Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) Annual Report
July 25, 2013

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 2012 – June 2013). 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.

The membership of the Committee for Family Forestlands 2012-2013 is as follows:

Craig Shinn, (Public Member) Chairman, Voting Member
Susan Watkins, (Family Forestland Owner at Large) Vice Chair, Voting Member
Lena Tucker, (Deputy Chief ODF Private Forests Division) Secretary (non-voting)
Sara Leiman, (Northwest Family Forestland Owner)Voting Member
Rick Barnes, (Southern Family Forestland Owner) Voting Member
Scott Gray, (Forest Industry Representative) Voting Member
Sarah Deumling, (Environmental Representative) Voting Member
Roje Gootee, (Eastern Family Forestland Owner) Voting Member
Brad Withrow-Robinson, (OSU Extension) Ex-Officio
Jim James, (Small Forest Association Representative) Ex-Officio
Cindy Glick, (Federal Forests Representative) Ex-Officio
Mike Cloughesy, (OFRI Representative) Ex-Officio
Rex Storm, (Contractors Representative) Ex-Officio
Peter Daugherty, (Chief Private Forest Division) Ex-Officio

We would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Throughout the 2012-2013 work year, the CFF was impressed by the work of staff, especially during the transition from Peter Daugherty to Lena Tucker, new Private Forests Deputy Chief as their roles and responsibilities to the Committee changed. We welcomed Susan Dominique providing Administrative
Support to the Committee. We appreciated the access to and support we have had from Doug Decker, State Forester and members of the Board of Forestry.

We would like to specifically acknowledge the contributions of Jim Cathcart, Cooperative Forestry Manager; Norm Miller, Partnership Development Program Director; George Ponte, Central Oregon District Forester for his leadership on the Private Lands Collaborative Pilot Project and Ashley Probst and Brad Knotts for their work on HB2165 Rule Changes. The committee would like include special recognition for the contributions of Kevin Weeks, ODF Public Affairs Specialist who passed away in March of this year. His assistance with news releases and his energy, good humor and sound communications advice and counsel were much appreciated by the committee in 2012.

This Annual Report is organized in the following way: key accomplishments for the last year, the topical work plan for last year, the topical work plan for 2013-14 and then a detailed review of work accomplished by topical issue for the 2012-13 work plan. Taken together, the first three items provide a cogent executive summary of the CFF’s work over the last year. The expanded review provides details. As you are aware the CFF website hosted on the ODF site under the Board of Forestry contains details regarding committee structure, agendas, meeting minutes and all formal recommendations, letters, reports and memos authored by the Committee for Family Forestlands in 2012-13. The committee is gratified that its work is important to the Board, the Department and family forestland owners and is mindful of the responsibility inherent in that respect as we go about our work.

**CFF Accomplishments 2012-2013**

- The white paper, *Oregon’s Eastside Forests 2012: The Family Forestland Owner’s Perspective*, was submitted to the Board of Forestry and State Forester in November 2012. This white paper identified key issues, offered policy recommendations and is being used as a resource by the BOF Sub-Committee on Eastside Oregon issues.

- Tracked water policy issues related to forests and forestry including evaluation of data from the RipStream Study and discussion of goals and objectives related to expansion to include other watershed studies.

- Composed and delivered a Letter to BOF - Support for the recommendation to include prescribed fire in the BOF’s Fire Protection Work Plan October 30, 2012


- Composed and delivered a supporting letter to BOF – Re: HB 2050 Wildfire Protection Act March 18, 2013

- Composed and delivered a Letter to Joint Ways & Means Committee in Support of Private Forests Funding, April 18, 2013.
• Provided support to proposals for ODF Division of Private Forests Funding and for the Wildfire Protection Act through legislative testimony.

• Composed and delivered a Letter to Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources – Support for OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Budget, May 22, 2013.

• Provided review and comments on HB 2165 Rule Changes on Riparian Written Plan Requirements.

• Focused significantly on engagement with our federal partners including the US Forest Service and National Resource Conservation Service. After deliberation, the CFF decided to add a federal ex-officio member. This culminated in Federal Membership recruitment for the CFF position as Cindy Glick, District Ranger Sweet Home Ranger District, was nominated and accepted.

• Made broader use of OSU Extension for input on prioritized topics by engaging directly with Jim Johnson, OSU Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement (OSU Extension), and taking advantage of not only current ex-officio member Brad Withrow-Robinson, but engaging relevant extension specialists related to the emerging Eastern Oregon Forest Private Lands Collaborative.

• Initiated efforts to establish a pilot project for a private lands collaborative in the Middle Fork John Day River area. Prepared a pre-proposal for USFS State and Private grant funding to further this project in the 2014 CFF work plan.

• Engaged in discussion regarding the OSU Starker Chair recruitment and Cameron Demonstration Forest management planning with OSU Dean Thomas Maness. The committee requested inclusion in the recruitment process.

• Investigated the current forestland tax situation in Oregon with the objectives of identifying issues of concern in tax policy and private landowner needs in understanding programs and processes. Future work plans include creating an outline of potential future actions which may include: release of an educational publication and symposium.

2012-2013 Topical Work Plan

The Committee’s work plan for 2012-2013 issues were identified and prioritized into three tiers of importance in terms of how they could potentially affect family forestlands. This forward looking work plan provided the basis for organizing CFF meetings over the course of the year.

Tier 1 Issues

1.1 Water issues, specifically the ODF and DEQ efforts regarding the Mid-Coast TMDL and RipStream riparian protection standards.
1.2 Critical infrastructure issues, especially on the eastside, including contractor and mill capacity.
1.3 Issues directly affecting family ownership of forestland such as taxes and financial issues, next generations, adjacent lands, and promotion of family ownership impacts.
1.4 Eastside issues and development of a summary white paper from the perspective of family forestland owners.
1.5 Fire protection funding.

**Tier 2 Issues**

2.1 Oregon Legislature 2013
2.2 Private Forests Stem-to-Stern Review regarding the communication and outreach to family forestland owners.
2.3 Spotted Owl critical habitat and monitoring.
2.4 Positive impact of family ownership and small woodlands.
2.5 Looking at ways the CFF could influence federal policy (Farm Bill) exploring State and Federal incentive programs available to family forestland owners.

