

# CHARTER OF THE SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

December 5, 2002

## **Background and Purpose**

The Smoke Management Plan is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to manage prescribed burning on private, federal and other public land to protect air quality and maintain forest productivity and forest health. The Plan is approved by the Board of Forestry and the Environmental Quality Commission. The approved Plan is a part of the Oregon Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan that is submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the state's efforts to attain and maintain air quality standards. The Smoke Management Plan requires periodic review by the State Forester and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure its adequacy in meeting its objectives.

The Smoke Management Plan Review Committee has been formed and charged to address this task.

## **Parameters and Assumptions**

The State Forester recognizes that smoke management rules, incentives, and voluntary measures are all important elements in an integrated effort to attain and maintain air quality standards. Committee recommendations may include regulatory or statutory changes, incentives and/or voluntary measures that address the use of prescribed fire. Committee recommendations will be evaluated by the State Forester in consultation with DEQ for adequacy in addressing forest management and air quality requirements.

The Committee will seek consensus about recommendations when possible and clearly articulate the range of views when consensus is not possible. Significant differences of opinion, if any, will be highlighted in the Committee's report to the State Forester. Suggested revisions to the Committee charter will be subject to ODF approval.

## **Charge for the Committee (Objectives)**

Consistent with requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act, and in consideration of forest management and forest health conditions, recommend what, if any, modifications are necessary to statutes, rules and directives affecting prescribed burning and the Smoke Management Plan to meet air quality standards and to protect the health of Oregon forests.

The Committee should consider, but not be limited to, questions such as:

- Are air quality standards being met?
- Are burning objectives being met?
- What changes may be needed to address projected increases in prescribed burning for forest health reasons?
- What changes may be needed to address regional (i.e. multi-state) air quality issues?
- How should wildfire vs prescribed fire smoke impacts be addressed?
- Are designated areas and smoke sensitive areas adequately identified?
- How may the administrative rules be changed to reflect current and future fuels and operational issues?
- What are feasible alternatives to burning and how should they be applied in the administration of the Smoke Management Plan?

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Committee deliberations should result in specific recommendations in a report prepared for the State Forester.

The Committee will:

1. Determine the Committee's decision-making process, work schedule, and meeting mechanics.
2. Develop a common understanding of the science, policy, and operational considerations for forest management, prescribed burning and air quality.
3. Evaluate how well the smoke management rules and directive meet air quality standards, recognizing that Environmental Quality Commission approval of substantive changes is required.
4. Consider the feasibility of alternatives to burning and alternative burning practices. This discussion should include consideration of the relative impacts on landowners and consideration of alternatives including non-regulatory approaches and alternatives which could achieve the desired level of protection.
5. Address how the Smoke Management Plan should be administered in the different fire and fuel regimes in the state.
6. Develop specific recommended rule wording changes, if necessary.
7. Prepare a written report identifying issues and recommendations, including the range of views and rationale when consensus is not possible. Included in the report should be any significant public comments that are received.

**Membership, Roles, and Responsibilities**

Chair

Directs the development of agendas, runs the meetings, and ensures that the minutes are correct and approved by the Committee.

Committee Members

Determine committee work schedule, analyze issues, network with others, provide input and guidance to staff, and make recommendations to the State Forester.

Stephen Fitzgerald, Chair, OSU Extension Service  
Geoff Babb, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Representative  
Stan Benson, Public, Hood River  
Jim Brown, Public, Portland  
Erik Christiansen, DOI/Bureau of Land Management Representative  
Mike Dykzeul, Oregon Forest Industries Council Representative  
Brian Jennison, Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, Air Quality Representative  
Gregory McClarren, Public, Bend/Redmond  
Lee Miller, Small Woodland Owners, Philomath  
Jim Russell, USDA/ Forest Service Representative  
Gary Stevens, Jackson County, County Representative

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## Technical Staff

Provide technical and policy information and advice, answer questions on technical, policy and legal issues, and offer issue presentations to aid committee deliberation. Identify scientists and others that have information of value to the Committee and invite these parties to present information to the Committee. Provide logistical support.

The following staff will sit at the table to provide support:

Protection/Smoke Management: Mike Ziolko, ODF

Air Quality: David Collier, DEQ

Administrative Support – Cindy Smith, ODF

## Other State and Federal Agency Participants

Provide technical and policy information and advice upon request of the Committee and answer Committee questions.

## Citizen and Scientist Participants

Provide information and input to the Committee at specified times to be determined by the Committee.

## **Statement of Individual Commitment and Accountability; Working Guidelines**

Working guidelines are statements of behavior, which, if mutually understood, accepted, and supported by members of a group or team, improve the flow of useful information and create a climate for increased effectiveness and enjoyment of work.

Members commit to participate actively and will strive to attend all meetings and field trips.

Members will foster collaborative discussion by:

- Listening actively and demonstrating that you understand.
- Making clear if you are speaking for yourself or the group.
- Respecting the difference between fact and opinion.
- Avoiding jargon and “loaded” words.
- Remaining focused on the charges outlined in the charter and refraining from pursuing additional issues or objectives.

Members will be respectful of a diversity of opinion and allow for an open, constructive dialogue.

Members will be sensitive to time constraints and keep remarks concise and to the point.

Members will focus on interests/ideas not on positions and persons.

Members will strive for seeking a range of information sources, recognizing that good information is needed for good decisions.

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Members recognize that appropriate humor is important to enjoying the process and building a team and that inappropriate humor may have the opposite result.