Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) Annual Report
July 26, 2012

Report presented by Craig W. Shinn, Chair of CFF, on behalf of the Committee

The Committee for Family Forestlands is pleased to provide a report of its activities over the past year (July 2011 – June 2012). This year’s report outlines accomplishments of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) and discusses progress made on a forward-looking agenda to address key issues for family forestlands. The CFF chair will be available at the Board meeting to discuss emerging policy issues and recommendations developed by the Committee.

The CFF, a standing committee of the Oregon Board of Forestry, provides advice to the Board of Forestry and the State Forester on matters relating to Family Forestlands, including the formulation of family forestland policy and the evaluation of the effects that changes in forest policy have or will have on family forestland owners. The Committee also provides guidance on the Department of Forestry’s strategies and actions to improve services to family forestlands and their owners and provides an avenue to raise public awareness of the role that family forestlands play in maintaining a healthy forest environment, economically, socially and ecologically. In giving advice to the Board and State Forester, we are mindful of and strive to be consistent with the objectives of the Forestry Program for Oregon and the Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.

Throughout the 2011-2012 work year, the CFF was impressed by the support it received from, and access it was granted to, ODF staff, State Forester Doug Decker, and members of the Board of Forestry. The Committee is gratified that its work is important to the Board and the Department and is mindful of the responsibility inherent in that respect as it goes about its work.

WORK PLAN FOR 2011-2012

The work plan for 2011-2012 focused on the following issues, which were prioritized into three tiers of importance in terms of their potential effect on family forestlands. This section reports our interest in these issues:

Tier 1 Issues

- Biomass
  A critical issue for the CFF has been loss of forest infrastructure. A forest biomass energy industry offers an important means of improving forest health and sustainability while simultaneously helping to stabilize the nation’s renewable energy sector. This is particularly true in fire-adapted western forest ecosystems. Although scientific understanding of the implications of biomass extraction is incomplete, there
is solid scientific understanding of the ecological, social, and financial risks associated with leaving forests overstocked and in declining health, and of the validity of thinning as a technique for restoring and maintaining forest vigor. The CFF weighed in on this issue with a November 2011 letter to the BOF that concurred with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute’s conclusion that “Biomass utilization for energy should be considered a tool for improving the health of our forests. To ensure a sustainable, appropriate level of development, the needs for forest restoration should determine the scale of the forest biomass energy industry.” (OFRI Report on Biomass Energy and Biofuels from Oregon’s Forests, Page 1-v.)

• **Board of Forestry Family Forestlands Tour**
  A key goal of the CFF has been to ensure that Oregon's political and social leaders think about small family forests when they hear the word "forest." Small ownerships make up 45% of all private forestlands in Oregon. When the Department of Forestry proposed taking the Board on a tour of small family forests, the CFF jumped in with offers to help the Department plan and guide a tour with the goal of introducing the Board to both key challenges facing family forest owners and creative solutions developed by those same landowners. Working closely with Andy White and other ODF staff to develop the tour agenda and materials gave both the CFF and ODF new respect for each other and alerted us to available resources at ODF as well as challenges staff face as the Private Forests Division undergoes its current review. We were pleased by the level of interest evidenced by the Board and others on the tour. The CFF is still absorbing the many ideas that came out of that tour and expects to return to the Board with more information and suggestions.

• **ODF Matter: Stem to Stern, revenue & budget models**
  The CFF functions as a sounding board for the Department on emerging issues and policies. The CFF monitors the department’s budget situation and management strategy and their implications for family forestland owners and provides initial feedback regarding a decision's potential effect on family forestland. By serving in this role, the CFF provides feedback early in the process of policy development and issue response. It is clear from the State Forester’s stated direction and the Legislative interest that several “big looks” will be occurring in the next year. CFF is prepared to robustly participate in these critical reviews.

• **Forest Cluster Infrastructure & Economic Vitality**
  The CFF has closely followed the work of the Forest Cluster group and prepared its own recommendations to the BOF regarding loss of forest infrastructure. This remains a critical issue for the CFF. A vital forest cluster is critical to ensure that forestlands stay in forests. This is particularly true for family forestland owners we represent. By definition family forestland holdings are small, a few acres to 5,000, with well over a hundred thousand small forestland owners in Oregon. Owners of family forests are dependent on the capacity, competency and availability of those in the larger forest cluster for managing their lands and realizing the values associated with their lands. Active forest management plays a critical role not only in
maintaining forest health and productivity across the forest landscape but also in sustaining the infrastructure that all forestland owners depend upon. Family forestland owners must be financially viable regardless of the management objectives they hold for their lands. The CFF has become particularly aware of how close to the edge many components of the forest sector are in eastern and southwest Oregon, and the CFF is concerned about the direction forest management will take on federal lands. These areas deserve special, immediate attention.