**Tier 3 Issues**

3.1 Adjacent lands affect on family forests.
3.2 Recruitment of federal partner representation to the Committee (Public Land Manager category).
3.3 ODF strategies related to a Uniform Plan.
3.4 Compliance Audit of FPA.
3.5 Issues of the day.

**2013-2014 Work Plan**

The Committee developed its new objectives which will direct its efforts in the 2013-2014 year by evaluating the objectives of the past year in light of the year’s accomplishments and changing circumstances and adding any new subjects of concern.
In the coming year the committee plans to address the following issues, which are prioritized into three tiers of importance in their potential affect to family forestlands.

**Tier 1 Issues**

1.1 Tax and Finance Issues facing family forestland owners.
1.2 Private Lands Collaborative Pilot Project
1.3 Continuation of Riparian Rules Analysis work by the BOF
1.4 Extension Program Funding
1.5 Private Land Restoration after Fire
1.6 Contracting/Operator Capacity
1.7 Water Quality – Roads and Operations

**Tier 2 Issues**

2.1 Public Values on Ecosystem Services
2.2 Intergenerational Capacity
2.3 Federal Lands engagement
2.4 ‘All Lands’ approach for Federal and Private Lands (in Linn County)
2.5 Technical Assistance for Family Forestland Owners
2.6 Fire Management
2.7 Impacts of FPA through Compliance Audit/FERNS/Outreach
2.8 Board of Forestry directed issues/invitations to BOF Members
2.9 Formal communication to Public/Non-Landowner
2.10 Private Forests Stem-to-Stem Review

Tier 3 Issues

3.1 Neighbor Issues
3.2 Climate Change
3.3 Entry/Barriers to Ownership
3.4 Short Legislative Session

Detail of Accomplishments for 2012 – 2013 by Topical Work Plan Issue

Outlined below is the detail by topic of issue and activity organized according to the committee’s prioritized issues for 2012-2013. Details also include new or emerging topics of interest. Letters, memos, reports and other formal actions are recorded on the CFF website located on the ODF external site. [http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/pages/board/cff/cff.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/pages/board/cff/cff.aspx)

Major efforts to note on the work plan include; completing the white paper on Eastside issues important to family forestland owners, tracking water related issues and initiating a plan of work on tax & finance issues. In addition, work on several topics came together under one project. The issues of Eastside forests, federal land/ family forestland interaction, keeping forests in forestland, infrastructure, etc., all became important components of the project the CFF initiated to develop a pilot forest lands cooperative anchored on private family forestlands.

Tier 1 Issues

1.1 Water issues continued to dominate, including on-going ODF and DEQ efforts regarding the mid-coast TMDL and RipStream riparian protection standards processes. Specific topics and discussions include:

- 9/17/12 - Review of John Blackwell’s Letter dated July 18, 2012 to Craig Shinn and Susan Watkins responding to the CFF’s expressed concerns on the Board’s rule analysis process regarding water quality. Mr. Blackwell provided reassurance that the evaluation of Riparian rules will proceed in a thoughtful manner. Evaluation will be done with measured response in proportion to the scientific findings but also taking into consideration economic impacts to achieve results placing the least possible burden on family forestland owners. The Board agreed with the CFF suggestion that data evaluated will not just use the RipStream study but also be expanded to include other watershed studies. Chair Blackwell encouraged further participation by CFF in expressing their views and suggestions on behalf of the family forestland owners.

- 9/17/2012 - HB 2165 Changes to Written Plans

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The committee was provided a review of the purpose of the rule changes and scope of the rule analysis including draft language for review and comment by Ashley Probst and Brad Knotts. Rule changes will amend ORS 527-670 creating authorities and amendments for Statutory Written Plans for Type F/D Streams. This presentation began the Phase 1 Outreach. Historically, the concept began during Private Forests reductions in 2009 to look at ways to reduce the workload for Stewardship Foresters by removing the occurrence of boiler plate written plans. In 2011, HB 2165 was adopted by the Legislature and in 2012, the BOF approved analysis of the rulemaking process for written plans and the RipStream Analysis. These rule changes will be brought to CFF on a continuing basis throughout the different project phases for review and feedback.

- 11/12/2012 - Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief, gave an overview of his BOF presentation on the RipStream Study and Riparian Protection Rulemaking. The discussion had included agreement on the meaning of the phrase “maximum extent practicable” (MEP) for the rule analysis of riparian protections on small and medium fish streams. The Board determined the definition for Riparian rulemaking and in accordance with the Board’s decision a scientific review and approach leading to a set of alternatives will be developed.

- 12/17/2012 – State Forester Doug Decker was present and gave an overview of his trip to Washington, D.C. to witness the Supreme Court hearing of NEDC vs. Decker. This lawsuit was pertaining to whether forest roads would be considered as regulated point-source for water quality issues. At the time of this discussion the EPA filed an updated finding of their rule and rendered the case moot.

- 12/17/2012 – HB 2165 Update
  Ashley Probst presented changes referring to the Statutory Written Plan Requirements in ORS 629-605-0170 and ORS 629-635-0130 Written Plans for Streams, Lakes, Wetlands and Riparian Management Areas. Ashley asked for CFF feedback on the proposed changes for presentation to the BOF in March.

Brad Knotts provided and explained proposed ‘housekeeping’ rule changes timed to take advantage of the rule change period. These changes would correct obvious grammatical and formatting errors or omissions and provide omitted definition, but not alter the meaning of the rule. The committee recognized Brad’s efforts in interpreting the rule and providing mitigation of misjudgments through his review.

- 1/16/2013 - Peter Daugherty updated the committee on the Mid-Coast TMDL Process providing an overview of the CZARA lawsuit and settlement and the implementation-ready process. He expressed concern that one outcome of the suit may direct DEQ to set management measures for forest practices. The members wanted to ensure the Board knows of their concern that this remains a high priority topic.

- 6/13/2013 – Ashley Probst, reported on the current status of the Riparian rule-making per HB2165. The rule mirrors the statute and adds a notice of Technical Note for the Written Plan Rule: OAR 629-605-0170. She provided a draft of the Technical note for comment which will
be posted on the ODF external site and will serve as official notification and written plan waiver to landowners not working within RMA’s.

