DRAFT Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2015

INDEX

Item # Page #

A. MINUTES – MARCH 4, 2015 2

B. RE-APPOINTMENT OF STEVE CAFFERATA TO EFCC 2

C. LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS 2

D. FOREST PRACTICE ANNUAL RULE REVIEW MEETING REPORT 2

1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS 3

2. METHODS FOR RIPARIAN RULE ANALYSIS 3

3. RECOMMENDATION FROM SUBCOMMITTEE: OVERARCHING APPROACH FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION 7

4. INTRODUCING JIM PEÑA, REGIONAL FORESTER 10

5. UPDATE ON FEDERAL FORESTS RESTORATION 10

6. BENEFITS AND VALUES OF MANAGING EAST SIDE FORESTS 11

Items listed in order heard.

Complete audio recordings from the meeting and attachments listed below are available on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov

1) Board Member Handout, Gary Springer, email from Doug Grafe, Agenda Item 1
2) Public Comment, David Morman, Agenda Item 1A
3) Presentation, Riparian Rule Analysis, Agenda Item 2
4) Report, Brian Schlaefli, NW/SW Regional Forest Practices Committees, Agenda Item 2
5) Public Comment, Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers, Agenda Item 2
6) Public Comment, Jim James, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Agenda Item 2
7) Public Comment, Scott Hanson, Agenda Item 2
8) Public Comment, Mary Scurlock, Oregon Stream Protection Coalition, Agenda Item 2
9) Subcommittee Memo, Alternative Forest Management Plans, Agenda Item 3
10) FTLAC Handout, HB 3210, Agenda Item 3
11) Public Comment, Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers, Agenda Item 3
12) Public Comment, Dave Ivanoff, Agenda Item 3
13) Public Comment, Seth Barnes, OFIC, Agenda Item 3
14) Public Comment, Mike Scott, Jewell School District, Agenda Item 3
15) Public Comment, Doug Pilant, Tillamook County Transportation District, Agenda Item 3
16) Presentation, Federal Forests Restoration, Agenda Item 5
17) Presentation, Benefits and Values of Eastside State Forests, Agenda Item 6

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on April 22, 2015 in the Great Hall at the Sunriver Resort, 17600 Center Drive, Sunriver, Oregon 97707.

Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:		*Absent:*
Sybil Ackerman-Munson	Tom Insko	Nils Christoffersen
Cindy Deacon Williams	Mike Rose	
Tom Imeson	Gary Springer	

CONSENT AGENDA:

Listen to audio MP3 – (19 minutes –8.98 MB)

Chair Imeson questioned the Board on their approval of the Consent Agenda. Board Member Mike Rose motioned for the Board's approval of Consent Agenda Items A through D. Board Member Cindy Deacon Williams seconded the motion. Board Member Gary Springer requested Item C be pulled from the Consent Agenda to allow a member from the Committee for Family Forestlands to testify on the agenda topic. Chair Imeson amended the motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B and D.

Voting in favor of the motion: Mike Rose, Cindy Deacon Williams, Tom Insko, Gary Springer, Sybil Ackerman-Munson, and Tom Imeson, against: none. With Board consensus, Items A and B were approved.

A. MARCH 4 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the March 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes.

B. RE-APPOINTMENT OF STEVE CAFFERATA TO EFCC

Recommends re-appointment of one candidate to Emergency Fire Cost Committee.

The Board re-appointed Steve Cafferata to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee to a four-year term expiring the end of April, 2019.

C. LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS

Transmits a letter from the Committee for Family Forestlands regarding Protection Standards on Small and Medium Fish Bearing Streams.

Rick Barnes presented the letter on behalf of the Committee for Family Forestlands during Agenda Item 2.

D. FOREST PRACTICE ANNUAL RULE REVIEW MEETING REPORT

Presents the Board with a memorandum and attachment reports on the 2015 annual meetings held with other state agencies regarding the sufficiency of the Forest Practice Rules and proper coordination with other agencies with an interest in the forest environment.

