Committee for Family Forestlands  
Minutes  
September 17, 2012

A meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 526.016] was held on Monday, September 17, 2012 in the Santiam Room at the Department of Forestry compound in Salem, Oregon.

Committee Members Present:
Craig Shinn  
Susan Watkins  
Scott Gray  
Roje Gootee  
Rick Barnes

Rex Storm  
Sarah Deumling  
Joseph Holmberg  
Sara Leiman

ODF Staff Present:  
Brad Knotts  
Ashley Probst  
Lena Tucker  
Peter Daugherty  
Doug Grafe  
Nancy Hirsch  
Cynthia Orlando  
Linda Ellis

Guests:  
Gary Springer  
Vic Shuck  
Sarah’s interns ? names?

Review of Agenda and Meeting Minutes – Craig Shinn
Minutes from the June 5, 2012, CFF meeting were approved as submitted.

HB 2165 Changes to Written Plans – Ashley Probst
1. HB 2165 was adopted by the Legislature in 2011. The BOF approved the rulemaking process in January 2012.
2. The goal of this bill was to reduce routine written plans, allow stewardship forests more field time to focus on higher-value written plans, and increase efficiency of workflow for all parties involved. Statutory written plans for Type F (fish) and Type D (domestic water source) streams and significant wetlands may be waived for operations within 100 feet if the operation does not directly affect the Riparian Management Area (RMA).
3. Suggestion was made to provide training/education to small landowners on the changes in the written plan process; when they need to prepare written plans or not.
4. Would skidding or skid trails through RMA’s be an out of scope operation for this process?
5. By saving time spent on paperwork, the stewardship foresters will have more time to spend on the ground interacting with landowners. The group wants to ensure that the stewardship foresters actually do spend more time in the field as a result of this change to written plan requirements. People value the pre-operation inspections with stewardship foresters.
6. What role do post-operation inspections play? Are they conducted often?
7. How much leeway is there for a stewardship forester to make a decision on the ground during pre-operation inspections as to whether or not a written plan is needed? Example: Removal of juniper in riparian areas and leaving the conifer basal area for restoration of the riparian areas. Perhaps prescriptive sideboards could be developed for these eastside situations (falling juniper away from streams to restore streamside vegetation).
8. Least used tool in the FPA is the Plan for Alternate Practice.
9. How can the High Landslide criteria be used to determine when a written plan would be needed for steep slopes? It is already addressed in the FPA that High Landslide Hazard locations will need written plans.
10. When the notifications come back saying a written plan is required, what resource protection is triggering the need for written plan. The notification doesn’t specify what resource the written plan is needed for.
11. If we are deciding what operations do not have a direct affect on the RMA, will decisions have to be made on the practices to have a direct effect on the RMA? Will the process be the same each case?
12. There is a definition for “direct effect” that will be used. If there are other resource protections that are required by rule, this written plan waiver does not trump them.
13. How will the Ripstream analysis interface with the HB 2165 written plan waiver process?
14. One area that would be affected is the subscriber process. If written plans are waived, subscribers would not get a written plan that they did in the past.
15. Consider walking in an RMA with a small landowner to see how this would work on the ground.

Input:
1. Is the written plan used as a communication tool for operators and landowners?
   - How can we communicate with operators more clearly? Would operators get a message that a written plan is required or not? This is an issue for family forest landowners – providing clear communication to the operators. How can we facilitate this to do better with providing direction to loggers?
2. Do you see any unintended consequences?
   - Potential for people to avoid all management in riparian areas – as the rules are too complex. Often small family forestland owners avoid operating in the riparian areas, as the rules are complex. However active management can have a positive effect on riparian area stand structure. We should promote active management in the RMA not discourage landowners.

Craig’s Summary: We are generally in favor. This would eliminate unproductive work and create devices for useful communication. Do not add to the disincentive to operate in riparian zones.

Action Items:
1. Ashley will return in October with draft rule language.
Begin Review of Eastside Forests White Paper - All
1. CFF will prepare a white paper for the BOF discussing concerns on eastside forestry issues.
2. At the October CFF meeting, we should have a final draft for review.
3. Roje will provide information to the BOF at their November 8 field tour.
4. What type of writing structure will we use for the content?
5. First section of the paper should set up the story of eastside forests.
6. What do we think we know about the eastside forest conditions in general?
7. CFF’s take on eastside forest conditions, infrastructure and specific implications for family forestland owners (example: juniper management).
8. CFF policy recommendations to the BOF and perhaps USFS, NRCS, OSU Extension, as well as nonprofit organizations/non-conventional partners.

