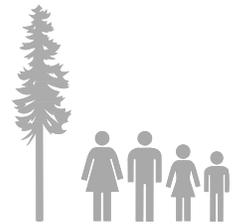




Committee for Family Forestlands

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2015



DRAFT

Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held on March 6th, 2015 in the Tillamook Room, Bldg. C, ODF Headquarters, 2600 State St., Salem, OR

CFF Committee members present:

Susan Watkins, Acting Chair, Voting
Rick Barnes, Voting
Roje Gootee, Voting
Scott Gray, Voting
Sara Leiman, Voting
Evan Smith, Voting
Mike Cloughesy, Ex-Officio
Peter Daugherty, Ex-Officio/ODF
Cindy Glick, Ex-Officio
Joe Holmberg, Ex-Officio
Rex Storm, Ex-Officio
Brad Withrow-Robinson, Ex-Officio
Lena Tucker, ODF, Secretary

Members not in attendance:

ODF Staff present:

Susan Dominique
Jim Cathcart
Mark Jacques
Jamie Knight
Jeremy Groom
Daniel Olson

Guests:

Heath Curtiss, OFIC
Randy Hereford, Starker Forests
Jim James, OSWA
Iral Ragenovich, USFS Region 6, Acting State & Private Forestry Assistant Director
Brad Siemens, USFS Region 6
Ed Weber, PhD, OSU
Caston Jarrett, USFS, Region 6
Jim Johnson, OSU

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Review of the Agenda

2. Introductions

- Roundtable introductions.
- Special introduction to Ed Weber, PhD OSU School of Public Policy as candidate for the Citizen-At-Large/Committee Chair.

Added Item/Action: Recommend Ed Weber to the Board for the Citizen-At-Large/Chair position.

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

- February Minutes Motion to Approve, Barnes. Seconded by Gray. All were in favor of accepting as written.

4. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

5. Legislative Session Update - Peter Daugherty & Jim James

Since the February CFF meeting, Governor Kitzhaber has resigned and Secretary of State Kate Brown has been sworn in as the new Governor. The State Forester has met one-on-one with Governor Brown and communicated ODF's priorities for the current Legislative Session. Governor Brown indicated support for her predecessor's Recommended Budget. The Governor's Natural Resource Staff with Richard Whitman remain in place.

- The Water Quality option package remains in the Governor's budget as a high priority, part of the Water Quality Initiative. Statewide, water quality has not improved in past 5 years. The POP includes geotech and roads engineer at a policy level.
- The Working Farms and Forests Initiative is in transition. One idea is to create an analog to CREP for forestland riparian areas as a way to provide incentives.
- Four Juniper-related bills would help restore lands where juniper has encroached. One bill would remove juniper from the Forest Practices Act. ODF local districts are working to ensure that the FPA doesn't impede restoration without changes to the FPA. OSWA supports these bills.
- HB 3013 would allow establishment of wildlife food plots on small tract forestlands normally subject to reforestation requirements. Currently, landowners can have food plots by filing under a Plan for Alternate Practices. ODF will work with ODA, Invasive Species Council and ODFW to ensure undesirable plants are not introduced with seed mixes if the bill passes.
- Several Pesticide bills have been introduced that would make marginal changes to the current process for complaint investigations, licensing, and funding for the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC).
- HB 2051, the Trespass Bill, seeks to discourage trespassing. Currently trespassing is a criminal offense that is difficult to prove, This bill would change it to an ticketable infraction that will be easier to work with. OSWA supports the bill.
- Rural Fire District Chiefs support a tax to landowners whose lands fall within a rural-urban boundary. OSWA doesn't think it has a broad effect across the state.
- County Assessors are asking to be reimbursed for the tax collection they do for ODF fire protection. They are asking that 6% of the money to stay in the county for their efforts to collect the tax.

Agenda Item: Invite Tom Linhares, Executive Director of the Multnomah County Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission, to the April meeting to address the CFF regarding HB 2132

6. East Face Elkhorns Project: Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy "All Hands, All Lands" Approach – Mark Jacques and Jamie Knight

Jacques gave an overview of three eastern Oregon projects under the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy.

The Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy is a national initiative. The Strategy addresses wildfire and agency concerns through a new business model, aligning restoration efforts to increase synergy between partners.

The three main goals are:

- 1) Responding to wildfire
- 2) Creating fire adaptive communities
- 3) Restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes

The East Face All Lands Project, funded out of the Joint Chiefs [USFS & NRCS] Landscape Restoration, grew out of the Strategy. The Project looks at large scale, all lands forest restoration, crossing all ownerships. Of the 75,000-acre project area, 46,000 acres are on Forest Service lands and 33,000 acres on State & Private land. The pilot project area includes the counties of Baker, Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla and some up in SE Washington, Hells Canyon and Idaho where quite a bit of cooperation and coordination was already going on. USFS, non-industrial private and industrial lands, Rural Fire Departments, BLM lands and WA DNR lands are involved. The area includes about 2500 miles of shared boundary between ODF and Rural Fire Departments and 3500 miles of shared boundary between ODF and the Forest Service. The point is to encourage agencies, states and other interested parties to bring their resources together to make a difference across ownerships.