The Board received the 2015 Forest Practice Annual Rule Review Meeting Report.
ACTION AND INFORMATION:

1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Listen to audio MP3 – (19 minutes – 8.98 MB)

State Forester Decker providing introductory comments noting:

-success in securing a fire insurance policy for the upcoming fire season,

-recent Ways and Means Subcommittee presentation with productive conversations, a high level of interest in the Department's business model, positive comments were heard in support of the federal forest package, biomass, state forests, and the fire budget, with Jim Pena, Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, in attendance.

-attendance on a tour of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy pilot project in Medford focused on providing a stronger fire response, fire resistant communities and resilient landscapes,

-recent training for the Fire Protection Division and the Incident Management Teams, preparing for the upcoming fire season,

-continued assistance with the Governor's Office transition, Laurie Aunan attending today,

-time of transition with Paul Bell and Dan Postrel's last Board meeting, and

-upcoming travel to Washington, D.C. for the National Association of State Foresters meeting.

Board Member Gary Springer provided a handout (Attachment 1) sharing the Department's release of the "Strategic Investments" Grant Program, established following passage of the Wildfire Protection Act, allowing the Emergency Fire Cost Committee to allocate Oregon Forest Land Protection Funds toward strategic investments that enhance Oregon's fire protection system.

Board Member Tom Insko noted recent hosting of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on a tour of the Boise Cascade Mt. Emily Lumber Mill in La Grande and announced his recent selection as a finalist for President of Eastern Oregon University.

1A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Morman provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 2) urging the Board consider reviewing the 1996 Forest Practices Act chemical and other petroleum product administrative rule revisions, review and reaffirm or update the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Agriculture that clarifies jurisdiction to administer regulations and label requirements that protect private property and dwellings from pesticide applications, and revisit the Guiding Principles adopted by the Board for the 1996 process as prerequisites for any future forest practice rule review.

2. METHODS FOR RIPARIAN RULE ANALYSIS

Private Forests Work Plan – Water Quality Protection

Listen to audio Part 1 of 3 MP3 – (1 hour 3 minutes – 28.8 MB)

Private Forests Division Chief Peter Daugherty joined Jeremy Groom, Monitoring Coordinator, and Terry Frueh, Monitoring Specialist, in a presentation (Attachment 3) on the Forest Practices Act Riparian Rule Analysis providing an overview of the rule analysis process and decisions to be made, outcomes of stakeholder and advisory committee meetings, a proposed decision matrix, methods used to

model economic and ecological information, the geographic extent to which the rules apply, and next steps in the process.

Jeremy Groom, Monitoring Coordinator, reviewed how the RipStream study design and data was used to develop a model for predictive analysis based on vegetation plots and stream temperature data, presenting model results, comparisons, assumptions and limitations, and how the model would be used to evaluate and inform draft riparian rule prescription development.

Peter Daugherty described how potential changes to increase standards or restrictions in forest practices would limit wood production in riparian management areas, the intent to develop a consistent metric across prescriptions, consideration given to calculate changes using a change in volume harvested or a change in acres precluded from harvest, and proposal to represent the change in restrictions as the acres of riparian areas removed from timber production. Dr. Daugherty described how geographic information system analysis estimated the scale in the change of restriction using buffered stream widths and distribution of miles, how data would be used to assist in estimating costs for landowners and how a further detailed economic analysis would be developed in accordance with ORS 527.714.

Terry Frueh, Monitoring Specialist, presented an overview of how the Department is developing ecological information related to each prescription, determining impacts for the proposed prescriptions on large woody debris as directed by the Board and providing information on impacts to fish as requested by Department stakeholders. Similar to the previous approach, the Department will evaluate the ecological effects based on the equivalent buffer widths of the prescriptions. Related to geographic and stream extent, Mr. Frueh summarized varying factors for consideration by the Board related to two aspects: to which geographic regions in western Oregon and to which stream segments the prescriptions should apply.

