Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at the Oregon Department of Forestry, Operations Building D, Santiam Room, Salem, Oregon.

Committee members present:
Craig Shinn
Susan Watkins
Mike Cloughesy
Scott Gray
Sarah Deumling
Joe Holmberg
Sara Leiman
Rick Barnes
Brad Withrow-Robinson
Jim James
Rex Storm
Roje Gootee

ODF staff present:
Lena Tucker
Peter Daugherty
Kyle Abraham
Mike Kroon
Jim Cathcart
Susan Dominique

Guests:
Ron Alvarado, NRCS
Bill White, NRCS
Brad Siemens, USFS

Call to Order
Chair Craig Shinn called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. 1 - Welcome, Introductions
Craig asked for any additions to the published agenda. The following topics were added:
- Mike Cloughesy requested time to demonstrate the KnowYourForest website.

Announcement from Jim James of the OSWA Annual Board Meeting on June 14th in Roseburg which will coincide with the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Meeting and Field Tour on June 15th.
- Suggestion was made to hold the June CFF Committee meeting the day of June 13th prior to the evening OSWA Board meeting and dinner, so that committee members interested in attending the OSWA meeting and tour could easily do so and scheduling these meetings together could facilitate public comment. CFF currently has June 20th scheduled for its meeting. CFF Meeting Dates will be sent out for consideration and scheduling.

1.2 - Minutes
Craig asked if members had any changes to the draft minutes from the December 17, 2012 meeting. Susan Watkins replied that she had made some changes prior to the meetings that were now reflected in the minutes provided to the committee. Susan noted that the addition of a Public Comment section to the meeting format was appropriate and should continue. The members generally were satisfied with the level of detail recorded. A typographical change was noted on page 5. Rick initiated Motion to approve the minutes with corrections as presented, Craig seconded the motion and the minutes for December 17, 2012 were approved with corrections.

1.3 - Public Comment
[No comments were presented for consideration.]
Mike led a discussion requesting the members be aware of the Pre-Proposal process and timelines for the Western Competitive Grants. There was discussion identifying potential partnerships and participants. The committee should begin to outline the pre-proposal and contact and get commitment from partners on the ground by February 13th, so that by March 13th a detailed project description of activities, anticipated outcomes and measurable goals can be provided to ODF for consideration. In April the Pre-Proposal should be finalized with a detailed budget which includes any matching funds. ODF can submit four proposals to the Grant. By May, the USFS will provide guidance and feedback. ODF will review pre-proposals and select the four that will be moved forward in the Grant process. Pre-Proposals are due by June 15th for ODF selection and Forest Service review and comment. Final results should be available by November 2013.

Tentative collaborating organizations 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 (ODF)

Craig asked Roje about her interest and availability to committing to a project of this size. Roje responded that it is an exciting idea but would demand considerable time (3 years) and energy which would require dropping some other commitments. She expressed concerns about potential conflict of interest situations as she is a forestland owner in the community where the project would be sited and would consequently benefit from the project; another layer to the conflict is her position as a member of the Board of the National Forest Foundation. It was suggested that the conflict could be addressed if she agreed to include her property but withdrew from any cost-sharing associated with the Grant. The main issue with Conflicts of Interest situations is providing the appropriate level of transparency to all concerned parties.

Rick brought up the issue that Cooperative wouldn’t work without the involvement of the stakeholders, and there may be others with conflicts as well so there should be a way to work within any COI restrictions with proper transparency.

**Action Item:** Susan Watkins will investigate Conflict of Interest (COI) parameters and provide guidance at the February meeting. Brad Siemens agreed to look at COI from the Federal side.

Roje agreed to canvas the local landowners regarding this potential collaborative project. She indicated that the majority of landowners are generally proactive in their management but have little coordination. Larger scale cross-boundary projects are favorable to many landowners in addressing active management of lands and this project could create improvement in the ability to steward to larger landscape concerns.

Jim James responded that OSWA Chapters on the eastside would be interested in being engaged in this project. With that Eastside interest, volunteers might be available to assist Roje. Possibly, Tree Farm members in Grant County as well. He suggested that Bob Parker from OSU Extension would be an integral partner.

**Action Item:** Mike C. suggested that coordination get underway for a ground meeting with Roje, Craig, Angie Johnson, John Day Unit Forester and George Ponte, Central Oregon District Forester and Extension Foresters, Bob Parker and Paul Oester as soon as possible prior to the March meeting.

