

**Oregon Board of Forestry  
Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 5, 2007**

Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street, Building C, Tillamook Room  
Salem, OR 97310

Meeting Summary

**Welcome, and review meeting objectives and agenda**

Steve Hobbs, Chair of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Forestry (Board), welcomed the committee members and reviewed the meeting objectives which include review and agree on the charter and public outreach plan, and to start on developing a vision statement.

**Review of draft meeting summary**

Robert Fisher of Fisher Collaborative Services, facilitator, reviewed the November 29, 2006 meeting summary with the committee. Committee members asked staff to shorten the meeting summaries, synthesize the material, and capture agreements. The meeting summary from November 29, 2006 was approved as written with one typographical correction.

**Discussion of outstanding charter and related issues**

Committee members discussed the importance of support from the Oregon Congressional Delegation. Steve Hobbs described the relationship between the Governor's office, the Board, and the Congressional Delegation. Governor Kulongoski's administration has delegated more responsibility to the agencies, boards and commissions than previous administrations. This initiative comes from the Governor, and he has asked the Board of Forestry to develop a vision for the contribution of federal forestlands in the state. The Legislature also provided that guidance to the Board in SB 1072.

Some committee members raised the suggestion of having the committee chartered by the Congressional Delegation, rather than the Board of Forestry. The committee then discussed the value of engaging the Congressional Delegation and having them endorse or express support in some way for the project and the committee's work. Committee members agreed to reach out to the Congressional Delegation and at the same time move ahead with process. Staff will craft a draft letter requesting the Congressional Delegation endorse the process for review by the committee.

Staff will provide the Committee with a list of the primary Congressional Staff contacts that have been delegated to work with the Committee on this project. It will take all the Committee members talking to the delegation about this project to raise the awareness of the project.

Committee members discussed revisions to the draft charter. The suggested revisions include:

- Wording in the first bullet under the Goal section confuses the vision statement and goals. The charter needs to be changed to “The committee will recommend a small number of key goals...”
- The Milestones and Process Map needs to be changed to reflect the joint June meeting with the Board.
- Under Key Factors #2 the second sentence need to be changed to “the State and Counties share in the revenues...”
- Mike Haske will bring language back to the Committee that clarifies the different mandates on O&C lands. (Key Factor #2).
- Start a glossary of terms. Staff will look for a working definition of forestland to try to help define the scope of the committee’s work.
- Ralph Bloemers will suggest language changes to Key Factor #3.
- The committee discussed the definition of sustainability in Key Factor #5. Lisa Freedman will research federal definitions of forest sustainability. A definition of sustainability could be included in a glossary of terms.
- To success indicator #1 insert “recommended by the FFAC.”
- Robert will review the section on the decision making process and make revisions to the section on majority and minority reports.
- Change “CRAG” to Crag Law Center

Steve Hobbs discussed the roles of the chair and facilitator. He also distributed a draft proposed description of the roles to supplement the committee’s Operating Procedures. Meetings are intended to be rather informal. Much of the chair’s work is behind the scenes doing oversight with staff between meetings and interacting with committee members. Robert has broad latitude to facilitate the meetings, which allows the chair to be fully engaged in substantive discussions. The committee accepted the description of the roles.

The committee discussed the possibility of additions to the Advisory Committee, including recreation, water users biomass, energy, etc. The committee will access expertise from those groups and invite participation on individual issues as needed.

### **Public comments**

The following individuals provided comments to the committee.

Max Merlich (Columbia Helicopters) – Requested more action and less process in federal forestry issues, and is concerned that the committee will result in more process rather than action. Would like to see the committee make recommendations to take more action to salvage and rehabilitate forests damaged by fire, insects and disease, and windstorms.

Dick Posekany (Frank Lumber Co.) – Use of federal timber is important to the prosperity of rural Oregon communities. Eighteen to 19 jobs are created by every million board feet of

sawlogs harvested. Utilizing a portion of the timber volume growth on federal forestlands would provide economic and social benefits without harm to the environment.

Rex Storm (Associated Oregon Loggers) – Summarized written comments provided to the committee. He is concerned about the failure of federal forest policies to sustainably manage Oregon's forests. Issues that need to be addressed are listed in the written comments including threats (fire, pest, disease) to neighbors, and fire hazard conditions. AOL will provide support to the committee.