Board question and comment ensued throughout the presentation as summarized:

-interest in field tours with staff to understand and visualize applicability of the prescriptions;

-developmental nature of the proposed decision matrix, clarifying its use as a discussion tool to compare the prescriptions;

-related to the slide on Comparison of Simulated Harvest to as Harvested data and how little basal area private landowners removed compared to how much could have been removed using the Forest Practices Act standards;

-challenge in evaluating data based on managing to the regulations when determining effectiveness of the rule, when landowners are often providing voluntary additions;

-shows potential room for change that would assist us in showing compliance with the Clean Water Act standards without having adverse impacts on land management, indicates that a shift in the rule is possible without having an actual impact on the ground;

-helpful to work through the complex results as presented;

-recognizing the fish response data provided at the Riparian workshop, challenge in understanding what new or useful information could be presented, expecting results of varying degree, staff responded to original direction from the Board to work with stakeholders, if using an expert panel to evaluate fish response suggestion to include change in channel morphology, bank stability and sediment regime to provide the most valuable new information; and

-understanding that 100% for large wood means 100% of the potential that could be achieved for a given forest stand; subsequent comment that with intensively managed private forests the curve can change through wood placement.

Listen to audio Part 2 of 3 MP3 – (53 minutes – 24.6 MB)

Chair Imeson called for reports from the Regional Forest Practice Committees and Committee for Family Forestlands with introductions provided by Peter Daugherty.

Brian Schlaefli, Chair of the SW Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee provided a report (Attachment 4) on behalf of the NW and SW Regional Forest Practice Committees, summarizing committee work focused on review, analysis, deliberation and formulation of recommendations and prescriptions for a new Riparian Protection Rule designed to meet the PCW criterion to the Maximum Extent Practicable, recognizing the considerable human capital invested in this effort, and commending the Board's commitment to a well-informed process.

Jon Stewart, Member of the NW Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee, echoed comments from Mr. Schlaefli, thanking Board Member Gary Springer for his attendance at the committee meetings, emphasizing the human capital invested in this effort and intent to bring a full set of recommendations to the table in June.

Rick Barnes, Member of the Committee for Family Forestlands, referenced the letter on riparian protection standards (Agenda Item C) developed by the Committee, describing the tremendous energy and commitment by Committee members to follow this topic and review solutions. Mr. Barnes noted private landowners' commitment to improving water quality, riparian areas and fish habitat as displayed by their large contributions to research and stream restoration activities, described the current Forest Practices Act and Oregon Plan as working well, evidenced by paired watershed studies and fish population trends, and encouraged a holistic multi-agency strategy approach to resolving issues impacting fish and water quality.

Board discussion acknowledged the significant time and hard work put forth by volunteers serving on the committees and with question to value in the proposed decision matrix, committee members described the tool as worthwhile while noting it should not be limited in effort, some policy issues do not fit well into the matrix, importance in recognizing limitations of the models being used, and key element of continual monitoring.

Chair Imeson called for public comment.

Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 5) urging the Board consider small, simple, incremental rule changes, to address the relatively small variance concerning Protecting Cold Water criterion while considering six critical questions in assessment of the riparian rulemaking methods and fostering the existing cooperative stewardship between operators, cooperators, and foresters.

Jim James, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 6) expressing concern with the temperature threshold in the Protecting Cold Water criterion and lack of scientific literature supporting the threshold, urging the Board use common sense to protect the beneficial use of forest streams and consider the impact to forest owners.

Scott Hanson, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 7) requesting the Board notify all landowners with streams affected by the draft

rules by mail and hold oral public hearings in each Department district office where the proposed rules would be applied in western Oregon as part of the formal rulemaking process.

Anthony Barber, newly appointed director for the Oregon office of the Environmental Protection Agency, provided public testimony expressing interest in the presentation and Board discussion, riparian areas and geographic scope, with intent to provide further comments to the Board and Department over the next several months.