Project scope was discussed with a question from Brad Siemens about the feasibility of connecting this to the Blue Mountain Partnership. Roje responded that the location does not fit in with the Blue Mt.
Collaborative. But to be ecologically relevant the project should cooperate across boundaries and include the Forest Service as a major player. Brad remarked that it is a good time for this as Federal Eastside restoration is being reviewed and collaborative projects are an attractive option.

Sarah Deumling reminded members that scale was important to project success and getting the geography too big would be detrimental. Scope will have to be developed; “eastside” may not be an adequate title.

Craig stated that the multiplicity of ownerships and adjacency of public to private lands is important. To that, Mike suggested a couple of “nested pods” determining the geography for the pilot. Craig suggested looking at a Sub-Basin Plan geography will be important.

Joe asked about Warm Springs tribal involvement in the area and their potential interest. Roje responded that there could be some opportunity for tribal involvement based upon the project location in proximity to the Middle Fork of the John Day River. John Day Watershed Council is also a possible partner.

Susan added that non-participants would help define scope as well.

Follow up comment from Brad Siemens that the Western Competitive Grant process will be undergoing an analysis of how the competitive process has worked in the past. USFS is under pressure from the Office of Budget and Management not to just have an allocation process, but needs to look at the funding decisions more strategically.

4 – Guest Speaker: NRCS State Conservationist, Ron Alvarado

[Handout/Presentation: NRCS: Forestry and the Farm Bill, PowerPoint presentation]

Peter Daugherty introduced the NRSC State Conservationist, Ron Alvarado, to the Committee. Ron has been the State Conservationist since December of 2008 with over 20 years conservation experience providing innovative leadership in Oregon and throughout the country. Bill White, Partnership Liaison for NRCS, was also introduced.

Ron spoke highly of Oregon’s place in Conservation and ODF’s collaborative reputation. He gave the committee an overview of the Natural Resource Conservation Service mission to provide technical decentralized assistance to farmers and ranchers with “boots on the ground” offices in 33 Oregon Counties, which, when combined with their belief in a locally-led decision-making process, empowers district conservationists to employ their extensive skill sets to deal with complex issues and investments.

Ron shared that NRCS works collectively at the state level with the Oregon Technical Advisory Committee with representation from 60 organizations including various agricultural groups, landowners, environmental groups, and state agencies including ODF. The Advisory Committee gathers feedback to help shape priorities for NRCS around forestry issues and concerns.

Basic to NRCS’ mission is the Farm Bill Funding which has become tangled up in the National Fiscal Cliff crisis. NRCS Reserve Programs expired at the end of the year. EQIP and other working lands programs were authorized and NRCS received partial funding through continuing resolutions. The Farm Bill has been extended for one year at 2012 levels. To continue to receive these levels of funding the NRCS has to be more strategic on where and how its funds are invested. NRCS is not the only player investing on private lands, but it is the largest investor. The NRCS approach is to “invest strategically to solve natural resource problems and be more effective, efficient and accountable for staffing, funding and partnerships.” Part of this approach is to increase coordination with other organizations by sharing data to leverage available resources in identifying top concerns and to support realistic plans to address those concerns.

These Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) define areas where 3-5 year investments will be made. These strategies are locally developed. 25% of the CIS relate to forest health investments. These
investments cover habitat, water quality, watersheds, Fire Protection and Fuels Reduction programs. Fire has been of particular concern.

For example, Peter shared that ODF and NRCS partnered in a pilot project in Northeast Oregon linking USFS Bark Beetle treatment funding with fuel treatment funds through NRCS and utilized ODF Stewardship Foresters to provide on the ground technical assistance.

Request: [Rick] The committee would like some guidance from NRCS on how family forestland owners can get involved in determining local strategies.

Ron suggested landowners could become involved in local work groups as NRCS doesn’t have to be the lead on projects, but rather support investment in local projects where other groups have taken the lead.

Mike C. brought up the Eastside White Paper recommendations and the formation of a Private lands collaborative that will be proposed to the Western Competitive Grant through the Forest Service that could tie in with EQIP funds from NRCS. He asked if it was best to talk to Bill White as liaison or Ron, or work at the local level.

[Ron] The local level is where to start; NRCS can provide the necessary resources or information through the local work group.

Craig asked if Ron could respond to how to the local planning groups function and how a forestland owner can get involved.

[Ron] These groups meet at least twice per year to set the vision for conservation strategies in a basin. Invitations are sent out and information is posted on the web. District Conservationists convene these groups. They are standing working groups; however, they are open to public participation and comment. (Ron offered to send CFF the meeting calendar.) However, another part of the challenge is that once priorities are set, prospective participants need to understand them.