1.2 **Critical infrastructure issues, with eastside focus including capacity of contractors and mills that purchase small woodlot products and connecting across ownerships, large and family.**

- 9/17/2012 - East Side Forests White Paper created by the committee as an advisory resource on Eastside topics addressed the issue and provided policy recommendations on infrastructure issues on the eastside. Solutions were seen in promoting increased efforts within USFS and Collaborative groups to establish steady-stream harvest targets to stabilize the wood-processing infrastructure.

  CFF looked at the ramifications to family forestland owners to the closing of the Malheur Lumber Mill. A letter was shared that was sent from Forest Service Regional Forester Kent Connaughton to Senator Ron Wyden on the issue of timber production needs in supporting the mill.

- 12/17/2012 - Nils Christoffersen, Board of Forestry member gave the CFF a history and overview of Wallowa Resources which began as a public non-profit and private partnership for integrated biomass resources providing a marketplace for small woodland owners and increasing the infrastructure in Northeast Oregon. It began in response to the economic crisis and shutdown of mills in Wallowa County providing infrastructure that was more adaptable to the silvicultural prescriptions on federal lands. The members inquired how Nils Christoffersen viewed where the CFF should focus its efforts based on the key issues established in their White Paper on Eastside Forests. Nils’ suggestions were attention to the reduction of fire risk, use of prescribed fire, reducing landowner liability and financing for fire management. Infrastructure would be a big piece for small woodland owners to keep working forests working and creating value. Having state and federal agencies create a unified message and collaborate would facilitate forest health and economic opportunities. He was quick to point out that the impact of the loss of infrastructure and lack of progress in forest management solutions would continue to influence land use restrictions and the transfer of forestland to other uses.

- 2/13/2013 - Rex Storm reported on the BOF Sub-Committee on Eastern Oregon issues. Rex is the only public member on the sub-committee. The sub-committee was tasked with defining a list of possible actions for the Board to get engaged in the Federal Forest policy-making. The sub-committee is to come up with a list of possible actions prior to the BOF July meeting and field tour in Eastern Oregon focusing on Federal land policy. It was suggested that the sub-committee use CFF’s White Paper as a starting point for their discussions and possible engage CFF in the effort.

1.3 **Family Ownership of Forestland** (4 sub-issues)

1.3.1 **Taxes and Financial Issues**
2/13/2013 - Craig Shinn, Chair of CFF stated that fact finding, research and gathering forest landowner perspectives on forestland tax and finance issues is within the scope and range of the committee. CFF’s interest is in building a ground up understanding of tax and finance issues affecting family forestland owners to identify needs and policy implications. Sara Leiman agreed to lead on this topic and provided some of the basic tax framework and ideas on what the CFF members should study as outlined below.

1. Taxes of Holding and Owning Forestland and Products
   a. Annual Property Tax
   b. Estate/Death Tax
2. Taxes of Selling Forest Products/Land
   c. Harvest Taxes
   d. Income Taxes
3. Indirect Taxes Paid from Owning or Selling Forest Products/Land

Craig Shinn suggested that perhaps the committee could format the findings in another white paper concept to aid in policy efforts and provide recommendations to the BOF. Mike Cloughesy added the need to look at it from a variety of perspectives: Owners, Policy and Assessment. Rick Barnes concurred with the fact that changes affect Federal responsibility and landowners decisions with forestland management. Suggestion was made to have the committee get better informed by inviting tax experts (Financial Planners/Assessors/Timber Tax professionals/Extension tax experts) to each meeting to facilitate discussion and understanding towards creation of a symposium on forestland tax issues. Some issues to be considered were:

- Characterizing issues for FFLO with 10-100 acres; under 500 acres; under 5000 acres;
- Mixed use lands; eastside vs. westside; farm/forest; changing values;
- The increase tax demand because of government insolvency and being proactive as these tax rates come under threat;
- Tax incentives creating opportunity;
- Forestland reclassification;
- Tax History;
- Determination of rates.

3/13/2013 - Craig Shinn introduced two guests that were invited to participate in the topic of forestland tax issues; Norm Miller, ODF Director of the Partnership Development Program and Scott Maytubby, Yamhill County Assessor. Craig explained to the guest panel that CFF’s goal is to gain understanding of issues that affect landowners given the variety of acreage sizes under a deferral program.

Norm Miller stated that the Oregon Department of Revenue was responsible for timber tax issues because no one else had the experience or background to answer timber-related questions. Federal timber tax resources were difficult to locate as well. Communication was and still is a struggle. OFIC and OSWA have worked hard so tax programs are not seen as a deterrent to owning forestland. Administrative costs have been a challenge to counties. In general forest tax programs are more costly to administer because more monitoring is required.
Scott Maytubby provided a County Assessor’s view of forest tax issues. Assessors are in charge of Farm/Forest Special Assessments given land values from the State Department of Revenue. His view is that most counties have very little experience on special assessments. The current state of the Assessor’s Offices comes down the difficulties in administering deferral programs effectively. There is a sense of frustration for assessors in Oregon’s lack of official ‘forest’ designation leading to mistrust in the consistency of appraisals. Although all forestlands provide a great benefit to maintaining habitat and water quality, looking at the Small Tract Option (STA) versus Designated Forestland Values there are less than 10% of Small Tract Option applications that are accepted versus 99% in Special Assessment Designated Forestland. When smaller acreages are put under deferral, tax benefits to the landowner may outweigh the benefit to the state in comparison to larger tracts where is no other use of the land that would give that kind of return on investment. The Small Tract Option has a size limitation of a 10 acre minimum, but only wound up being half the size originally suggested. This was established by a DOR Administrative Rule. Part of the reason was that sometimes smaller acreages were companion tax lots next to much larger acreages and this way all lots could be treated as part of the larger unit.

Scott Maytubby discussed the consequences of Measure 50 on forestland owners and that the Measure returned taxes to the 1995 levels plus Maximum Assessed Value. Measure 50 ended cyclic appraisal and inspection requirements for assessors.

Use of the ODF Notifications of Operation by county assessors was discussed for providing added value in insuring compliance for reforestation or land use changes.

