkle
	3. Landslide Study	4. State forests	4. Available	
	4. Turbidity	5. Private landowners and state forests	5. Not yet	4. Jeff Brandt
	5. Road inventories			5. Scott Wilbrecht
Riparian Areas	Effectiveness of forest practices rules in promoting functional riparian areas			
	1. Riparian Function Study	1. Reach-level; statewide	1. Available	1. Liz Dent
	2. Shade Study	2. Reach-level; northeast and northwest Oregon	2. Not yet	2. Liz Dent
Fish Passage	1. Compliance with Fish Passage and Guidelines	1. Site-level; Statewide	1. Not yet	1. Liz Dent
	2. Roads inventory to identify priorities	2. State forests	2. Not yet	2. Scott Wilbrecht
Compliance	1. Water Protection Rules	1. Statewide	1. Not yet	1. Liz Dent
	2. Fish Passage and Peakflow Guidance	2. Statewide	2. Not Yet	2. Liz Dent

ODF 2: Landowner Monitoring and Assessments

These monitoring and assessment projects are maintained by individual companies and landowners, and are not presently tracked by the department. A future project is to develop a web site which provides updates on these projects and details on lessons learned.

ODF 3: Voluntary Private Landowner/Operator Activities

Voluntary private landowner/operator activities include an array of activities which result in on-the-ground projects to improve water quality and fish habitat. Included are activities to improve roads, install fish passage structures, place large wood, and retain additional trees in riparian management areas.

ODF 3.1: Road Erosion and Risk Project

Forest practices rules adopted in the fall of 1994 require stream-crossing structures to pass both adult and juvenile fish upstream and downstream. The new standard applies to all stream-crossing structures installed after September 1, 1994. In addition, state and private forest landowners have taken the initiative to voluntarily implement a systematic process to identify road-related risks to salmon and steelhead recovery, establish priorities for problem solution, and design and implement actions to reduce road-related risks, regardless of when the roads were constructed. This ambitious undertaking includes the installation of fish passage structures where needed.

ODF 4: Oregon Department of Forestry Regulatory Activities

The department has adopted a number of rules that relate to the Oregon Plan. Included are rules related to slope stability, increased riparian protections, protections of significant wetlands and estuaries, chemical protection rules, large wood recruitment incentives, fish presence surveys, improved fish passage BMPs, increased designs for larger flows, upgraded road construction and fill requirements, upgraded skid trail construction and fill requirements, and clearcut limitations.

In addition, the Forest Practices Advisory Committee (FPAC) has provided a set of recommendations to the Board of Forestry (Board). Over the next two to three years, the Board will evaluate the FPAC recommendations and determine changes needed in the forest practices rules. Among the changes proposed are those which substantially increase the number of trees left along many forest streams, protect fish habitat and water quality with more miles of stream buffers, encourage using incentives to assist forestland owners and direct the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to hire riparian specialists to assist landowners in designing harvest plans that improve protection of streams. The committee, using current science and monitoring information, and considering the concerns of a range of interests, including private landowners and environmental groups, also suggested strengthening the state's current forest practices rules to improve fish

passage, reduce sedimentation caused by wet-weather log hauling, and evaluate and upgrade existing older forest roads.

The full report can be viewed at http://www.odf.state.or.us under the Forest Practices Section, Current Events.

ODF 4.7: Fish Presence Surveys

OAR 629-635-200 (11), adopted in 1994, directs the Oregon Department of Forestry, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to conduct a comprehensive field survey to identify fish use on non-federal forest land in Oregon. See also data presented under (12) Agency Benchmarks above.

During the 1997 fish presence survey season, 871 surveys were completed, with 76 impassable culverts, 243 miles confirmed as fish-bearing, 731 confirmed as non-fish-bearing.

