

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	9
Work Plan:	Administrative
Topic:	2015 Legislative Session
Presentation Title:	2015 Legislative Update
Date of Presentation:	March 4, 2015
Contact Information:	Paul Bell, Deputy State Forester Oregon Department of Forestry (503) 945-7205 Paul.C.Bell@oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The 2015-2017 Governor's budget for the Department of Forestry and a range of forestry-related bills are before the 2015 Legislature. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an overview and update of the forestry bills.

CONTEXT, BACKGROUND, AND ANALYSIS

The Legislative concept development process is part of the Board's and the Department's strategic planning cycle. Legislative concepts represent an important opportunity to advance Board and Department goals, objectives and priorities to help shape statewide policy, and to address barriers.

At its January 2014 meeting, the Board set guiding principles related to concept development for 2015, and approved an initial list of concepts. This is an iterative process, concepts may evolve, be added or dropped based on considerations including feasibility, the political and economic environments, and consultations with stakeholders, public agencies and other interests.

Review of agency legislative concepts by Department of Administrative Services and the Governor's Office includes consideration of policy and fiscal issues and the Governor's priorities. Proposed bills that have a fiscal impact must also be coordinated with the Department's 2015-2017 budget development process.

Following Board approval, these items were forwarded for review by the Department of Administrative Services and the Governor's Office. Concepts approved by the Governor's Office were filed as House or Senate bills in December 2014. A current summary of agency bills will be provided at the Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information and discussion only.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will remain engaged with legislators, the Governor's Office and stakeholders as the Legislature considers the passage of these bills and other natural resources related proposals moving through the process.