Roje Gootee added that momentum is building for consideration of the environmental services of the land to be considered in value such as deferrals for wildlife habitat. Wildlife deferral is a way to look placing an alternative value in the unusable acreages. Scott Maytubby shared that the wildlife deferral is no longer available in Yamhill County. Landowners weren’t keeping up the management of those parcels for habitat and would let them get overgrown with noxious weeds. The Wildlife Habitat Option is promising in its ability to cover the need for habitat. ODF&W with oversight of this option has requirements in place which include the approval of management plans. The challenge was people were seen to be motivated only for the tax savings and not actively managing the land.

Also discussed were Conservation Easement Plans which are gaining ground with landowners. It would be preferable for Small Forest Tracts to go under conservation, especially riparian areas. But as there is no consistency in management from property to property within green belt areas. The Conservation Easements can hold the land benefit into perpetuity.

- 04/17/2013 - Doug Schmidt, Polk County Assessor
  Doug Schmidt began with a program overview of Forest Deferral. The deferral can be established for lands that didn’t have timber before as well as ownerships with established forest inventory. ODF verifies free-to-grow status. Doug noted that most small landowners are not planting for commercial purposes, but to take advantage of lower tax rates. There are 5 kinds of special assessment that deal with forested land:
1. Highest/Best Use forestland – no application process, designation is at the assessor’s discretion. (If not buildable.)
2. Designated Forestland Special Assessment (DFSA) - Non-industrial must file an application.
3. Small Tract Forestland (STF) – subset of DFSA.
4. Farm Woodlot – up to 20 acres/farm parcel – no application.
5. Wildlife Habitat Assessment – Administered through ODF&W.

Taxable value on forestland is the same no matter the specific program. Market value is highest-best use. But if there is home site potential the market value could be higher. Lands are valued at highest/best use as other than forestland. For assessors it is important that Special Assessments values should be consistent across county lines. Values come from Department of Revenue each year. Taxes are primarily assessed at the Maximum Assessed value. There is the Real Market Value, the Maximum Assessed Market Value, Special Assessed Value and Maximum Special Assessed Value for each parcel. For property tax purposes it doesn’t matter how the land is zoned. Zoning would determine market value only, but taxes are not paid on market value.

When land is sold, the assessment stays with the land not the landowner. But with the Small Tract Forestland Program the new owner must apply or be disqualified. After harvest there is one year to bring into compliance or report land use change, or be disqualified. It can cost more each year to get the deferral than the benefit that is received. Small ownerships may pay more in expenses than they would have paid in taxes without a deferral.

The next category is “Farm Woodlot” which is a Farm Deferral. Up to 20 acres of woodlands on a working farm property under Farm Assessment would be treated as farm. The value of farmland can be higher than forest based on quality of soil and soil type.

Riparian zones or rocky unproductive openings are called “incidental openings” and are taxed similarly to the lands they are on. Assessors never disqualify riparian areas as not farmable or not forestland openings, if the area is within the deferral.

Wildlife deferral applications go to ODF&W. Not every county offers this special assessment option. Requirements include emphasis on native landscapes, land already under EFU or having critical habitat, with management plans approved by ODF&W. Landowners then need to bring the approved plan to the Assessor and fill out an application. Fish & Wildlife monitor the lands for compliance. ODF&W had put a hold on new applications because of budget cuts and lack of personnel available to monitor, but the program continued. ODF&W is doing a good job of tightening up requirements, monitoring and following up on new buyer awareness of requirements of assessment. ODF&W communicates with assessors on compliance.

The top challenges we face with forestland tax programs are where there are no trees currently on the property. Landowners generally need education and struggle keeping their trees growing successfully. Assessors refer owners to government agencies such as Extension, ODF, etc and spend a lot of time with small landowners.
Another challenge would be changes in ownership. The Assessor’s goal is to keep property in deferral. If landowners agree to plant, Assessors will work with them to verify their intent is forest production. If in an afforestation situation they must file a plan agreeing to plant 20% or not less than 2 acres/yr and also must plant the first year of assessment. Assessors’ interest is only in qualifying applications, the Assessor doesn’t judge the landowner motivation as it is immaterial. Statutes allow lands to roll from one assessment to another with no penalty, except in the case of Small Tract Forestland. Assessors wind up spending a disproportionate amount of time with the smaller landowners and non-EF zoned land or new bare land owners.

Linc Cannon, Director of Forest Resources and Taxation, OFIC continued the discussion stating that since 2001 the property tax side of things has been pretty settled, but in the last couple of years there have been a flair-up of forestland issues in the legislature. The Governor recently issued an Executive Order promoting the use of wood. Five items from that Order are the subject of working groups that have been created. Groups will be investigating wood treatment and certification. [http://www.oregon.gov/gov/docs/executive_orders/eo_12-16.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/docs/executive_orders/eo_12-16.pdf)

Providing some historical background Linc added that when Measure 5 passed, the Attorney General deemed that the Severance tax was subject to the 1.5% Measure 5 limit. The court agreed meaning the Severance tax would have gone from 6.5% to 1.5%. The legislature wasn’t very happy with that action. In 1991 industry negotiated with the Legislature and calculated equivalent rates, in theory giving them the same rate as other property owners and renamed as a “Privilege tax”. They changed the name and suddenly it wasn’t subject to Measure 5 anymore and ratcheted down from 6.5% to 5.3% to 4.7% until 1993.

In 2001 the Forest Tax Committee rejoined with concern over O&C county troubles and Federal timber harvests reductions. Legislators with environmental stakeholders proposed counterpoint solutions.

Linc suggested that this committee may want to focus on Severance taxes, forest product harvest tax, and income tax provisions. Federal-state differences in capital gains treatment of trees. There is a movement to get back to taxing trees, through severance tax. Committee members agreed with the adage that with taxes whatever you think you know, will change tomorrow.

- 6/13/2013 – Sara Leiman, Northwest Representative and lead for the CFF on tax issues led a discussion on what products or outcomes the members saw as being the best assistance to the BOF and family forestland owners on forestland taxes. Craig Shinn recommended that the next step would be to work on an agenda setting document which includes the state of our knowledge on the issue with a list of actions and recommendations for next fall. We need to assess what we know, what we think we can say and determine the path forward. The committee will look at Legislative actions, BOF actions, a list of expert resources and establishing a working group to construct this outline. In the past CFF had solicited sponsors to fund the events. OFRI and OSU were discussed as potential sponsors and facilitators for the logistics. Spring of 2014 was determined as a potential date. Sara Leiman, Craig Shinn and Susan Watkins will work on
developing the outline document and Susan Dominique volunteered to assist with editing and research.