As far as the Private Lands Collaborative project, the project should develop a strategy and bring it to the local working group. Needs must be brought to the table; funds will be lost if not used.

Action Item: Jim James requested a summary of today’s NRCS presentation along with future local working groups meeting dates for the next OSWA Newsletter.

[Susan Watkins] Suggested that the committee should have people do some training with small landowners as to how to participate in NRCS Local working groups. Jim suggested an NRCS presentation at OSWA’s annual meeting, and Mike suggested one at future Leadership Academies.

[Rick Barnes] Suggested that NRCS cost guidelines be reviewed and simplified because from a technical service provider standpoint they may underestimate today’s cost structure. Plan Evaluation is expensive! Doing forest inventories is costly.

Example: Requirements of a Conservation Plan currently require evaluation of entire tract; if project could be broken up into smaller increments it could reduce plan costs.

Action item: (For Jim Cathcart and Mike Kroon) Get the word out! “Whoever is at the meeting carries the day!” Groups could write their own Conservation Implementation Strategies for consideration and approval by NRCS Working Groups. Creation of “Coached Planning” templates to make participation easier was suggested. Use a systematic approach to promote participation: newsletters, ODF website, etc.

[Craig S.] What are the requirements for monitoring and evaluation? How does this work and what should the landowners expect after the project is completed?
Ron] NRCS lacks the resources to monitor. We rely on partners to help with monitoring. DEQ, OWEB and ODA are partners that assist with Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring. A strategy is needed now on the monitoring piece as well as the funding.

Peter added that this ties into the Governor’s strategy for integrated effectiveness monitoring, and ODF should become more involved. ODF has a ten-year “Enterprise Monitoring” of Conservation easements, and monitoring requirements are being met. But these efforts shouldn’t be siloed; natural resource agencies should be in partnership for outcomes.

Craig] – Expressed thanks to Ron Alvarado on behalf of the committee, for presenting, answering the committee’s questions and listening to their concerns.

LUNCH BREAK

3.1 - January Board of Forestry Meeting - Peter Daugherty

As the video segment of the Governor’s address to the Board was unable to be shown, Peter Daugherty shared that Governor Kitzhaber urged the BOF to engage vigorously in the issues surrounding dry site Eastside forests and that the Board could be a key leader in addressing federal policy for Eastside forests. The Governor has a budget package to address federal forestland issues to increase the pace and scale of restoration on dry forests. He has asked the BOF to support the concept of using State funding to address federal land issues. The Governor used a healthcare analogy that it doesn’t make sense to spend pennies on prevention and billions on treatment. The department will work quickly to convene the BOF Sub-Committee that was appointed by the new chair, Tom Imeson, to lead on this issue. Board members Tom Insko, Nils Christoffersen and Cindy Dean Williams are participants on this sub-committee. This will be a BOF focus item on the July agenda. Peter additionally noted that Oregon’s increasingly unique solutions have caught the attention of the national government.

The State’s Regional Forester, Kent Connaughton, also spoke to the Board welcoming State involvement and posing a question on how to best deliver innovative solutions to Oregon Forest management.

3.2 – Legislative Update

[Peter] The legislature is now in session and 3000 bills are to be introduced out of which probably 300 will be acted upon. The challenge is to prioritize their importance to the State. There are bills on pesticide reporting, integrated pest management and a Harvest Tax bill that the department will be watching closely and coordinating with stakeholders on these potentially contentious issues.

Jim James shared that OSWA is also supporting a Log Brand Bill and Pole Building Bill that were introduced. The Wildfire Protection Act is the highest priority of OSWA, and Jim is happy and optimistic that it is in the Governor’s Budget.

Peter continued in sharing that the Barry Point Fire has raised concerns about the lack of incentives present for reforestation. The Reforestation Tax Credit has been sunsetted. There may be some legislative discussion around revisiting the Reforestation Tax credit to provide some measure of relief to landowners trying to reforest after catastrophic wildfire.

2 – Mid-Coast TMDL Process Update – Peter Daugherty

Peter provided an overview of the history of the CZARA lawsuit and settlement and the implementation-ready TMDL process. The process will be the means to fix streams that are impaired (303D streams).
There is conflict with EPA’s assumptions on the process and what they are requiring DEQ to do. Concern is that one outcome of the suit may direct DEQ to set management measures for forest practices.

Peter introduced Kyle Abraham to the members as the new Water Quality Specialist for the department.