During the 1998 fish presence survey season, 22 crews were hired, and over 1400 fish presence surveys were completed in approximately 500 "crew-days." This effort resulted in 443 miles of stream confirmed as fish-bearing stream channels used by game fish, while 77 miles were removed from an assumed fish-bearing status. A net addition of approximately 366 miles of a fish-bearing stream was entered into the stream classification database. In addition to the fish presence surveys, 237 road culverts were measured and identified as impassable to fish (see Action 4.9 below).

These surveys were accomplished in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife district biologists. During 1999, statewide fish presence surveys were conducted by 10 Oregon Department of Forestry districts in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife districts. Twelve crews were hired, with approximately 561 miles of stream surveys completed, resulting in 361 miles of stream confirmed as Type F stream channels, and 78.5 miles removed from an assumed fish-bearing status. This work resulted in a net addition of approximately 282 miles of Type F stream channels entered into the stream classification database. In conjunction with the fish presence surveys, 174 road culverts were measured and identified as impassable to fish.

ODF 5: State Forests Management Activities

On January 3, 2001, the Board of Forestry adopted the Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plans (FMPs) and approved them for filing as Oregon Administrative Rules. These are comprehensive and integrated plans that have strategies for a wide range of forest values including fish and wildlife habitat and aquatic and riparian resources. Watershed assessment will be part of implementation planning to provide for more effective placement of habitat enhancement projects.

Inventories on state forests have been completed. During the last two biennia (1997-1999, 1999-2001), ODF has surveyed 884 miles of roads on state forest land and have

identified and replaced 210 culverts to allow for fish passage. These replacements have opened many miles of fish habitat. In addition to fish passage culverts, 2,427 peak flow culverts have been added to the state forest land road system. These culverts will allow for better erosion control and disconnect roads systems from streams.

The focus of these projects will be upgrading and stabilizing roads, improving fish passage, placing large wood and improving riparian conditions, and reducing the risks of debris flows.

ODF 6: Assistance to Family Forest Landowners

The department takes a ridge-top-to-ridge-top approach to the Oregon Plan in working with family forest landowners. Healthy forests mean healthy watersheds. The Forestry Assistance Program has worked with 284 landowners to develop Stewardship Plans on 92,500 acres of forest land. Stand enhancement activities to create healthy forests have occurred on 20,400 acres. Completed activities include:

- 5,200 acres of riparian enhancement work and 2,600 feet of stream bank protection.
- 16,000 feet of fencing of riparian areas.
- 19,000 acres of tree planting on non-tree producing lands.
- 140,900 feet of road survey and design.

In addition, service foresters worked with the USDA Forest Service as partners in the Blue Mountain and Pacific Coast Demonstration Areas, which are directly linked to the Oregon Plan.

ODF 7: Urban Forest Community Assistance

The department proposed Senate Bill 412 that clarified existing statute language that counties may prohibit, but not regulate, forest practices on forestlands located outside an acknowledged urban growth boundary, and for which an acknowledged exception to an agricultural or forest land goal has been taken. The legislation also directs local governments, when developing land use regulations for forest practices that are adopted for the specific purpose of directing how forest operations and practices are conducted within urban growth boundaries, to use a public process and coordinate with the Department of Forestry. The legislation also addresses improving coordination with local government by requiring the State Forester to provide to local governments copies of notices or written plans for a forest operation within any urban growth boundary.

ODF 7.1: Guidelines for Developing Urban Forest Ordinances

This legislation clarifies that counties may prohibit, but not regulate, forest practices on forestlands:

- located outside an acknowledged urban growth boundary; and

- for which an acknowledged exception to an agricultural or forest land goal has been taken.

The existing statute language on development of local government regulations within urban growth boundaries is strengthened by defining these regulations as "land use regulations for forest practices" that are adopted for the specific purpose of directing how forest operations and practices are conducted; and identifying additional requirements for regulation development.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development and Department of Forestry collaborated in compiling information and developing guidelines for developing urban forest practices regulations that balance community objectives with economic and environmental concerns as they relate to forest regulations. This legislation requires local jurisdictions to consider these guidelines. This requirement may result in local jurisdictions expending additional personnel resources to coordinate a public process and development of regulations. The process outlined in the guidelines, however, may save local jurisdictions time and expenditures by providing a model process to follow and by eliminating the development of regulations that are not effective or that do not meet the jurisdiction's expectations.

