



Oregon

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Written testimony for House Bill 3101

Good Afternoon, Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee.

Following yesterday's Public Hearing for HB 3101, which would mandate a Sustainable Harvest Calculation, the Department of Forestry would like to give the committee background information on how the department currently generates our implementation plans.

Current Planning Context

- Our current Implementation Planning process covers a 10-year period. The resulting Implementation Plans have an Annual Harvest Objective contained within them.
 - Implementation Plan objectives are transparent, and the plans themselves are available on our website.
 - Draft Implementation Plans have a public process for review and a 30-day public comment period.
- Individual Annual Operation Plans have specific timber sales identified for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - Those timber sales include the planned volumes to offer for sale that are intended to fulfill the Annual Harvest Objectives outlined in Implementation Plans, along with project work costs (e.g. road building) associated with them.
 - Annual Operations Plan objectives are transparent and the plans themselves are available on our website.
 - Draft Annual Operations Plans have public process for review and a 45-day public comment period.
- The exact volume offered for sale in any fiscal year varies, due to things such as:
 - Amount of volume offered during a previous Annual Operations Plan. It is difficult to pin the exact Annual Harvest Objective with any set of timber sales, so more or less volume may be offered to meet the objective over the life of a 10-year Implementation Plan.
 - Logistical constraints, such as State Forests Division staff being on extended fire assignments. 2024 is a prime example of timber sale layout work being delayed by almost a full quarter.
- The annual amount actually harvested also varies, due to the nature of our timber sale contracts:
 - Our timber sale contracts span 3 years.
 - Purchasers of our timber sales have discretion within that 3-year window and may harvest early or late in that window.

- The 3-year window is important to our purchasers, so that they can plan their operations on state forests in the context of their work overall. Taking away that flexibility with shorter contract durations would undoubtedly reduce the price that we get for the timber offered.
- Accomplishment reporting:
 - Our annual reporting to both the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties and the State Land Board details both actual harvest that took place during the prior fiscal years, as well as the timber sales planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

Both Implementation Plans and Annual Operating Plans are covered in our current planning rules in 2 places, referenced below (OAR 629-035-0030). While we already include harvest level objectives in both planning levels, the underlined language below, or something similar, could make this more clear. The underlined text is a starting point that could be fleshed out more. These types of changes could be accomplished through simple changes to the planning rule, without creating additional legislation or rule.

One caveat on the reporting and assessment of arrearage under these plans is that the accomplishment should be tied to completion of each level of plan, which would lag behind the dates of the plans. For instance, all planned timber sales under Annual Operations Plans are due to Salem from the districts by the end of the fiscal year. However, the auction of those sales generally are not complete until the second quarter of the following fiscal year. This is due to logistical constraints and trying to mete out the volume on a logical auction schedule. In some cases, a sale may receive no bids and be reworked and reappraised to address conditions that caused it to receive no bids, in which case it may not be auctioned until an even later quarter. This only happens with a small amount of the volume we sell.

[629-035-0030](#)

Forest Management Planning

(1) In managing forest lands as provided in OAR 629-035-0020, the State Forester shall develop Forest Management Plans, based on the best available science, that establish the general management framework for the planning area of forest land. The Board may review, modify, or terminate a plan at any time; however the Board shall review the plans no less than every ten years. The State Forester shall develop implementation and operations plans for forest management plans that describe smaller-scale, more specific management activities within the planning area. Implementation plans shall include a sustainable harvest volume objective to be offered for sale over the life of the plan.

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(6)(b) The State Forester shall implement the plan through more specific, small scale or time limited plans that are consistent with the Forest Management Plan.

(c) The State Forester shall develop a sustainable harvest objective to be achieved over the life of the plan, and include this objective in approved Implementation Plans.

(d) The State Forester shall report annually on the accomplishment of timber sale offered under the Implementation Plans and associated Annual Operations plans.