- **Eastern Oregon Forest Management**
  Eastern Oregon’s forests have seen decades of excessive suppression of natural wildfires on both public and private lands, and well-intentioned but often inadequately informed social resistance to the active management of forests, particularly public forests. Many eastern Oregon forests are consequently severely overstocked and in rapidly declining health. As the forests have declined, so have the rural communities and industries that depend upon them.

  There is an increasing readiness among many stakeholders to more actively manage eastern Oregon forests to restore their health. The health of the forests, however, is sufficiently impaired that there is urgent need for an immediate, well-informed, and determined turnaround in management strategy that includes prompt and continued state efforts to better educate stakeholders about good forest practices and to develop policies to revitalize the labor force and infrastructure required for active forest management. The forests need the labor and infrastructure as surely as the labor and infrastructure need the forests; the forests cannot be tended without them.

  Federal forests are crucial to eastside forest health. Privately-owned family forests cannot be sustained in healthy condition if nearby federal forests are not kept healthy. Unhealthy federal forests are often the source of wildfires and insect and disease epidemics that cross boundaries, damaging private forestlands. Additionally, family forest owners rely on the federal forests to help supply local mills, since harvest levels from family forests alone are insufficient to keep those mills operating. As a result, state policies pertaining to eastside family forests must include careful coordination with federal agencies and lawmakers, in addition to the more obvious attention to issues directly pertaining to family-owned lands.

- **Water Issues**
  The CFF has been studying water issues facing small forest owners--most notably protection of water quality on forestlands--since at least 2009. This past work year, two significant issues rose to the top of our agenda: DEQ's effort to develop implementation-ready TMDL’s for the mid-coast region (and eventually other sectors) and the potential impacts of ODF’s RipStream study. With their smaller acreages and position in the landscape at the lowest points in Oregon's mountain stream systems, family forests are highly impacted by rules that govern water and riparian zone management. The CFF has kept close tabs on DEQ and ODF as these departments
wend their ways through the rule-making process. The CFF intends to remain active in monitoring these processes, offering input where and when appropriate.

- **Oregon Health Authority**
  As a follow-up to the Board's 2011 investigation of pesticide use monitoring by the various Oregon state agencies, the CFF invited the Oregon Health Authority to present its take on the connections between water contaminants, forestry, and public health. The Forest Practices Act, although in large part guided by public concerns for human health (e.g., Clean Water Act concerns), makes no prescriptions based directly on health. Understanding OHA's perspective on water quality will help the CFF communicate more effectively with both the Board and family forest owners about water and health issues.

  The CFF also received an update from the OHA on the PARC investigation of pesticide use complaints in the Triangle Lake area.

  The CFF followed up this visit with a June letter to Jae Douglas and Karen Kelley of OHA expressing our gratitude for their willingness to share their information and also some concerns that the Health Authority may not fully understand some of the forestry information it utilizes. The Committee offered to assist OHA in developing a better understanding of that information.

- **CFF Charter**
  The CFF has again asked the Board of Forestry to amend its charter. In the past the CFF has requested (and the Board has granted) changes that allowed the Committee to maintain a staggered membership, thereby facilitating continued institutional memory as well as the development of good collaborative relationships among Committee members. Today the CFF will ask the Board to allow the Committee to appoint its own ex-officio members, within the categories established by the Board. The CFF wants both to encourage individuals to volunteer to serve in these categories (and therefore wants to be able to offer short-term appointments) and to relieve the Board of the obligation to confirm ex-officio appointments on a frequent basis. The CFF, therefore, asks the Board to delegate to the Committee the power and authority to appoint individuals as ex-officio members for two-year terms, with no maximum number of terms. This request is on the Board's agenda for today's meeting.

**Tier 2 Issues**

- **Intergenerational Transfer**
  This remains a constant concern of family forestland owners. The CFF is committed to finding ways to help families and communities recognize and address issues that impact the transfer of forestlands from one generation to the next. The Committee supports use of the Ties to the Land curriculum to engage landowners and to help train foresters who interact with family forestland owners to assist landowners in
addressing the importance of succession planning. The CFF will continue working with the Oregon Partnership for Forestry Education to develop a strategic plan for meeting landowner education needs in this and other areas.