[Jim J.] OSWA has been very engaged at the LSAC and technical committee meetings. The court stated that the state has to have a TMDL by June 2013 or the EPA Federal Funding won’t be offered. It seems that EPA and NOAA are driving the process. DEQ has been focused on trying to accomplish the process and has been a good partner. Landowners are ready to walk away from committee involvement. The lawsuit, not science, is driving the process.

[Rick] **Action Item:** It may be appropriate for the committee to endorse the response, once the response is developed. We need to ensure that the BOF know of the committee’s concern.

[Craig] The committee urges Doug Decker to keep this as a high priority topic. Gary Springer, Board member is highly engaged in this issue.

### 5 – Tree Farm Membership Pilot Project – Joe Holmberg, Oregon Tree Farm System Chair

The Oregon Tree Farm System is a non-profit organization affiliated with the American Tree Farm System a branch of the American Forest Foundation whose purpose is to help private forest landowners manage their lands with the goals of conserving forests, water, and wildlife and accommodating natural resources based recreational opportunities.

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) has identified Oregon for a pilot project. AFF took on certification as an additional service in 2004. Maintaining third party certification is expensive and continuing to provide certification along with other historically free services is not currently sustainable without a fee structure. AFF is promoting a new pilot “Membership Model” in Oregon and three other states in an attempt to maintain the program with new membership benefits at four tier levels:

1. Woodland Protector – $29.00 which subscribes you to the magazine
2. Steward Level – $59.00 which gives you the magazine and access to online tools
3. AFF Certified Level – $99.00 which provides the above tools and certification
4. Woodland Leader – $499.00 which gives all benefits plus periodic forester visits and national convention registration

When Oregon surveyed current Tree Farm participants, out of 685 only 196 joined (30%). The majority of those (122) joined at the “Certified” level. Not all Tree Farmers of the year joined, and of those who did, not all were at the Certified level. 45% of farms inspected since 2010 did join the system. AFF expected an 80% attrition rate.

[Craig] We understand the need to get landowners engaged for a nominal fee to sustain the program.

[Rick/Jim] What about the potential conflict with current inspectors? Now that it is a fee-based program are they still going to be interested in volunteering their time? Perhaps AFF can certify inspectors’ tree farms at a reduced rate.

[Roje] Did prior donations count into this? The letters sent out were unclear as to why fees were necessary.

### 6 – Federal Ex-Officio Member Recruitment – Craig Shinn

Craig visited with Doug Decker on the issue of Federal Member recruitment to the CFF questioning whether it’s better to have a Regional level member such as Peg Polichio and Brad Siemens or a local
level field manager such as Cindy Glick, Sweet Home District Ranger. Doug will talk with Peg and Kent Connaughton regarding choosing a land manager.

**Action Item:** After verification from Doug, Brad Withrow-Robinson has volunteered to invite Cindy to the next meeting with the intent of asking her to serve on this committee for a two-year term and to continue to engage with other Federal partners as well.

### 7 – Starker Chair/Cameron Tract – Sarah Leiman

[Handout: Screenprints from Oregon State website on the Cameron Forest and Starker Chair History](http://camerontract.forestry.oregonstate.edu/tract.history)

In 1994 the Cameron Family Trust gifted OSU a 260 acre tract to promote innovative forestry techniques and to be managed as a demonstration forest for family forestland owners. The forest was called the Elizabeth Starker Cameron Demonstration Forest. Timber harvested from this tract endowed a Chair at the OSU School of Forestry identified as the Starker Chair. John Bliss held this chairmanship since 1998 but has since stepped down, and a new Starker Chair will be chosen. There is also a new Dean of Forestry, Thomas Maness. This is seen by members as an ideal set of circumstances to recreate the tract into the demonstration forest it was intended to be and to reestablish the Trust’s Advisory Committee.

Craig shared that he has spoken with Dean Maness, and at this point the Dean is not up to speed on the Chairmanship but welcomed the committee’s involvement in the recruitment.

This endowed chair position will likely be a nationwide recruitment and is of interest to OSWA and CFF as the management of the forest could be a teaching environment highlighting statewide issues. The committee wishes to be part of the search committee and take a part in re-establishing the Advisory Committee for the Cameron Tract.

Craig asked the members about what the committee’s ambitions were. To shape the search criteria, provide management to the tract? What type of candidate would we expect? What competencies? What questions may shape the selection?

Brad suggested that the position should have more integration with Extension than it has had.

**Action Item:** Add the Starker Chair recruitment issue to next agenda for either February or March, when Brad will return from a trip. Craig will check with Thomas Maness as to the timing.