The objectives on the East Face Project are:

- 1) To substantially reduce catastrophic wildfire risk by restoring forest health.
- 2) Enhance rural economies & increase flow of goods and services.
- 3) Provide an excellent transferrable/exportable model for 'All Lands, All Hands.'

The East Face Project is actually 3 distinct projects, one on the National Forest, one on private lands and one on ODFW lands.

ODFW saw this as an opportunity to increase forage value on 4000 acres that have never been managed for elk habitat. ODF will be management on the project.

The fire-adapted communities aspect of the project looks at Baker and Union County, LaGrande Watershed and Anthony Lake Ski Resort. The focus is on a landscape-level approach to creating Fire-Adaptive communities.

Establishment of a Georegion Biomass Working Group as a subset of the Statewide Biomass Working Group is another aspect of the Project with a good opportunity to increase the type of material coming off the USFS, BLM, and ODFW lands. Through the Project, business grants to create economic opportunities utilizing that biomass are being offered. There is a possibility to re-utilize one of two abandoned mill sites in North Powder as a sort yard, with 8-10 years of product coming off the project area. North Powder is located near I-84 and the project area and also has a rail line that can be used to move product.

There is a Cost-share program administered by EQIP with funds going for pre-commercial thinning work. Some of the landowners are doing sanitation harvests or forest health applications prior to thinning. Thirty-three landowners signed up (3300 acres) the first year.

Jamie Knight: My Blue Mountain Woodland (BMW) is an AFF (American Forests Foundation)-sponsored Outreach project that focuses on communicating with unengaged landowners on the boundaries of Forest Service and private industrial lands to provide resources and education in active forest management. Again, four counties are involved, Union, Baker, Wallowa, and Umatilla Counties. Partners include ODF, OSU, OFRI, NRCS, AFF and Wallowa Resources (which is participating in the database coordinator position). The Project is utilizing a database of landowners that is based on Fire Patrol Assessments. Progress will be tracked over four year waves. After each wave trends will be analyzed. The goal is to double the response rate with each contact.

7. OFIC Update of Current Events – Heath Curtiss

Heath Curtiss is General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) who was invited to give the Committee OFIC's view on the current BOF Riparian Rule Analysis.

OFIC agrees that, to have a high degree of confidence that forest practices will result in no exceedance of the Protecting Cold Water criterion, the no-cut distance would have to be about 90'. But the BOF has some discretion in establishing Best Management Practices (BMPs), and good policy requires weighing costs against benefits.

- Oregon public policy is to encourage economically efficient forest practices that ensure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forestland for such purposes as the leading use of privately owned land.
- The Department of Forestry is the designated management agency for implementation of Oregon's Water Quality Standards on forestlands.
- State law and the federal Clean Water Act require the BOF to establish BMPs to meet criteria to the 'Maximum Extent Practicable' considering (among other factors) both the beneficial uses of waters potentially impacted and technical, economic and institutional feasibility.

Statute 527.714 Section 5F includes that “by adopting the rule are in proportion to the degree that existing practices of the landowners and timber owners, in the aggregate, are contributing to the overall resource concern that the proposed rule is intended to address and the benefits to the resource must be in proportion to the degree that the existing practices in the aggregate are contributing to the overall resource concern.”

OFIC has not yet taken a firm position on the direction the BOF should take. Data on economic impacts of a proposed rule are not yet available, and modeling continues.

Regarding proposed pesticide legislation and litigation regarding chemical trespass, likely bills would beef up PARC and make it easier for agencies to apply existing law.

8. Monitoring Strategy Development Process – Daniel Olson, Monitoring Specialist

[PowerPoint presentation: *Updating Private Forests Monitoring Strategy*]

Tucker introduced Dan Olson, ODF Monitoring Specialist working with Jeremy Groom and Terry Frueh.

The current monitoring strategy was created in 2002 and now needs to be updated. Olson requested the CFF's help in identifying priority questions. New ODF-initiated projects will be designed to answer the highest priority questions. The Project's goals are to:

- address priority questions to determine if rules and voluntary programs implement practices to expectations;
- determine if rules are effective in meeting resource protection goals
- collaborate with stakeholders
- produce high quality, transparent results.

(<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/monitoringexecsum.pdf>)

Once stakeholder feedback is in hand, ODF will bring the questions back to CFF (April). The plan is to be completed by October – November 2015 for presentation to the BOF by January 2016.

Types of criteria for prioritization could be: ease of implementation, management implications, relevancy, Olson asked that any feedback be submitted by March 25th to Terry.Frueh@oregon.gov.

Action: Provide feedback to Frueh by March 25

Action: Ask Frueh to provide additional information to the CFF regarding current and past monitoring questions.

Action: Provide 2013 and 2014 Compliance Audits to the Committee.