- **Financing Forests and Forestry – Taxes and the business of Family Forestry**
  In the last several years CFF has looked at various aspects of the “business case” for family forestland owners including taxes, incentives and disincentives, and other carrying costs. In discussions this year, CFF has decided to take a “land owner up” perspective on this issue. The idea is to aggregate the various burdens and benefits that impinge on family forestland owners. Specific issues and recommendations are likely to both reach back for content covered in the last few years and plow new ground.

- **Reconnecting Oregonians to Forests -- OFRI, Ties to Land, Other Tools**
  The CFF is keenly aware of the ongoing need to develop intensive public education on family forestland issues and to reconnect Oregonians to the relevance of forests and forestry to their lives. The CFF has worked to collaborate with NGOs to find funding, provide training, develop educational material, and build solutions. To help build awareness of and pride in using locally-grown wood and other products, the CFF urged the state legislature to adopt a "wood first" measure for public construction. The CFF has also discussed reconnecting urban and rural Oregonians through the marketplace by, for example, improving marketing and public relations efforts on behalf of local wood products, and developing local farmer’s market-style outlets for wood products.

- **Social Contract to Practice Forestry**
  The CFF’s strong interest in reinforcing this concept will continue. Non-industrial private forests comprise a unique and irreplaceable component of the forested landscape, providing a diverse mosaic of stand structures and habitats. They are also the forests most often located in the wildland-urban interface, in close proximity to the majority of the human population. Consequently, they foster many of society’s strongest impressions of and relationships with forests and forest management. Public interest in the management, retention, and regulation of these forests is steadily escalating as the myriad links between healthy forests and human well-being are better understood. Private forest owners face substantial operational challenges, and more financially attractive opportunities to utilize their land for purposes other than sustaining forests often arise. Broad-scale retention and prudent management of family forests therefore requires a compelling ‘social contract’ between private forest owners and the public. To be effective, this contract must be ecologically sound, financially viable for both the public and the forest owners, and socially fair in terms of its distribution of public and private responsibilities for producing essential ecosystem services. The social contract must therefore include:
    1. Robust provisions for educating forest owners and the public about good forest practices;
2. A broad-based social and legislative commitment to provide a positive public atmosphere and appropriate cost-share support for the production of required ecosystem services;
3. Appropriate public funding for the Department of Forestry, and for ongoing implementation, adaptive review, and modification of the Forest Practices Act and other forest-related mandates;
4. A viable, accessible forest industry to enable forest owners to design and implement sustainable forest improvement and harvest practices; and
5. A social, legal, and financial framework that enables forest retention during the process of intergenerational transfer.

- **Ecosystems Services**
  The CFF shares ODF’s assessment that ecosystem services markets have the potential to help maintain forests as working forests and will continue to watch the development of such markets closely. When properly designed and implemented, an ecosystem services market system should help address unresolved issues associated with regulatory inequities faced by small forestland owners. The Committee also agrees that such markets should adopt regulatory baseline policies that include all services the land provides whether required by law (such as the Forest Practices Act) or not. The Committee also believes landowners and markets should be free to trade services individually (stacked) or in bundles.

**Tier 3 Issues**

- **Forest Protection Associations**
  CFF is aware of FPAs and the critical role they play in Oregon’s forest protection system. However, many CFF members have not been closely involved in these organizations. The goal is to become more aware of the history, structure and function of these associations and critically appraise the relationship of these associations with family forestlands and their owners.

- **Interagency Opportunities – Federal (e.g., NRCS) and State**
  Once again in this past year, ODF, the Board of Forestry, and the CFF have worked with sister agencies on issues that affect family forestlands. The debate about the roles of the Department and DEQ in developing regulations for non-point-source pollution of waters on private forestlands continues as does discussion of ways to engage constructively with federal agencies and NGOs to improve federal forest management. The importance of strong relationships between agencies, jurisdictions and organizations cannot be overstressed. This issue area includes narrow topics like those surrounding water quality and the availability of supporting services and programs from NRCS. It also includes broader issues like federal initiatives in landscape conservation and state initiatives in watershed management--all issues that are critically important to family forestland owners.
• CFF is particularly aware that ODF has served as a "one-stop shop" to forestland owners for information, technical services, and efficient, integrated approaches for forest management. One over-arching concern of CFF relates to challenges the Department faces in continuing this role of bridging jurisdictional boundaries in areas like watershed, land use, fish & wildlife, and clean water protection. CFF will look for ways to help ODF or other partnering organizations to develop, redesign, or retain this bridging function that is of high importance to family forestland owners and to become more aware of opportunities other agencies, jurisdictions and organizations have in support of family forestry.