ODF 7.2: Tree City USA

The Forestry Assistance Program provided 15 educational sessions in 2000, including the annual Oregon Urban and Community Forest Council Summit, Planning for Trees, and the Community Tree Management Institute.

Fourteen people graduated in 2000 from the Community Tree Management Institute, a course designed to provide city and county employees with additional planting, care, and city-tree management skills. Participants attended four class sessions and dealt with such topics as drafting and administering ordinances, budgeting for an urban forestry program, and working effectively with community tree committees.

Other projects included the production of the *Southwest Oregon Tree Selection Guide* in conjunction with the Oregon State Extension Service. Along with Oregon Community Trees, ODF also produced an educational video on how to protect and preserve trees during construction and development. In partnership with the Oregon Travel Bureau and the Oregon Heritage Tree Committee, ODF provided grant funds for the production of the *Guide to Oregon Historical Markers and Heritage Trees.*

ODF 7.3: Grants to Cities for Riparian Protection

The Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded nearly $115,000 in Community Forestry Assistance (CFA) grants in 2000. Twenty-two of the 29 grant requests received at least partial funding for their communities. Ashland received approximately $3,700 for developing a handbook on monitoring and managing riparian wetland sites, and La Grande was awarded $9,500 to use trained volunteers to inventory the city's trees. Some

of the other grants included Myrtle Creek, which received $3,100 for interpretive signs along a nature trail and Rockaway Beach, which was given $3,600 to develop donated property into a city park

ODF 8: Cooperative Efforts in Information, Assistance, and Education

Department of Forestry staff have spent countless hours with local watershed councils and partnership meetings with landowner groups promoting the Oregon Plan. ODF staff provide technical assistance and training on a variety of topics related to the Oregon Plan, related forestry issues, fish passage, and instream habitat improvement projects.

Sampling of a few efforts:

ODF 8.4: Oregon Professional Logger Program (ODF 53S)

Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. (AOL) directs the Oregon Professional Logger Program (OPL), that encourages professional growth and knowledge to advance forest stewardship in timber harvesting. American loggers have embraced sustainable forestry principles. The OPL qualifies contractors to meet goals of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). With SFI, high standards of sustainability and professionalism are sought by many private forest landowners, including those loggers contracting with them. The American Loggers Council encourages forest products companies and forest owners to adopt contractor incentives that promote logger education objectives of SFI. AOL administers the program and gives recognition for approved continuing education completed by an Oregon Professional Logger company. The goal of the program is to encourage forest operator professional growth and knowledge that advances stewardship in forest management, safety and business. Loggers and forest operators are convinced that sound conservation policy and sound business practices go hand-in-hand.

Highlights of the 4.5 year-old program include ***(initiated October 1995)***:

- 244 of 750 (33%) Oregon logging businesses and operators are recognized OPL companies,
- 510 of 750 (68%) Oregon logging businesses and operators are enrolled in the program,
- OPL program is endorsed by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) as fulfilling logger training and education requirements for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI),
- Some 20+ AF&PA member companies in Oregon require participation in logger training and education programs by those businesses contracting for them, as well as for procured wood, and

- Oregon Professional Loggers (OPL) are recognized throughout the industry, and operator participation in the program grows annually.

  OPL promotes voluntary commitment by forest operators toward sustainable forestry and sound forest business practices and encourages loggers and other operators to support practices that meet present needs without compromising healthy forests for future generations. This elevates operator dedication to forest stewardship through reforesting, growing, and harvesting trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, water, wildlife, and other resources.

