



Oregon Department of Forestry

Memo

To: Board of Forestry Subcommittee on Alternative Management Plans

From: Liz Dent, Division Chief, State Forests Division

Cc: Doug Decker, State Forester

Date: July 30th, 2015

Re: Preparation for August 12th Subcommittee meeting

Context

The State Forests Division was given direction to evaluate a land allocation concept for the revised forest management plan (FMP) for Northwest Oregon State Forests at the April 8th meeting of the Board Subcommittee on Alternative Management Plans. This direction is reflected in the April 22nd memo to the Board of Forestry (Attachment B). The Division has begun this modeling work; however, further policy refinement is needed to further refine modeling the Land Allocation concept. Additionally, at the May 18th FMP Subcommittee meeting the Division shared information on the current condition of the Northwest Oregon Area landscape. Attached are several documents detailed below that will help prepare you for the August 12th meeting.

Benefits of Inoperable Areas

The document titled Preliminary Assessment of Conservation Benefits of Inoperable Areas (Attachment A) is a follow up to the May 18th FMP Subcommittee meeting, where the State Forests Division presented information on planning area constraints and the general definition and characteristics of inoperable areas. The intent of the document as requested is to provide analysis on the potential benefits of the inoperable areas.

Modeling

Results of the modeling efforts to this point are preliminary/draft results and are likely to change significantly depending on modifications to the model rules as guided by policy.

Modeling suggests that the Land Allocation approach is technically feasible to implement given the defined criteria. For the first time, all six districts in the Northwest Oregon Planning Area (NWOPA) are modeled simultaneously. Multiple silvicultural treatments, including



regeneration harvest, pre-commercial thinning (PCT), and commercial thinning (CT) in production emphasis areas, and multiple thinning regimes in conservation emphasis areas are possible. The harvest scheduler is spatially implemented over a long planning horizon.

The preliminary outcomes for a Land Allocation approach (Attachment C) with a given set of inputs is represented in the Model Rules spreadsheet (Attachment D). The preliminary outcomes include harvest volume, age class, and standing inventory projections for production and conservation emphasis areas and total landscape. Average value (\$/MBF) is also estimated for the planning horizon.

Some model inputs relate directly to the April memo and other inputs are technical assumptions needed to develop a functional model. For more detail on inputs, see the Model Rules spreadsheet (Attachment D) that details key rules that drive the model and the relative impact on landscape-level outcomes.

Conservation Measures and Benefits

As noted above, BOF guidance is needed to analyze the use of a land allocation approach to achieve financial viability and increased conservation outcomes in the context of greatest permanent value (GPV). To understand if desired conservation outcomes are likely to be achieved, it is necessary to define conservation goals and related measures. The Proposed Conservation Measures and Benefits document (Attachment E) presents these concepts.

Next Steps

In order to develop a fully-implementable plan, additional policy direction and policy refinements are needed, related to increased financial viability, increased conservation, and, Greatest Permanent Value. We are seeking feedback on the model rules (Attachment D) and the metrics contained in the Conservation Measures and Benefits document (Attachment E). This additional direction will be incorporated into the model for the October Subcommittee meeting where the Subcommittee will have the option of choosing to take this concept to the full BOF or request additional model refinement. See the attached Draft FMP Deliverable Timeline (Attachment F) for reference.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Attachment A Preliminary Assessment of Conservation Benefits of Inoperables
- Attachment B April 22 memo to BOF
- Attachment C Preliminary Outcomes Land Allocation approach
- Attachment D Model Rules
- Attachment E Draft Conservation Measures and Benefits Paper
- Attachment F Draft FMP Deliverable Timeline