10. Input for Subcommittee on Riparian Rules - Rick Barnes

Barnes presented a draft letter to the Committee. This letter focuses on the positive steps family forestland owners have taken. An OFRI publication identifies over 3100 stream crossings fixed, restoration improvements and much more. The volunteer efforts that have gone into this are amazing. There is a lot of voluntary efforts into raising money as well as management efforts to fix riparian areas and water quality. In most cases, fish populations have increased and those increases affirm that our FPA is working. The public needs that information.

CFF members identified key messages for the BOF:

- This is a key issue for small landowners.
- Enlarging buffers will have significant costs.
- Small landowners will be impacted disproportionately.
- Voluntary measures and existing forest practice rules together have been effective. There is no evidence that water quality will degrade if we don't have a new rule.
- The CFF would support a program with incentives rather than regulation.
- Policy decisions like this should be made in an All Lands context.
- Go forward without any significant rule changes at this point but with strengthened monitoring of voluntary efforts and effective BMPs.

- The consequence of restricting economic value contributing to a higher conversion rate of forestland to rural residential or agricultural use.

Action: Smith and Barnes to circulate the draft letter, to include an updated Spawning Chart ; Committee members to provide comments or changes by March 16th.

Action: Staff to change language on matrix to read, “Modeled Temperature Change” rather than “Expected Temperature Change” as the latter gives validation of being an fact rather than an estimation.

9. Partnership for Education Update – Jim Cathcart, Jim Johnson, Mike Cloughesy

[Handouts: Partnership for Forestry Education II Forestry Landowner Leadership Academy; Wildlife in Managed Forests; Wildlife in Managed Forests Program Report 2013-14; Partnership for Forestry Education Strategic Plan January 2013; USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry Competitive Grant Project (Phase 1) FY 2010]

Cloughesy provided background on the Partnership. The Partnership's strategic plan is located at KnowYourForests.org, where there is also a list of the partnership members.

The Strategic Plan identified what each member organization was doing and looked for service gaps. The number one unmet need was for Business and Tax Education. Partially as a result, OSU hired a business and tax professional as Starker Chair, Tammy Cushing. The Plan also identified the need for leadership around Adult/Professional Education, and Jim Johnson created the new Continuing Professional Education Department, providing services to those professionals serving private forestland owners.

Partnership for Education projects include (but are not limited to):

- Oregon Forest Owner Database. The purpose of the database is for non-commercial use to promote family forest outreach and education opportunities and related research. It is achieving a lot of success in outreach efforts. It gives us a chance to outreach to landowners that haven't gotten involved as well as facilitating searches on levels of engagement. That could help Tree Farm to do certification outreach.
- Oregon Forest Management Planning website, which contains the Learning Library, KnowYourForest, and Forest Management Planning System (Amy Grotta's Uniform Plan work). Woodland Discovery and Pathways to Stewardship came out of this work.

Under a second grant, Partnership for Forestry Phase II, OFRI published and distributed the Family Resource Guide to 18,000 people identified in the database and did a follow-up survey. OFRI also put on Leadership Academies and a Land Ethic Leaders Workshop to help organizations like OSWA develop leadership capability. OSWA 'Howdy Neighbor' Tours were promoted using the Forest Owner Database. In that process OSWA picked up 50 new members. The project has also focused on wildlife, including several publications and a conference on Early Seral Forests in Management for Woodland Songbirds held with NCASI (National Council for Air and Stream Improvement).

Johnson pointed out that, though the initial grants are winding down, a number of projects have crossed state lines, like Ties to the Land, a forestland owner succession planning project. Promoting funding for multi-state projects is important, given the way grants are awarded.

The next Partnership meeting is April 22 and 23rd at the Oregon Garden.

Cathcart: None of this would have happened without the State and Private Forestry grants. Brad Siemens, Iral Ragenovich, and Teresa Raaf of USFS State and Private Forestry serve as our advocates and let these projects grow. If it wasn't for our partnership with USFS, we wouldn't be here talking about any of this.

Siemens: The State of Oregon excels in competition for these grants. The state's ability to look beyond just one factor, combining with other components to build up to a larger piece, is key.

Ragenovich: The Forest Service is moving more and more towards collaborative relationships. The East Face of the Elkhorns and the Partnership for Forestry Education are examples of cohesiveness and collaboration. These are being discussed at the national level. Our partners are in many ways ahead of the Forest Service, which is looking to catch up. The State and Private Partnerships have stepped up in this regard. You should be proud of yourselves and what you have done.

Good of the Order

- Next meetings are April 28th and May 22nd. We will send a Doodle poll out for a June date.

Adjourned at 3:10pm.

Added Item/Action: Recommend Ed Weber to the Board for the Citizen-At-Large/Chair position.

Agenda Item: Invite Tom Linhares, Executive Director of the Multnomah County Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission, to the April meeting to address the CFF regarding HB 2132

Action: Provide feedback to Frueh by March 25 on Monitoring questions.

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