Mary Scurlock, Oregon Stream Protection Coalition, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 8) offering support for the information the Board will have to make a decision on prescriptions that should go forward to proposed rule language, while offering specific comments on further implications of the RipStream study, concern with others correlating increasing Oregon Coastal Coho Salmon populations with the current policy review of forest land use practices, and a recent article focused on stream temperature challenges expected without steady snowmelt to cool streams.

Bob Rees, Northwest Guides and Anglers Association, provided public testimony recognizing the conservative management of the sportsfishing industry that adapts to almost weekly regulation updates, offering support for improvements to riparian policy that limit wood production in riparian zones improving riparian habitat and freshwater ecosystem health.

Heath Curtiss, Oregon Forest Industries Council, provided public testimony offering support the Department's efforts to meet with stakeholders and collaborative engagement with the Regional Forest Practices Committees, encouraging the Board keep an open view and not be constrained by items in their checklist, while offering support for voluntary conservation measures and practical minimums.

Listen to audio Part 3 of 3 MP3 – (22 minutes – 10.3 MB)

Board discussion ensued related to the usefulness of the matrix for presenting information, with comments summarized as follows:

-useful tool, any inaccuracies will be consistent across all of the prescriptions, providing a sense of relativity;

-still have question of fish response, if not providing quantitative data, already heard professional opinions, question still present;

-helpful tool, encourage delving more into the practicable minimum - helpful in thinking about this issue over time, good to remind Board of fish response;

-challenge in seeing connection of beneficial use with temperature change information, interest in voluntary versus regulatory measures if connection cannot be made, interest in quantifiable metrics when modeling variable retention;

-related to voluntary versus regulatory, interest in inviting EPA or NOAA through public process or collaborative conversations to review proposed voluntary and monitoring measures;

-helpful visual matrix, good summary, predicted temperature change could be color-coded on the confidence intervals;

-related to change in riparian functions, glad to see large wood recruitment, would really like to see shade and if possible channel morphology, components would support an accurate qualitative assessment;

-difference in ecological function information provided and the fish output should be a separate category and new line, i.e. change in fish production values;

-related to the prescription table, most interested in the variable retention alternatives;

-interest in receiving supporting information in a timely manner prior to the June meeting; and

-related to stream extent, interest in reviewing intermediate third point of streams with temperature TMDL to assist with Clean Water Act compliance.

Private Forests Division Chief Peter Daugherty reviewed next steps in the process.

Information only.

3. RECOMMENDATION FROM SUBCOMMITTEE: OVERARCHING APPROACH FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

State Forests Work Plan – Evaluating opportunities for improving economic performance on Board forestlands; Subcommittee on Alternative Forest Management Plans

Listen to audio Part 1 of 3 MP3 – (44 min – 20.2 MB)

Chair Imeson introduced the topic focused on development of an alternative forest management plan and the Board's pursuit of a land allocation approach that meets the twin goals of financial viability and improving conservation outcomes while meeting the elements and breadth of the Greatest Permanent Value rule.

Brian Pew, Deputy State Forests Division Chief, reviewed discussions held at the last meeting of the Subcommittee on Alternative Forest Management Plans and final direction captured in Attachment 9.

Board discussion ensued on matters of a third zone, a flexible management zone capable of responding to shifting needs in public benefit priorities, presence of the third zone found through provisions supporting flexibility including stream buffers and age class rotations, a present focus on modeling the 70/30 concept to understand the baseline, while the third zone is still a viable study question for the land allocation approach. Interest was expressed in understanding which components are included in the inoperable areas with Department staff concurring that it would be part of the analysis.

Chair Imeson called for comments from the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee.