Craig summarized this issue for the year, saying that the forestland taxation issue is more complex than we anticipated but is very critical in all the integrated impacts it has on forestland owners and keeping forests in forests. Landowner case studies will be a valuable tool in determining need. Discussion continued with the potential creation of an educational campaign on forestland taxation and to consider this initial work’s potential as a model.

1.3.2 Next Generations
This topic was discussed as a part of tax and finance implications, water policy, private forest support, state budget implications, etc. but no meeting topics were scheduled targeting this issue.

1.3.3 Positive impacts of family forestlands
As above, this issue is of ongoing concern and a part of other topics, but unlike other years, the CFF did not schedule this agenda item explicitly.

1.3.4 Adjacent lands issues
This topic is a central part of the design for the Eastside Pilot project which has been a major area of focus for CFF this year.

1.4 Eastside Forest Issues and Development of a Summary White Paper from the perspective of family forestlands and their owners.

The CFF discussed, reviewed, finalized and submitted a white paper summarizing the previous 18 months of CFF work on eastside forest issues from the perspective of family forestlands and their owners.

- 9/17/2012 - Key Issues were described and policy recommendations were made on:
  - Fire Management – Empowering forest owners to reintroduce prescribed burning
  - Species Composition Changes – Educating forestland owners about historical forest structure and species composition
  - Juniper Encroachment – development of policies to promote juniper control
  - Grazing – development of primer on integrated forest/grazing land management
  - Cultural Transition (Demographics) – Train forest industry personnel on adult education techniques to effectively outreach to the forestland owners.
  - Landscape Ecology/the link between Federal and Private Lands – developing pilot programs for local forest landowner collaboration
  - Loss of Infrastructure - Increase efforts within USFS and collaboratives to establish steady-stream harvest targets to stabilize wood-processing infrastructure

- 11/12/2012 - Roje Gootee shared her summary presentation to the BOF on the Eastside Forests White Paper explaining how the family forestland owners fit into the larger landscape in Eastern Oregon.
1.5 Fire protection funding

- 11/12/2012 – The committee was informed of the discussion at the BOF meeting November meeting on the Wildfire Protection Act and the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, a Federal process was described which included prevention and fuels reduction and the use of prescribed fire.

- 12/17/2012 – Travis Medema, Deputy Chief of the Protection from Fire Division updated the committee on the Wildfire Protection Act. He shared that the Act is the number one priority policy package for the BOF and has been fully approved in the Governor’s Balanced Budget. It will be pushed for legislative consideration in the 2013-15 budget. Travis reviewed the proposed funding structure which would help reduce the negative impacts of wildfire by allowing upfront investments to save money in the long term. The eastside has the highest protection costs and fire severity. This package will invest more of the General Fund in the base level protection for the Eastside, as well as supporting statewide severity resources.

Travis also shared his special assignment working on the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy that originated in the 2009 Flame Act (Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act) which directed the Department of Agriculture and Interior to develop a Nation-wide wildfire strategy. The Act spurred development of a solution-based strategy to mitigate costs and provide funding for large fires. The goals were a “West-centric” strategy; Collaboration and Response Capability. For Oregon it will help bring together stakeholders and partners in this effort and has the potential to drive funding and activities shaping management in the future. The Northern Blue Mountain Pilot Project was approved for funding to define what the Strategy would look like on the ground that included private and federal land.

- 2/13/2013 - Travis Medema updated the committee members on the status of the Wildfire Protection Act and stated his appreciation for the committee’s time. Travis shared a brochure created for the legislators to communicate the three key components:
  - Eastside affordability for fire protection
  - Increasing the Severity program
  - Sharing Fire Costs between landowners and the State of Oregon

- 3/13/2013- It was reported to the Committee that the Wildfire Protection Act hearing went well in the Natural Resource sub-committee in the House. Everyone seemed supportive at the hearing. Compliments were given to those testifying, Doug Decker and Travis Medema did an excellent job.

In addition, the OFIC bill pertaining to the Fire Liability issues had its first hearing. The bill would define how damages are calculated and will define liability in a fire situation. Craig Shinn noted that amounts should not be punitive but that ecological services in forest values should be considered as well as timber.

Tier 2 Issues
2.1 Oregon Legislature 2013
CFF maintains an ongoing interest in legislative activity related to family forest lands and their owners, Oregon’s forests in general and matters related to the Oregon Department of Forestry. As such, regular updates are scheduled for CFF meetings in preparation for and during legislative sessions. These include updates from CFF members, ODF staff, and others as warranted. Some of the legislative activity updated monthly throughout the session included:

- Funding for the Wildfire Protection Act
- OFIC Fire Liability Bill
- HB2441 on Pole Buildings on forestlands
- SB 578 requiring licensing of mushroom businesses. OSWA wants language changed to include “fungus” which would cover truffle harvesting which causes damage to tree root structures. If passed the BOF would have to change their definition to include fungus as a secondary forest product. The Measure would also allow additions to the FPA to include definition of other Special Forest Products within its rule-making authority.
- HB 3199 relating to the use of incendiary devices in proximity to forest areas.
- The Wild and Scenic Rivers bill which would expand the designation to certain creeks and so requiring Parks permission on the operations in those areas.
- The OSWA License Plate bill.

Specific discussions included:

- 12/17/2012 - Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief highlighted items in the Governor’s Balanced Budget as it pertained to ODF. Those items included: Funding of the Wildfire Protection Act; Gilchrist State Forest expansion using lottery funds; Integrated Effectiveness Monitoring; Forest Practices Act administration adding capacity to the program workloads and use of the General Fund to support collaborative solutions to forest health and economic issues associated with Federal lands. It was noted that there were no reductions in the Private Forests Division except for administrative cost efficiencies.
- 1/16/2013 - Peter Daugherty was present and provided a report of the January BOF meeting along with a Legislative update. He reported that Governor Kitzhaber addressed the BOF members and was urging the BOF to engage vigorously in issues surrounding dry eastside forests. The Governor expressed the opinion that the Board could be a key leader in addressing Federal policy for eastside forest management. He asked the Board to support the concept of using state funds to address federal land issues. Peter noted that the Governor shared that Oregon’s increasingly unique solutions have caught the attention of the national government. Regarding the Legislature, Peter Daugherty shared that the legislature had begun its session and that the greatest challenge was prioritizing some 3000 bills. The department will be keeping a close watch on bills drafted pertaining to integrated pest management, harvest taxes, pesticide reporting.
- 2/13/2013 - Peter Daugherty shared ODF’s role in the Governor’s Task Force on O & C Lands. Kevin Birch, ODF Public Affairs is leading the Task Force and Chad Davis is providing technical support. The Task Force came up with as list of alternatives but no consensus. The
discussion is attempting to address the checkerboard landownership patterns as a deterrent to funding solutions and the differences in regulatory authority in meeting landscape goals. Peter continued with updates on Legislative items of interest to the department. Items include the use of integrated pest management, managed forest openings for food plots for wildlife. Gary Springer, BOF was present at the meeting and, added that there is a bill pending that eliminates the forestry exemption for woody debris liability in exclusive use farm zones.

