

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR



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July 20, 2020

Peter Daugherty
State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry

Dear State Forester Daugherty,

Thank you for submitting the Oregon Department of Forestry's report on *Proposed Actions for Executive Order 20-04*. Recognizing the enormous risks of climate change, especially for vulnerable communities, and the significant economic opportunities inherent to transitioning to a low-carbon economy, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-04 directing state agencies to exercise any and all actions within their statutory authority to reduce emissions and help achieve new statewide science-based emissions reduction goals. We have reviewed the Department of Forestry's proposed executive order implementation plan, and in consultation with Governor Brown, provide the following guidance to ensure the agency's plans align with the Governor's expectations.

Climate change is significantly impacting Oregon's forest resources, through the increased severity and incidence of wildfire, drought, and changes in forest growth. Oregon's forests also play a significant role in mitigating climate change, by sequestering and storing carbon. The Department of Forestry's proposed plan outlines important research the Department will pursue to further quantify the carbon sequestration and storage potential of Oregon's forests and forest products. This data is important to inform the proposal of new state goals for carbon sequestration and storage, as directed by Executive Order 20-04. This data may also support implementation of climate-smart strategies the Department outlined, including forest conservation, reforestation, afforestation and expansion of the urban tree canopy, and fuels reduction on federal lands.

Oregon's forest resources are one of the state's greatest assets in the fight against climate change. Governor Brown expects the Oregon Department of Forestry to become a regional leader in climate-smart forestry to ensure the health of our climate and the long-term vitality of our forest products industry. To accomplish this, and in alignment with Executive Order 20-04, the Department should prioritize the goal of improving carbon sequestration and storage and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This goal should be prominent in the agency's vision, culture, and presentation, and specific actions should be identified to more fully and ambitiously integrate climate change considerations into the agency's management plans and actions.

The urgency of climate change demands a departure from business-as-usual for the Department of Forestry and all state agencies.

The Governor envisions that the Department will lead on climate-smart forestry both through its own work and in bringing leadership opportunities to the Board of Forestry. Leadership can be gained through innovation, creativity, and regular review and adoption of best climate-smart forestry practices globally. Specific goals need to be identified and systems for tracking and reporting outcomes and incentivizing climate-smart forestry practices and new markets for climate-smart wood products can be adopted. Greater energy efficiency and efforts to decarbonize the forestry sector can yield additional benefits not currently anticipated in the Department's proposed action plan.

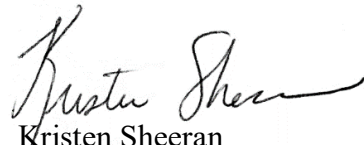
The Governor requests that the agency prepare a Climate Change Plan for Board of Forestry review that builds on the agency's executive order implementation report and reflects a broader strategy for establishing Oregon's leadership in climate-smart forestry and greater accountability toward achievement of goals.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the Department of Forestry in pursuit of the state's climate goals and Executive Order 20-04.

Sincerely,



Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Director
Governor Kate Brown



Kristen Sheeran
Energy and Climate Policy Advisor
Governor Kate Brown

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cc: Board of Forestry (BOF) Members
Tom Imeson, BOF Chair
Nils Christoffersen, BOF Member
Joe Justice, BOF Member
Jim Kelly, BOF Member
Brenda McComb, BOF Member
Mike Rose, BOF Member
Cindy Williams, BOF Member