Dave Powers (EPA) – Recommended the committee hone in on areas of agreement and solutions. Real impediments to implementation are not laws or policies but budget and infrastructure needed to get things done. Trust is also an issue.

Tom Partin (American Forest Recourse Council) – Getting congressional buy-in is extremely important, based on his experience with the Governor's East-side Forest Panel and Blue Mountain Demonstration Area. Need to balance needs for the economy, community, and environment. Of 34 million acres of woodlands in Oregon, 21 million are at high risk of stand replacement fire. The dense over-crowded forests are not sustainable, good forest health is important. The infrastructure to influence forest health is being lost and needs to be preserved.

Ivan Maluski (Sierra Club) – Is interested in participating in the process and concerned about recreation, water quality and other values not related to logging. Is concerned about and against old-growth and roadless logging. Focus on non-controversial issues including brush removal in the wildland urban interface, prescribed fire, and small diameter material removal.

Elaine Hallmark (Oregon Consensus Program) – Is director of the program created by the legislature to help state agencies do collaborative work. Has helped staff structure the process for the committee, hired Robert to facilitate the process, and will look for additional help for the committee. Suggested the committee focus on the next best step when dealing with controversial subjects.

Doug Heiken (Oregon Wild) – There is a lot of restoration work to do in forests including thinning plantations on the west-side, removing small fuels from east-side and southern Oregon. He is concerned about limiting public input, logging mature and old-growth forests and roadless areas.

David Owen (Rural Resident) – Is an organic farmer directly affected by forest policy. He is concerned about health affects of spraying herbicides in forest areas. He is not satisfied by previous contacts with state agencies on this issue.

Neila Owen (Rural Resident) – Is a naturalist and organic farmer concerned about the effects of herbicide use on the environment, public health, and water quality.

Fred Meutzer (Greenleaf Post and Pole) – Works in reforestation, organic farming, and manages his own timber land. He is concerned about land exchanges from BLM to private companies and their land management practices and the use of herbicides.

### **Additions to the Planning Team**

Ted Lorenson (Assistant State Forester - Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)) summarized the principles from the Governor's address that relate to the committee being a state process; and indicated the importance of not giving a public impression that this is a federal process. The agency staff on the planning team are a resource for the committee, not advocates. The team will be reaching out to a number of other state and federal agencies to participate on the planning team. The staffs' role is to be a technical resource for the committee, not the technical resource, which means bringing the range of information, experts, and advice the committee requests and needs in a timely fashion. There is a tension between keeping the size of the planning team at an efficient, manageable level, and having all agencies a part of the planning team.

Staff will contact EPA, NOAA, USFWS, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Water Resources about providing support to the committee. The Staff will bring in other outside experts as appropriate.

### **Working electronically**

Kevin Birch (ODF Staff) summarized the public meeting laws relating to committee business and working electronically. The committee is subject to public meeting laws. Those laws require that all meetings of a quorum to be open to the public, that the public has notice of the time and place of the meetings, and that the meetings are accessible to persons wishing to attend. Therefore, email can be used if committee members are charged to form any recommendations individually and cannot be used by the committee to make a decision or deliberate toward a decision.

The committee explored options for holding meetings electronically, and decided not to pursue those options for now.

### **Public Involvement/Outreach Plan**

Kevin Birch presented a draft public involvement plan to the committee. The goals of the public involvement plan are to increase public awareness of the project, gather input/feedback, build trust with public and interested groups, build support for project, and provide broader perspectives to inform the committee.

The two major forms of public communication will be through a web site and individual contacts with a list of reviewers. The website will provide the public with background documents, meeting details, and an email address to receive public comments that will be forwarded to the committee. Staff will actively seek additional reviewers from communities and others interest groups to increase participation with the committee. Staff will send email

updates to reviewers; invite written comments at any time, and send sections of document out for review and comment.

Additional feedback mechanisms suggested by the committee include having invited presentations to the committee, asking for public comments focused on current topics or answering specific questions that the committee is discussing, and creating opportunities for panel discussion on selected issues. Committee members will provide staff with a list of interest groups to contact including a short description of the group's interests.