3/13/2013 - Lena Tucker, and Jim James updated the Committee on what was current in the Legislature on Forestry issues. The Wildfire Protection Act hearing went well in the House Natural Resources Sub-Committee and the bill is scheduled to go to Ways and Means. The OFIC bill pertaining to the Fire Liability issues had its first hearing. Craig Shinn noted that amounts should not be punitive but that ecological services in forest values should be considered as well as timber.

04/17/2013 - Doug Decker stopped by to give the committee an update on the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee hearings going on this week. Presentations began with an overview of the organization, our issues, a business overview and how we deliver that for the state. In advance of these hearings Doug met personally with all legislative sub-committee members. The Private Forests presentation was the first day (April 15) and had excellent reception by the sub-committee. The members recognized the re-building of the Private Forests program facilitated by the funding success at the last budget session. There was a lot of interest in the notification process upgrade. Legislative committee members did express a heightened concern over the risks to our forests from land use conversions, urban growth boundaries and higher risks for family forestland non-industrial owners. Most private timber is in developable areas. They had real interest in receiving data on those areas given that 300,000 acres of forest are within the urban growth boundaries and 1.8 million acres are within 1 mile of development.

State Forests presented on Day 2 (April 16) of the hearings discussing reduced harvest levels including the loss of positions due to reduction in harvests. Some of these reductions were attributable to the Elliot State Forest litigation for alleged violations of the endangered species act by the take of Marbled Murrelet habitat, which has enjoined 11 timber sales. Contributions to the Common School Funds for the coming fiscal year will be net zero. There was a beginning of a conversation on a re-do of the Oregon Forest Management Plan to change the approach to provide for land allocations for harvest and conservation. This would be ready for presentation at the next legislative session. Financial viability, principles and active management processes that would be associated with a new Forest Management Plan. ODF would stay focused on these lands for highest permanent value.

Day 3 (April 17) The Fire Program presented and briefed the members of the sub-committee on the Wildfire Protection Act, its importance and working attributes. The presenters compared suppression history when we could keep fires small what impact that had on dollars spent. It was described and compared with results for years where we had access to severity resources and were able to suppress 97% of all fires kept controlled at less than 10 acres.
Day 4 (April 18) was reserved for public testimony. CFF members will be there to respond to questions. Testimony from our supporters will defend the case for our budget and requested positions. Jim James will be testifying for OSWA and asked about talking points to include. One of the points was that there are 11 Policy Option Packages (POPs) in the Governor’s Budget. Peter provided a breakdown of the POPs and position authority requested and the search for a new source of cost-share for family forestlands by providing that technical assistance.

Susan Watkins will testify on behalf of CFF. All were in agreement that Craig Shinn and Susan Watkins will compose written testimony to present to the Ways and Means Sub-Committee with the following key points:

- Appreciation for reinvestment in and support for maintaining the investment of the Private Forest program;
- Examples on the ground where this has benefited family forestland owners;
- Support for the Wildfire Protection Act;
- Importance of natural resource agencies and the disproportionate amount of general funds they receive;
- Family forestland owners provide many statewide benefits and affect many Oregonians in terms of business and maintaining the vitality of forests;
- Support the 50/50 split for wildfire funding and 60/40 split for the private forests program.

6/13/2013 – Lena Tucker and Jim James shared the current status of legislative issues. Lena reported that The Wildfire Protection Act, ODF Agency Budget, Private Forests Budget have been well received prior to the end of the session. We are in line to get our POPs which included authority to fund 5 more Stewardship Foresters in rural/urban interface to focus on forestland owners in those areas. These additional positions would be funded with NRCS money when available. We need federal funding to make them whole. The other POP is work with OSU Trask Paired Watershed Studies. This position request will help build the monitoring section. The Information Technology program POPs are looking good, which is good news to Private Forests as we will need technology support to our new electronic notification system (FERNS).

The ‘Truffle’ bill is now law and specified fungus are considered Special Forest Products with legal protection from theft. Rule analysis and development for this law will lie with the Private Forests program. The other part of the bill is additional authority for the BOF to add other Special Forest Products if needed without waiting for another legislative session.

The Harvest Tax is going to be .19 cents lower than in the previous biennium. The Harvest tax will be $3.43 which includes .10/1000 increase to help the College of Forestry, OSU, OFRI.

2.2 **Private Forest Stem to Stern review**: *Information and communication with family forestland owners; outreach to the public regarding family forestland issues.*

The CFF received regular updates from Peter Daugherty as a part of his periodic reports to the CFF and also from State Forester, Doug Decker, in his briefings related to the Oregon Legislative session and preparation for committee reporting.
2.3 **Spotted owl critical habitat and monitoring**

This topic was not scheduled for special attention, though monitoring in general was. Also, updates on matters related to ESA listed species were a matter of conversation at CFF meetings in 2012 – 2013.

2.4 **Positive Impacts of Family Landownership and Small Forests in General**

In response to several work plan priorities and the question of how to follow up on the Eastside Family Forestland white paper completed in the fall of 2012, the CFF engaged in a discussion and then planned for a forest land owner cooperative anchored on family forest lands in Eastern Oregon.