• The CFF hopes that filling its vacant Public Land Manager position with someone from a federal agency will help meet the Committee's desires to become more familiar with and possibly influence local NRCS objectives and practices and/or to discover ways to help family forest owners in eastern Oregon work with their federal neighbors to improve all landholdings.

• **Conservation Mechanisms**
  The CFF will continue exploring a range of conservation mechanisms in the interest of both the "intergenerational transfer" of family forestland and "keeping forestland in forest." The Committee will search for mechanisms that are accessible and acceptable to family forestland owners while also being appropriate in the state of Oregon. This should include interfacing with local agencies as well as investigating strategies used successfully in other states to encourage and provide incentives that favor continuity of active family forestland management.

• **Board Member Meetings**
  Over the past two years, the CFF has met productively with several Board members. As the Board faces its own turnover issues, the CFF hopes to continue the practice of inviting Board members to attend Committee meetings to discuss issues of importance to both the Board member and family forest owners.

• **Issues of the Day**
  The CFF has become a nimble working group, ready and able to deal with new issues as they emerge. This work plan item is a place holder for such issues and reflects the judgment of CFF that emerging issues will be a significant part of each year’s work. This past year emerging issues included assisting the Department in planning and staging the Family Forest Tour in November and subsequently planning its own tour to eastern Oregon to better understand unique eastside issues. The state legislature will meet in 2013, and the CFF will be ready to assist the Department in identifying various issues' effects on family forestlands for the legislators. Another issue that is sure to surface again in the coming work year involves forest roads as point sources of water pollutants. Since 1976, the EPA has not required permits for forestry activity, allowing the states to regulate forestry through Best Management Practices. The CFF supports this "Silvicultural Exemption" and Oregon's regulation of forestry under the Forest Practices Act. As of this writing, the fate of the Court's decision in
**NEDC v. Decker (formerly Brown)** is still not clear, with both the EPA and Congress working to provide a clear rule; the CFF will continue to monitor progress on this rule development in an attempt to ensure that assistance is available to family forest owners for compliance and that family forest owners are treated equitably under any federal or state legislation that results.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2011-2012**

The Committee used the 2011-2012 CFF workplan objectives to focus our efforts over the past year. As the year progressed, the CFF made adjustments to its workplan, scheduled agenda items reflecting new urgent topics as well as planned priority issues. The schedule was determined more than usual by events of the day, with a significant part of the first half of the year devoted to planning and conducting the Board's Family Forestland tour and the second half emphasizing eastern Oregon forest issues. Water quality and inter-agency decision-making remained key priorities, and invited guests from ODF, DEQ, and other agencies and NGOs briefed the Committee on these and other topics. In particular, eastern Oregon forests and related family forestland issues became a strong focus leading to our June meeting in eastern Oregon.

**July 2011**

- Presented its annual report to the Board of Forestry.

**August 2011**

- With ODF's blessing, planning began for November BOF small woodlands tour. Meeting included a status review of current planning; CFF generated themes and topics for the tour, brainstorming specific site visits and potential participants in a “next generation” panel for the tour.

- Specific follow up assignments were made with a strategy for integrating CFF interests with Board of Forestry interests for the tour.

**September 2011**

- Continued planning for the November BOF family forestlands tour. CFF reviewed the current status and logistics, developed a script and defined roles for CFF members, assigned CFF members for landowner contacts and interfaced with ODF staff to develop final materials package and plan for final details.

- Finalized letter to BOF on biomass detailing CFF’s concerns and aspirations for forest biomass as a fuel source and solution for maintaining forest health, especially in eastern Oregon forests.
• Reviewed Hot Topics including Sudden Oak Death, Ripstream, transitions at ODF (Board and Legislative initiatives, status of search for Deputy Chief).

October 2011

• Final planning for November BOF small woodlands tour. This included a dry run in the field with ODF Staff and landowners. We reviewed logistics, refined the script, roles and materials needed, and finalized responsibility for residual matters. The CFF members reviewed the themes, topics and talking points for the tour. We left the day confident that ODF staff had the day well in hand and that the tour would provide a day of valuable content and interaction among attendees.