Committee members discussed using media contacts to better inform the public about the process. ODF agency affairs staff and committee members will try to provide basic information about the process during media contacts. Staff will prepare a draft one-page summary of the process to use with media and to send to other interested parties.

Committee members will provide input to staff, and staff will draft a paper, on a set of three questions. Those questions are:

1. What is the problem or opportunity that has to be addressed? What will happen if nothing changes?
2. Why does the State deserve a stronger voice in federal policy? Whose quality of life will suffer?
3. Why is the Board of Forestry the proper place to have this discussion?

### **Public opinion surveys**

Kevin Birch gave an overview of existing public opinion research. The full presentation can be found at: <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/FFAC.shtml>

The top forest issues that Oregonians are concerned about are water quality and replanting after timber harvesting, followed by air quality and fish and wildlife. Other major issues of concern include providing jobs and revenues, forest health, and severe wildfires. The majority of people agreed with leaving streamside buffers as a remedy for water quality.

Most people agree (88%) that National Forests should provide for as much diversity of animals and plants as possible, and the majority of people agrees with harvesting timber from National Forests, but has a strong preference for not harvesting old-growth stands. People also see lack of family wage jobs and other Americans wanting to shut down natural resources based economies as serious problems in rural Oregon. Oregonians overwhelmingly support using controlled fire and thinning crowded forests to improve forest health or reduce wildfire danger.

People want a balanced approach to forest management, and are evenly split on whether things are out of balance or whether forests are being managed sustainably. When asked how to balance resource production on federal forestlands, responses included 40 percent environmental values, 32 percent social values, and 29 percent economic values.

Staff will follow up with a situation assessment (under ten pages long) of forest conditions, trends, and concerns about environmental, social, and economic values. The assessment will provide a large scale view, across all ownerships, and broad regional differences where possible. The assessment will include a bibliography of broad scale assessments and other information. Interest groups will be invited to comment on the assessment and provide an overview of forest conditions from their point of view.

Lisa Freedman (USFS) will gather the desired future conditions from the Forest Service land management plans and provide that information to the committee.

### **Vision statement**

Zane Smith provided an overview of crafting vision statements and the differences between the vision, goals, objectives, and actions. The committee then discussed the draft vision statements provided by staff to the committee, and focused on elements of draft vision statements #2 and #4.

Russ Hoeflich, Chuck Graham, Tim Vredenburg, and Annabelle Jaramillo will work together to combine those statements and present a draft vision statement to the committee for consideration at the February meeting.

### **Planning for next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, items to be discussed include the situation assessment, reactions to the process from USFS and BLM, public comment on the situation assessment, additional discussions on the charter, and crafting a message to the Board of Forestry for the March meeting.

The Board of Forestry has scheduled time on their March 7 meeting agenda to hear about the work of the committee. Committee members interested in representing the committee at the Board meeting and giving an update should contact Steve Hobbs.

The Board has scheduled a half-day workshop with the committee on June 5. The option of moving the committee meeting scheduled for June 4 to June 5. Committee members agreed to hold the June 5 date open if possible while the details are worked out.

### **Attending:**

Committee Members: Ralph Bloemers, Chuck Graham, Steve Grasty, Russ Hoeflich, Steve Hobbs, Annabelle Jaramillo, Bill Kluting, R. Wade Mosby, Zane Smith, Jr., Ken Williamson, Tim Vredenburg.

Staff: Kevin Birch – ODF, Jeri Chase – ODF, Cathy Clem – ODF, Marianne Fitzgerald – DEQ, Lisa Freedman – USFS, Mike Haske – BLM, Rod Krahmer – ODFW, Ted Lorensen – ODF, Gayle Birch – ODF, Dave Powers – EPA, and Robert Fisher – FCS,  
Facilitator/Mediator

Public: Gail Chrest, Elaine Hallmark, Doug Heiken, Chris Jarmer, Fred Mentzer, Max Merlich, Ivan Maluski, David Owen, Neila Owen, Tom Partin, Dick Posekany, Mary Scurlock, Ralph Sperstein, Rex Storm, Ann Walker, Daniel Whelan