- 01/16/2013 - A big item on the agenda was discussion about bringing together landowners in the John Day/Ritter area by proposing a pilot collaborative project to achieve common goals through an application for funding to the Western States Competitive Grant. This funding would provide landowners the benefits of scale and economy of working together across the landscape. Criteria for the grant includes: enhancing and managing landscapes; protecting landscapes from threats; preserving ecosystems and enhancing public benefits from private forests. OFRI was interested in being a partner in the project. The proposed project will depend upon landowner’s interest and commitment. Roje agreed to coordinate the communications to the landowners and eastside partners and set up informational meetings to assess interest.

Mike Cloughesy, OFRI and CFF Ex-Officio member and Roje Gootee, Eastern Oregon CFF member, took the lead on discussion relating to the potentials for the pilot project for the Eastside Private Lands Collaborative. The discussion revolved around potential partners and participants and timelines for grant application. Tentative partnerships were identified as:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- North Fork John Day Watershed Council
- Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)
- OSU Forestry and Natural Resource Extension
- Oregon Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF)
- Oregon Department of Forestry

- 2/13/2013 - The CFF continued the planning for the Eastern Oregon Collaborative Pilot Project. Mike Cloughesy reported commitments from ODF, CFF and Extension to the proposal. The landowner communications were to be continued and it was agreed to begin documenting the project description and deliverables detailing the activities, outputs and outcomes expected and the meeting date for principle partners. Roje Gootee shared a draft of the Letter to Landowners and circulated it for feedback. The letter objective was to promote interest in participating in the collaborative.

- 3/13/2013 - Private Forestlands Pilot Project

Roje Gootee provided an update on the pilot project. Her outreach to landowners is continuing. There was a landowner informational meeting with good attendance. Some landowners were
very enthusiastic about participating. The project concept was also brought to the attention of the NRCS at their local meeting and interest was expressed for attending the partners meeting with ODF and other stakeholders in John Day. Roje stated that the next steps were to continue with outreach and establish an information dissemination system to keep everyone informed. Mike Cloughesy is working on the grant proposal and suggestion was to name it “Middle Fork John Day Pilot Private Forestlands Collaborative”. Suggestions were made for partners in support and funding. The grant application would request $100,000/yr for 3 years. The project abstract was written adding 5 points to the pre-proposal:

1. Collaborative planning
2. Technical assistance
3. Educational assistance
4. Financial assistance
5. Documentation of the pilot

The pre-proposal described the tentative goals and objectives as follows:
- Improving forest health
- Reducing wildfire risk
- Keeping forestland in forestland
- Improving economic and social stability

- 04/17/2013 - Roje Gootee began with a quick review of the history of the pilot concept. Spatial issues on the eastside create problems with mill access and the ability to attract operators to do work because the scale is limited. One of the obvious solutions is to bundle efforts with landowners working cooperatively together to change the issues of scale. CFF has identified interest in the Ritter area of the Middle Fork of the John Day River. A predictable core group of interested landowners continues to evolve.

- CFF Members Roje Gootee, Craig Shinn, Brad Withrow-Robinson, and Mike Cloughesy traveled to John Day as committee representatives to meet with local ODF, NRCS and OSU Extension staff and others from interested agencies for the purpose of ensuring interest and potential as collaborators in the pilot project should it mature. The Monument Soil and Water Conservation District was not able to attend but did express interest. The results of the meeting covered primary sources of funding: EQUIP, NRCS and larger collaborative grants. NRCS directs monies primarily toward fuel reduction and invasive weed management but is also looking for projects with adjacency to public lands. CFF will look at expanding the project area to include other ownerships and neighbors with that adjacency that will help us better meet NRCS requirements. CFF representatives learned more detail on other collaborative efforts going on in the area like the local watershed council, although there were no other forest efforts. Technical and educational assistance needs were also identified. Financial need is high because of the isolation of the area so the main draw to landowners is the prospect of funding support. Many of the landowners are interested in engaging in this cooperative from the viewpoint of being an individual landowner interacting with a network of agencies. Landowners have a range of interests and land management goals.
• 6/13/2013 – Mike Cloughesy addressed the committee on the 2014 State and Private Forestry Grant Pre-Proposal process and timeline. On June 28 the pre-proposal is due to ODF and to Western States Forestland Coalition by July 1st. A working group was nominated to continue finalizing the Pre-Proposal edits and working on the full grant proposal. The working team will be composed of Mike Cloughesy, Brad Withrow-Robinson, Roje Gootee will work on language, Norm Miller and Lena Tucker on budget numbers and George Ponte will work on technical assistance positions and Eastside partner outreach. Motion was made and approved for the pre-proposal with suggested edits and charged the working team through a motion to submit this on behalf of the CFF within timelines. In addition, license and authority was given to the work team to continue work on the committee’s behalf and submit a complete proposal if invited to do so.

2.5 Ways CFF might influence federal policy (Farm Bill); explore the range of (state and federal) incentive programs available to family forestland owners.

• 1/16/2013 - Ron Alvarado, NRCS State Conservationist was the guest speaker at this meeting. He spoke highly of ODF’s collaborative reputation and gave an overview of the NRCS mission to provide technical decentralized assistance to landowners through locally-led decision-making processes. He addressed the Farm Bill funding situation as tangled up with the National Fiscal crisis as some Reserve Programs were set to expire. He stated NRCS goal as “To invest strategically to solve natural resource problems and be more effective, efficient and accountable for staffing, funding and partnerships.” Conservation Implementation Strategies define areas of 3-5 year investments which are locally developed. These investments cover habitat, water quality, watersheds, fire protection and fuels reduction programs. Ron suggested to the committee that landowners get involved with local workgroups by attending meetings. The collaborative partners should develop their strategy and take it to the local NRCS group. Suggestion was also made to have training provided to the landowners in working with NRCS groups, perhaps creating coached planning templates to make participation easier. Ron Alvarado noted that NRCS lacks the resources to monitor and relies on partners like DEQ, OWEB and ODA to assist with Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring.