Tim Josi, Tillamook County Commissioner and Chair of the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, provided testimony stressing the importance of having a baseline modeled against the Forest Practices Act to fully assess the plans ability to provide Greatest Permanent Value, recognizing the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties continued support for the Board's evaluation of a 70/30 approach as a compromised forest management plan while recognizing concerns related to baseline modeling, failure to properly credit conservation contributions, a bias toward place-based conservation rather than the contributions of functional outcomes, a desired future condition within the 30% conservation zone to emphasize old growth structure for old growth species, and bunching of conservation areas. Mr. Josi also referenced House Bill 3210 (Attachment 10) relating to the amount of timber harvested from state forest lands as amended by the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties expressing concerns with the Department and Board's response to the bill, while strongly encouraging the Board direct staff to model all output

against the Forest Practices Act to have a legitimate base of data to inform policy decisions moving forward.

Craig Pope, Polk County Commissioner and Vice-chair of the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, provided testimony expressing appreciation for the work of the Subcommittee in providing direction towards a basis for modeling while expressing concern with a lack of foundational data indicating the baseline of the forest today.

Board discussion ensued with recognition to the request for a baseline related to timber optimization and interest in whether that information exists, attention to the wide range of numbers purporting to be the annual growth and value in Board discussion related to the assumptions surrounding annual growth.

Listen to audio Part 2 of 3 MP3 – (44 min – 20.2 MB)

Chair Imeson called for public comment.

Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 11) emphasizing several points related to land allocation inputs for production and conservation zones and the land allocation approach.

Dave Ivanoff, representing Hampton Lumber, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 12) urging the Board model outcomes of a new Forest Management Plan using current Forest Practices standards as the baseline and providing clarification on provisions and opportunities within the 70/30 plan.

Seth Barnes, Oregon Forest Industries Council, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 13) urging the Board consider the value of every forest acre and its contributions towards conservation, ensure streamside buffers are credited as conservation, produce a baseline model that uses the Forest Practices Act to produce a harvest volume estimate, include the impacts of road maintenance in conservation discussions, and encouraging the Board continue development of the 70/30 plan.

Wayne Giesy provided public testimony describing his time served in the Legislature in 1955 and circumstances surrounding the original deeding of the county forestlands.

Board comment ensued with clarification to the law supporting state forest management residing in ORS 530, not the Forest Practices Act, and how can the Board increase harvest and conservation using ORS 530 as a baseline.

Chris Smith, North Coast State Forest Coalition, provided public testimony recommending a third zone be considered and a subset of the production zone reside in longer rotation, expressing concern with the Forest Practices Act legacy structures, the effects of climate change and soil nutrient depletion.

Bob Rees, Association of Northwest Steelheaders, provided public testimony describing extensive outreach made to communities on the north coast securing city resolutions of a balanced forest management plan, recommendation to not include production zone riparian areas in the production zone estimate, concern with modeling the Forest Practices Act, and recognition of a conservation study being conducted in the Kilchis Basin.

Listen to audio Part 3 of 3 MP3 – (44 min – 20.2 MB)

Mike Scott, Jewell School District, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 14) urging the Board carefully consider the financial obligations to Forest Trust counties while describing the severe dependence the Jewell School District has upon funds from timber sales on state forestlands and encouraging the Board take steps to ensure an equitable forest management plan.

Doug Pilant, Tillamook County Transportation District, provided public testimony and written comments (Attachment 15) encouraging the Board adopt an equitable plan for state forests that takes into account the needs of communities with the County Trust Lands.

