

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: May 18, 2010 **Time:** 1:30 p.m. **Length:** ⁴⁰~~30~~ minutes

Presentation Title: Forest Management Program for County Forested Property

Department: Business and Community Services (BCS)

Presenters: Dan Zinzer, Gary Barth

Attendees: Mike McLees, Dan Greene, Molly McKnight, Dustin Kohls

POLICY QUESTION

Does the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) support the modifications to the county's Forest Management Program for the county's forested property?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

In 2009 the BCC requested that BCS evaluate the current Forest Management Program for county owned forested properties to address environmental, social, economic, stakeholder and fiscal pieces of a sustainable public system and determine if modifications were warranted. Issues to be addressed included: sustainable harvesting practices, environmental protection, emerging economic opportunities such as ecosystems management and carbon cap and trade, and whether or not the County should consider a third party certification program. To assist in this effort, BCS partnered with Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct a study by ECONorthwest for a cost-benefit analysis of certification programs.

During this analysis, BCS considered the following:

- A. What does the ECONorthwest report on Forest Certification show about the benefits and costs of third-party certification of the Forest Management Program?
- B. Are County-owned forested properties properly categorized (income production, parks, environmental protection, sale or trade, etc.)? If not, what changes are needed and for which properties?

Attached is an 11-page executive summary of proposed changes to the Forest Management Program for County forested property.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Does the Board of County Commissioners approve the following changes in the Forest Management Program?

- A. Delay certification of forested properties until future markets for certified timber sales are developed?
 - B. Modify the inventory of lands identified for preservation and harvesting?
 - C. Additional recommended changes as outlined in the revised Forest Management Program?
2. Does the Board of County Commissioners support the purchase of the 95-acre Kellogg property?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. The Board of County Commissioners can approve the revised Forest Management Program as recommended by staff.
2. Modify the recommended category changes of lands in the inventory.
3. Certify category 3 harvestable lands by SFI or FSC prior to markets being established.
4. Do not purchase replacement lands for properties sold under the modified plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

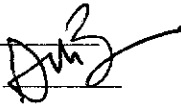
Staff recommends Option 1.

- Delay certification until markets are more fully developed.
- Recategorize lands as suggested, such as moving Madrone Wall and Parrott Creek to category 1 (preservation) and moving sensitive Mt. Hood corridor properties from category 3 (harvest) to category 2 (trade or sell).
- Acquire category 3 properties to replace category 2 properties.
- Increase frequency of Performance Review Cycles from 10 years to 3 - 5 years.
- Reduce harvest area target size from 15-60 acres to 15-40 acres
- Monitor emerging ecosystem markets for future economic opportunities.

By adopting these recommended changes, the revised County Forest Management Program will meet the goal of the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that our forests are managed and maintained in a healthy and sustainable manner. In the process of this study, we identified key policy and management changes in our operations to achieve this goal. With these proposed revisions to our policy and plan, the system will sustainably operate to a high environmental standard, better prepare our operations for emerging opportunities in a growing ecosystems marketplace and position the program for possible certification with the FSC in the future.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval  _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments,
please contact Dustin Kohls @ 503-742-4303