Tier 3 Issues

3.1 Adjacent lands effects on family forests

• 04/17/2013 - Guest speaker, Paige Fischer, WWETAC, USFS, PNW Research Station did a presentation and discussion on Risk and Cooperation: Social Challenges to Restoring the Fire-prone Ponderosa Pine Ecotype on Private Lands

Paige Fischer provided background on the study that she and Gary Lettman cooperated on together. She was happy to have an opportunity to return to ODF and provide their findings. She researched how society adapts to environmental change and people’s response to risk. Wildfire risk on the eastside provided a good sample situation to explore, the interactions between neighbors and community collective action problems. This study focus was on the family forestland owner’s perceptions of fire risk and corresponding actions within the community to mitigate that risk through active forest management.
Questions researched included:
1. How family forest owners view fire and fire risk
2. Owners levels of forest management
3. Cooperation with public agencies and other owners
4. Influences on action
5. Implications for policy

3.2 Recruit federal partner representation to the Committee as ex-officio member (Public Land Manager category).

- 11/12/2012 - Federal Membership recruitment to the committee was discussed evaluating the pros and cons of an incentive-based member or someone on the land management side and what agencies could be drawn from. Suggestion was made to draw from the State and Private side of the USFS.

- 12/17/2012 - Federal Membership recruitment to the committee was discussed and members suggested nominees. Nominees were to be discussed independently by Peter Daugherty and Craig Shinn.

- 2/13/2013 - Addressing the Ex-Officio member recruitment, Craig Shinn announced that Cindy Glick, District Ranger, Sweet Home Ranger District had agreed to serve on the committee with approval from USFS management.

3.3 ODF strategies related to a Uniform Plan

This topic was a matter of periodic updates by Peter Daugherty.

3.4 Compliance Audit

Peter Daugherty reported on compliance auditing as a part of updates related to ODF’s Private Forest Division.

3.5 Issues of the day

- 12/17/2012 - Mike Cloughesy, Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) brought an overview of the new report and guide issued by OFRI created from the Partnership for Forestry Education Grant Project. “Poised to Rebound” Oregon’s Forest Sector and associated webpage www.TheForestReport.org.

- 12/17/2012 - Suggestions were made regarding inviting guests from OSU Extension to provide a broadened perspective on topics the CFF has prioritized. Jim Johnson, OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources Program was attending this meeting and supported the idea.
1/16/2013 - Joe Holmberg, Oregon Tree Farm brought up a pilot membership model they are promoting with new membership benefits and fees tied to tier levels. There was concern expressed that the new model would discourage participation but all recognized the need to sustain the organization.

11/12/2012 - Cooperative Forestry Update was provided by Jim Cathcart. Jim gave an overview of the Cooperative Forestry staff assignments and a Forest Health Update on the Swiss Needle Cast survey that was completed. Affected acreage was increasing from Lincoln County and points north. He also provided an update on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and USFS and BLM responses to treatment in the affected areas. Funding for eradication was limited and successful early detection was considered the top priority calling for a “Slow the Spread” strategy. He reported that the Pine Butterfly and Mountain Pine Beetle outbreaks were declining. Jim provided that NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) had established a priority to promote a “Strategic Approach to Conservation” allowing local groups at the county level to set the resource concerns and implementation strategies for the basins. These strategies are action items prioritized for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) funding. NRCS looks to ODF for help implementing conservation strategies by providing one-on-one technical assistance to the landowners. The Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SCC) is assisting the NRCS with its prioritizing.

1/16/2013 - Sara Leiman presented an overview of the OSU Cameron Demonstration Forest and the Starker Chair position that will be undergoing a nationwide recruitment which should be of interest to the committee and OSWA as the management of the tract is a valuable teaching environment highlighting statewide issues. The committee expressed interest in taking part in the recruitment process and re-establishing the Advisory committee for the Cameron Tract. An invitation to Dean Thomas Maness will be extended to share his vision for OSU School of Forestry.

3/13/2013 - Dean Thomas Maness, OSU School of Forestry addressed the committee on what he sees as the key issues for the College of Forestry, new curriculum development and opportunities and his vision for the Starker Chair and management strategy for the Cameron Tract. Discussion of need touched on developing a management strategy that takes into consideration that family forestland owners have a longer rotation and increased interest in wildlife and non-timber assets than industry without a lot of assets to do the work. The tract should reflect issues that family forestland owners deal with. The Dean extended an invitation to the CFF to become involved in the recruitment process for the Starker Chair in helping with recruitment, reviewing the position description and interested members serving on the interview panel.

6/13/2013 – Brad Withrow-Robinson shared that some progress is being made on formation of a committee on the Starker Chair as well as on a vacancy at OSU on directorship of the College of Forestry. Joe Holmberg offered that he is facilitating interest from the Linn County OSWA group in the Starker Chair position and Cameron Forest Demonstration Tract. He is hoping that interest might include some funding to put towards management of the forested property. Craig reaffirmed the committee’s desire to contribute to the recruitment committee in shaping the search for candidates and position expectations, description and outreach for applicants. Jim
Johnson is forming the committee and OFRI has been invited to participate. Rick Barnes and Sara Leiman are interested in representing CFF.

- 6/13/2013 – The CFF in meeting their long-standing objective of taking the monthly meeting to other areas scheduled their June meeting in Roseburg to coincide with the Oregon Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting and Field Tour. Some of OSWA’s members attended the CFF meeting and CFF representatives remained for their meeting and tour. Jim James reminded the committee of the agreement to provide CFF representation to their meetings as well.

- Bettina Ring, Senior Vice-President of American Forest Foundation (AFF) presented to the committee providing an overview of the AFF “Strengthening Partnerships and Engaging and Sustaining Landowners for the Future”. Bettina provided numbers from AFF data compilation:
  - 35% of forestland in the U.S. is owned by family forestland owners
  - 25 million acres is ATFS Certified Land
  - 7.7 million acres are properties larger than 10 acres

Tree Farm will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2016. It provides boots-on-the-ground volunteers in delivering the program. The Tree Farm System started as a recognition program and then changed to a Certification program with robust standards using international guidelines (size and scale appropriate). It is audited by a third party and is internationally recognized. ATFS Certified wood and Green Building supports families and local communities. The challenges to the system have been the decline in forestry budgets, the changes in family ownerships and the work of the state committees is stretched with limited resources. The AFF Landowner Engagement Strategy includes having a vibrant system that engages landowners; strengthening state committees; providing grant funding and financial sustainability; building capacity with partnerships and innovative tools such as [http://mylandplan.org/](http://mylandplan.org/). My Land Plan connects professionals with landowners so there is more technical assistance available. Bettina also provided an overview of a collaborative project in Wisconsin (Driftless Area) that was of great interest to the CFF in view of their collaborative pilot project.