November 2011

• BOF Tour: CFF helped ODF staff lead a successful Family Forestlands field tour. Tour highlights included the opportunity for CFF members to engage directly with Board of Forestry members and others participating in the tour. While many topics were discussed as planned, the tour also underscored a number of topics that CFF needs to carry forward: land use issues; diversity of forestlands and ownership sizes/objects with special attention to eastern Oregon; building permits in family forests; riparian and water quality regulations; forest and wood products marketing for family forestland owners, financial planning (gifting strategies; generational transfer; taxes; estate planning). The Next Generation Panel was a particularly insightful part of the tour and underscored both the opportunity and challenges next generation members face in considering their own plans for owning and managing forestlands.

December 2011

• Lena Tucker introduced as the new Deputy Chief officially replacing Peter Daugherty in January. Peter filled the Committee’s vacant ex-officio position for ODF in his new role as Division Chief for Private Forests.

• DEQ non-point-source regulation and permitting. Guest Josh Seed with Oregon DEQ discussed Clean Water Act compliance. State and landowner commitment to water quality remains paramount. Beneficial outcomes should be Oregon’s goal. This session allowed CFF to understand DEQ’s approach and understanding to clean water issues related to forests and forest operations.

• Eastern Oregon issues discussion. Leading this discussion was Roje Gootee, CFF Member representing eastern Oregon, a family forestland owner and expert in eastside forest management. Here are summary points:
  o Major transition in the forest/ranching goals.
The region is half the state – water, carbon, open spaces, wildlife and high quality (but slower growing) timber – need to address the large working ecosystem.

Different challenges and reasons for buying forestlands. You must have 160 acres for a landowner hunting tag, thus there is a minimum 162 acre requirement for building housing from Grant County – many landowners seek to go the route of declaring their land as agricultural instead of forestry due to classification assessments.

Bio-diverse fire-dependent ecosystem. Liability, prescribed burns and their policy, fire protection assessments are disincentives for the strategic controlled use of fires.

Insurance rate assessments are high.

Forest types being lost to juniper invasion.

Loss of wood processing infrastructure; family forests can’t keep mills going. Federal harvests are needed to sustain mills.

At a crisis point where the health and productivity of all forestlands as well as the economic health of eastern Oregon communities are at risk.

Interest in adding a landowner issues component to the Nov 2012 Board Tour in John Day.

January 2012

- Eastern Oregon discussion continued with a review of basic forest ecology.

- Hot Topics updates included discussion with State Forester Doug Decker who reviewed agency changes and management transitions, statewide management initiatives including work with Michael Jordan’s Enterprise Management Team and work with other natural resource agencies. Peter Daugherty updated the CFF on ODF/DEQ TMDL coordination, the Pesticide General Permit, and an update on Highway 36/Triangle Lake issues, including PARC’s interest in reviewing landowner records of past spray applications and submittal of a formal public records request to ODF. Lena Tucker updated the CFF on the recent BOF meeting.

- Nancy Hirsch (ODF; Chief Fire Protection Division) joined the CFF meeting to discuss the status of the Fire Protection Funding Committee and its work.

- Membership review – CFF recommends to the BOF that Watkins and Barnes be reappointed for 2nd term.

February 2012

- Welcomed guests from the national Tree Farm Office who were in Oregon.

- Forest Health updates: David Shaw and Rob Flowers provided a summary of trends in insect damage in Oregon with emphasis on conditions on the eastside. The key
residual question for CFF was - What should family forestland owners do to mitigate risks?

- Hot Topics reviewed included updates by the State Forester on new BOF members and statewide assessment processes that will contribute to 2013 planning. CFF members involved with the Forest Protection Funding Committee provided an update.

- Riparian Protections. Peter Daugherty reviewed the status of Riparian Protections on Small and Medium Fishbearing Steams. This discussion led to a decision by CFF to draft a principles letter on these and related matters.

- CFF began a review of governance issues including sequencing of member terms, policy on ex officio members, and, by request, consideration of the CFF Charter.

- Based on the recommendation of CFF member Sara Leiman CFF nominated a family forestland owner (Joe Steere) in the coastal zone area (Siuslaw – Alsea) to participate on the stakeholder advisory committee for the ODF/DEQ Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) coordination process.

March 2012

- Eastern Oregon Forests: Mike Cloughsey (CFF member representing OFRI) showed the Oregon Federal Forestland video and led a discussion of the implications. This included discussion of the Federal Forest Advisory Committee Implementation Working Group.

- CFF reviewed insights from the Oregon’s Forests and Water Symposium.

- CFF agreed to draft a letter to the BOF related to fire protection funding.

- Hot Topics review included updates on the Pesticide General Permit, Hwy 36/ Triangle Lake issues, and the status of the ODF compliance audit.