Board discussion ensued with comments summarized as follows:

-support for developing old growth in the north coast state forests as a critical missing forest component;

-importance in recognizing that all forests have ecological value;

-concern with how the Endangered Species Act may influence management and result in lands that are unable to be managed;

-focusing on certain types of conservation has a significant impact;

-challenge in quantifying measurements of Greatest Permanent Value, ideal to have a baseline to compare to, if even the Forest Practices Act and current Forest Management Plan;

-interest in moving beyond tradeoff discussions and defining financial viability to ensure the Board can determine the goal is met;

-importance in remembering the twin goals and using the current plan as a baseline;

-intent to be more absolute about financial viability turning the current situation around, intent to have a definable, measureable improvement in conservation outcomes, and uncertainty that the Forest Practices Act was ever meant to be a baseline standard to compare state forests to;

-importance in getting to the sustainable operation of state forests, less concerned with baselines than where to go, want to understand opportunity costs, don't want to model everything, start out simple with the first modeling effort, get feedback and evaluate if the plan comes close;

-concern in dropping the third zone, recognition of the independent science review concluding the 70/30 plan did not meet the goals, first step residing in land allocation of specific land components and evaluate the benefits, sensitivity to the comment about road maintenance and concern with inadequately funding roads in planning efforts, important to get to the point of allocation, identifying areas providing aquatic stream habitat as well as old growth;

-interest in an initial outline of the decision matrix and metrics used to evaluate progress toward financial viability and conservation goals;

-interest in defining longer term targets for financial viability of the counties; and

-value in progressing toward an initial modeling effort, eagerness to review the results.

Deputy Division Chief Brian Pew provided an overview of next steps in the process noting an upcoming meeting of the Subcommittee on May 18 with goal to discuss the quality and quantity of the data, current harvest levels, and annual growth assumptions in the modeling effort.

Information only.

4. INTRODUCING JIM PEÑA, REGIONAL FORESTER

Administrative Work Plan – Research Requests and Special Reports

Listen to audio MP3 – (26 minutes 12.2 MB)

Regional Forester Jim Peña, serving the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region, provided introductory comments to the Board of Forestry, providing an overview of his professional background, an introduction to key staff and their work engaging with state government, and a principle set of objectives for the region. Mr. Pena spoke to the innovations occurring locally in the State of Oregon through the federal-state partnership and development of a nationally recognized business model providing necessary avenues to leverage funds and improve health across the forested landscape. Other priorities noted for the region included: five forest collaborative landscape projects underway, application of the Cohesive Strategy, Northwest Forest Plan revision, and preparations underway for the fire season ahead.
Listen to audio MP3 – (2 minutes 790 KB)

Chair Imeson called for public comment.

Eric Fernandez, Oregon Wild, offered support for the collaborative work on the nexus of federal and state land concerns and efforts to increase the pace and scale of restoration while cautioning officials to set expectations accordingly as consensus is sought on larger scale projects.

Information only.

5. UPDATE ON FEDERAL FORESTS RESTORATION

Emerging and Overarching Issues Work Plan – Federal Forests

Listen to audio MP3– (21 minutes – 9.74 MB)

Dr. Cassandra Moseley, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon, and Dr. Eric White of the Ecosystem Workforce Program, referenced a presentation (Attachment 16) on the Social and Economic Monitoring of Oregon's Federal Forest Program in providing an overview of performance measure indicator data, metrics related to timber volume sold, restoration jobs supported in eastern Oregon, restoration-related business sales, acres treated, collaborative capacity grants, the new business model, future metrics under development, methods for monitoring, and several fact sheets available for further reference.

Board discussion and clarifying comments ensued surrounding additional federal investments and funds leveraged from other sources.

Information only.

6. BENEFITS AND VALUES OF MANAGING EAST SIDE FORESTS

State Forests Work Plan – Land Acquisition for the Gilchrist State Forest

Listen to audio MP3 – (24 minutes – 11.2 MB)

Deputy Division Chief Brian Pew joined John Pellissier, Klamath Unit Forester, in a presentation on the benefits and values of eastside State Forests (Attachment 17) providing valuable background for the following day's field tour of the Gilchrist State Forest. The presentation included distinguishing features and characteristics of the Sun Pass and Gilchrist State Forests, local history and timeline related to the Gilchrist acquisition, management techniques and opportunities for the Gilchrist, and local operational partners.

Information only.

With no further business before the Board, Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Doug Decker

Doug Decker, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

SP