  In addition, the 'Basic Forest Practices Workshop' is offered by the Oregon Department of Forestry at various locations around the state. ODF and other educational providers offer additional forest practices workshops, applicable toward OPL maintenance status. All OPL companies are encouraged to attend 'Basic Forest Practices,' even after initial status is attained.

- In January 2000, ODF completed a highly illustrated Forest Road Management Guidebook addressing maintenance and repairs to protect fish habitat and water quality. Cooperators include the Oregon Forest Industries Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Forest Engineering at Oregon State University. Funding was contributed by a 319 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

- The Forest Road Management Guidebook was used by ODF and the OSU Forest Engineering Department in a road stewardship workshop in March 2000, and was distributed as part of a series of OFRI-sponsored educational outreach workshops on culvert design and fish passage for foresters, forest managers, landowners, and watershed councils in May and June 2000. Copies of the guidebook are available from ODF or from OFRI.

ODF 9: Awards and Recognition

Five logging operators have earned awards for outstanding forest resource protection from the Board of Forestry. The annual Operator of the Year awards honor regional winners who have consistently exceeded the Oregon Forest Practices Act and forest practices rules for road building, logging, and fish and wildlife enhancement. The awards were presented at the April 19 Board of Forestry meeting.

Larry Heesacker, owner of A-1 Logging Inc., and Enoch Skirvin and Sons Logging were the two award winners representing the northwest Oregon region. Brownson Logging Company Inc. won the Southwest Oregon Operator of the Year Award. In the eastern Oregon region, Operator of the Year awards went to Hanel Development Group LLC and T.A. Lawson and Sons Logging. Selection criteria for the award include consistency of

performance, relative difficulty of the operation, concern shown by the operator, and innovations or extra effort used by the operator in doing the job.

The 2000 Operators of the Year were nominated by Oregon Department of Forestry forest practices foresters and then evaluated on-site by members of the three regional forest practices committees. The regional committees then recommended winners for the Board's awards. These are citizen's awards and are given based on the Department of Forestry's three forest practices regions: northwest, eastern and southwest Oregon.

Larry Heesacker of Yamhill received the award for his consistent, outstanding work protecting streams while logging on non-industrial private lands. In one operation, he encouraged the landowner to voluntarily leave stream buffers on small non-fish bearing streams. Enoch Skirvin and Sons (ESSI) of Philomath was selected for its work on industrial forestland (mainly Willamette Industries Inc.) and the stream enhancement projects done during harvesting. ESSI was also recognized for its efforts to attend all available forest practices workshops and training.

Mike and Gary Brownson of Brownson Logging Company in Myrtle Creek were chosen for their exceptional and innovative work in steep terrain near streams. They make an extra effort when working in riparian management areas. Brownson Logging also received the 1997 Operator of the Year Award.

Darren McCafferty and Dave Borton of the Hanel Development Group of Hood River were recognized for their outstanding work in forest road construction including bridges and culverts planned with exceptional resource protection in mind. Hanel works closely with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on resolving concerns related to roads. The other winner in the eastern Oregon region was Richard Lawson of T.A. Lawson and Sons Logging of Lakeview. Lawson was selected because of their high-quality work in complex harvest operations, meeting the needs of landowners and agencies while working near fish-bearing streams and significant wetlands.

Awards of merit were also given to five other operators for their exceptional work. Those included the Lulay Timber Company of Scio, Western Helicopter of Newberg, Timber Resource Management Inc. of Portland, Olympic Resources Management Inc. of Mapleton, and Roseburg Forest Products-Woods Operations in Roseburg.

Letters of Commendation were also presented to nearly 50 operators in all three regions for their extra concern regarding environmental protection on specific operations in 2000.

The Forest Operator Recognition Program is a way to publicly acknowledge those who practice good stewardship and to encourage excellence in forest operations. For more information, check out the Oregon Department of Forestry web site for the Forest Practices Program at http://www.odf.state.or.us/FP/DEFAULT.HTM.