April 2012

- CFF heard a presentation on Oregon drinking water standards from Oregon Health Authority representatives Jae Douglas and Karen Kelly, who reviewed their approach to drinking water standards and the role of forests in ensuring safe drinking water. The human health perspective was new to most CFF members and insightful. The overwhelming response of CFF was to underscore the importance of ensuring water quality and in particular safe drinking water. We also decided that as we had a lot to learn about human health aspects of water quality, OHA could learn more about forests, forestry and forest management. CFF decided to draft a letter of appreciation which would include an offer to help OHA understand forests better. CFF approved a
letter to BOF regarding fire protection funding concepts (mailed May 4).

- CFF discussed representation at the April joint BOF-EQC meeting and tour related to water quality issues on the coast including DEQ’s development of the mid-coast implementation-ready TMDL and initiation of the BOF’s rule-making analysis for riparian protection standards. We agreed that CFF members attending should make a point to introduce themselves to new BOF members. CFF reviewed some talking points reflecting CFF’s ongoing attention to water quality issues from the perspective of family forestlands, including:
  - Solve the problem that exists rather than the problem we think is there.
  - Use science to inform decisions.
  - Have regulations that are understandable and easy to implement.
  - Prefer to have ODF be the sole regulatory agency for forestland owners.
  - Legacy road improvements are expensive to deal with for small landowners.

- CFF reviewed recommendations for committee membership, policy for ex officio membership and charter revisions for presentation to the BOF at its July meeting.

- The Committee finalized its letter to the BOF on riparian protections (mailed April 25).

May 2012

- Eastern Oregon Forests: Eric Crum, a PSU master’s student, and Mike Cloughsey, CFF member representing OFRI, reviewed the eastside forest survey and landscape assessment tool kit. The toolkit includes an interactive mapping function with data layers allowing a user to explore a variety of eastside issues including forest health, infrastructure changes and forest ecology. The CFF was intrigued with the tool and excited about the prospect of using it in final form. The material presented also contributed to our understanding of eastern Oregon forest issues.

- Marganne Allen updated the CFF on the Mid-Coast TMDL process and the Riparian Protection Standards rule-making analysis.

- CFF began preparation of the CFF annual report by reviewing the structure of the report and brainstorming emerging topics and priorities for next year’s work plan.

- Final preparation for the CFF’s June field meeting in eastern Oregon.

June 2012

- CFF met in John Day as part of its eastern Oregon tour. The Committee expects to submit to the Board a White Paper summarizing the work done this 2011-2012 year to more fully understand eastside issues.
The Committee outlined its Annual Report to the BOF and its forward-looking agenda.

WORK PLAN FOR 2012-2013

The Committee developed new objectives to direct its efforts in the upcoming 2012-2013 year by re-evaluating its 2011-2012 objectives in light of the past year’s accomplishments and changing circumstances, including the Department's planned review of the Private Forests division, the continued state budget crisis, and emerging issues. The Forestry Program for Oregon and Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management were used for overarching guidance.

Consistent with the Board of Forestry’s policy objectives for Private Forests, keeping family forestlands in forest remains the key issue for the Committee (keep working forests working).

In the coming year, the committee plans to address the following issues, which are prioritized into three tiers of importance in terms of how they could potentially affect family forestlands:

**Tier 1 Issues**

- Water issues will continue to dominate, including on-going ODF and DEQ efforts regarding the mid-coast TMDL and RipStream riparian protection standards processes.

- Critical infrastructure issues, especially on the eastside including capacity of contractors and mills that purchase small woodlot products and connecting across ownerships, large and family.

- Family ownership of forestland:
  - taxes and financial issues
  - next generations
  - positive impacts of family forestlands
  - adjacent lands issues

- Eastside issues and development of a summary white paper from the perspective of family forestlands and their owners.

- Fire protection funding.

**Tier 2 Issues**

- Oregon Legislature 2013
• Private Forest stem to stern review → Information and communication with family forestland owners; outreach to the public regarding family forestland issues
• Spotted owl critical habitat – monitoring
• Positive impacts of family landownership and small forests in general
• Ways CFF might influence federal policy (Farm Bill); explore the range of (state and federal) incentive programs available to family forestland owners

**Tier 3 Issues**

• Adjacent lands' effects on family forests.
• Recruit federal partner representation to the Committee as ex-officio member (Public Land Manager category).
• ODF strategies related to a uniform plan.
• Compliance audit.
• Issues of the day.