### 8 – Pilot Project for Eastside Private Lands Cooperative [Continued]

Craig acknowledged the enthusiasm and commitment of the members towards establishing this pilot project, which could be a very significant exercise in the future of Eastside forest management. He also reiterated that geographic parameters be determined.

**Action Items:** The members agreed that initial communications would be as follows:

- Preparation and delivery of an explanatory letter to local landowners. [Roje]
- Follow up calls to do a canvass of interested landowners within a short timeframe of their receipt of the informational letter (within 48 hours). [Roje]
- Facilitating a partners meeting inviting Angie Johnson, George Ponte, Mike Cloughesy, Roje Gootee, Paul Oester, Bob Parker and Craig Shinn, along with NRCS and Watershed Council representatives. [Lena]
- A combined Landowners/Partners Project Meeting will be scheduled to fine-tune the project proposal.
- Mike will continue drafting the grant proposal.
Added agenda item:

**KnowYourForest.org Website Introduction – Mike Cloughesy**

Mike presented a virtual tour of the new OFRI website [http://www.knowyourforest.org/](http://www.knowyourforest.org/). The site was made possible through The Partnership for Forestry Education. The Partnership for Forestry Education was made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and is a collaboration of state, federal and private organizations to provide educational resources to Oregon’s forest landowners, managers and operators. The Committee for Family Forestlands is a partner in this website.

The website has a learning library with videos and publications, event calendar, landowner tools by county with lists of appropriate contacts. A great resource in helping families with their long-term forest management plans by linking them with the people and resources available. Members were encouraged to submit events of interest to landowners to keep the site current.

Outreach strategies were discussed to get the word out to forestland owners on an ongoing basis.

**Action Item:** Ensure that all newsletters and any public forum documents on family forestlands provide information and links to the site. [All]

Susan D. read the members an email memo requesting quotes regarding the new site for the OFRI eNews from the the eNews writer who is doing a follow-up story on the launch of the site. The following member quotes were offered and will be sent on:

“A friendly starting point!”
“This is a site that has great value as it stands and whose value will increase as it is used.”
“A great way to ‘branch out’ and get to the ‘root’ of the problem!”

**9 – February Agenda Development – Lena Tucker**

- Invite to Tom Iveson for February Meeting or offer all dates
- Continuing discussion of Starker Chair/Cameron Tract
- Eastern Oregon Pilot Project
- Conflict of Interest Update
- Tax Issues affecting Family Forestland Owners
- Legislative Updates
- Summary of NRCS discussion from January meeting

**Action Items Summary**

1. **Action Item:** Susan Watkins will investigate Conflict of Interest (COI) parameters and provide guidance at the February meeting. Brad Siemens agreed to look at COI from the Federal side.
2. **Action Item:** Jim James requested a summary of today’s NRCS presentation along with future local working groups meeting dates for the next OSWA Newsletter.
3. **Action Item:** (For Jim Cathcart and Mike Kroon) Get the word out! “Whoever is at the meeting carries the day!” Groups could write their own Conservation Implementation Strategies for consideration and approval by NRCS Working Groups. Perhaps creation of “Coached Planning” templates to make participation easier. Using a systematic approach to promote; newsletters, ODF website, etc.
4. **Action Item:** It may be appropriate for the committee to endorse ODF’s TMDL response, once the response is developed. We need to ensure that the BOF know of the committee’s concern.
5. **Action Item:** Add the Starker Chair recruitment issue to next agenda for either February or March, Craig will check with Thomas Maness as to the timing.

6. Collaborative Project: Preparation and delivery of an explanatory letter to local landowners. [Roje]

7. Collaborative Project: Follow up calls to do a canvass of interested landowners within a short timeframe of their receipt of the informational letter (within 48 hours). [Roje]

8. Collaborative Project: Facilitating a partners meeting inviting Angie Johnson, George Ponte, Mike Cloughesy, Roje Gootee, Paul Oester, Bob Parker and Craig Shinn, along with NRCS and Watershed Council representatives. [Lena]

9. Collaborative Project: A combined Landowners/Partners Project Meeting will be scheduled to fine-tune the project proposal.

10. Collaborative Project: Mike will continue drafting the grant proposal.

11. **Action Item:** Ensure that all newsletters and any public forum documents on family forestlands provide information and links to the [www.KnowYourForest.org](http://www.KnowYourForest.org) site. [All]

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**Wrap Up – Chair**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13th, 2013 in the Santiam Room, Bldg D, Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem, OR.

/s/
Lena Tucker
Committee Secretary Regional Forest Practices Committee

[01/23/13]