Legislative Look Ahead – Peter Daugherty

Biennial Budget:
1. Recent economic forecast – revenue projection is flat.
2. A $300 million gap in maintaining state services in the next biennium. A $100 million gap in the current biennium.
3. ODF has submitted the agency request budget (includes current service level and policy option packages) which goes into the Governor’s recommend budget.
4. New process: 10-Year Vision Strategy for Oregon; buying teams make recommendations for agencies/allocate funding. Buying teams are forced to make priorities as they were not given enough funding to fund every request.
   - Categories include: jobs and the economy (includes Fire and State Forests), public safety; education; healthy environment (Private Forests); good government
5. Richard Whitman: Natural Resource Agency Coalition budget – these agencies are prioritizing and not competing against each other.
6. Private Forests is submitting 3 policy option packages: additions to monitoring program; maintain our business analysts and business improvement process; fund additional stewardship foresters with 25% Forest Practices funding and the rest to be funded by NRCS to conduct technical assistance.
7. Discussion on partnership with NRCS and ability to have a one size fits all – Uniform Management Plan that suits the needs of all state and federal agencies – to access Farm Bill funding (EQUIP).
8. ODF is required to build a 10% reduction plan when the agency request is submitted. The only 2 places where there is General Fund are in Fire and Private Forests. The first 7.5% comes from the Private Forests Division; the remainder comes from agency administration and a small portion from the Fire program.

Legislative Concepts:
1. Harvest Tax Bill – every biennium the rate has to be set in statute
2. Housecleaning bill for the Fire Program on forestland classification
3. Wildfire Protection Act
2012 Fire Season Update – Doug Grafe and Nancy Hirsch
Doug is the interim deputy chief for fire protection on a one-year assignment.

1. We anticipated that 2012 would be a more “average” fire season, and a longer fire season on the tail end.
2. June was very wet which pushed off fire season for awhile. July saw significant lighting and fires were kept small. Two significant fires did occur in John Day. August received more lightning.
3. Significant fires included the Barry Point Fire in Lakeview and Cache Creek in Northeast Oregon. Collins Pine lost 25% of their timber base in the Barry Point Fire which included acreage in Oregon and California.
4. September – not as much lightning until this past weekend. Continued drying since July with no moisture. Conditions are reaching extreme and surpassing historic highs for fire danger.
5. To date 544 fires and 17,000 acres burned on ODF protected lands.
6. There is no moisture forecasted in the next couple of weeks, and conditions will continue to remain critical. Resource availability is limited due to the many fires in Washington.
7. Pole Creek Fire near Sisters – 16,500 acres and 10% contained. All on federal ownership. ODF is working with USFS to keep the fire off private land.
8. All special purpose appropriation funding for this fire season has been spent. Nancy provided updates to the Emergency Board and feels the agency has positive support to continue our efforts.
9. Helicopter and air tanker contracts will likely be extended as needed based on the fire season conditions.
10. CFF agreed that continued education and information regarding changing fire conditions is important for family forestland owners. Is there a better way to get the information out to people in the wildland urban interface?
11. Peter encouraged the committee to consider support of the Wildfire Protection Act during the legislative session.
12. Rick offered positive comments on ODF’s use of the special purpose resources – timely and well placed where needed.

Private Forests Program Update – Lena Tucker

1. Lena reported on staff and field positions added this summer, the continued work on the compliance audit protocol development, and the scoping for the online notification project.
2. Peter reported on the riparian rule analysis work schedule.
3. Cynthia Orlando – op-ed on family forestland owners - wide range of newspapers picked up this article.

Action Items:
1. December or January – update from staff on riparian rule analysis – science review of alternatives.
2. Lena to provide year in review of program restoration, new positions hired, and status of the compliance audit and online notification request for proposals.
3. Consider discussion on the Private Forests stem to stern review.

Ramifications of the Malheur Lumber Mill Closure - All

1. The Malheur USFS received grant funding to increase forest restoration projects, including some larger diameter higher value material, thus providing more supply to the mill. In reality there wasn’t an increase in timber volume from the forest, thus the reason for the mill closure.
2. Additional funding of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration funds will go to the Malheur to increase restoration work and in theory provide a longer term supply of timber. For now the mill will not close in November.
3. The Blue Mountain Partner Collaborative has been active in engaging high profile forest silviculturists to endorse the silviculture prescriptions that are being developed for the Malheur. Perhaps the expert analysis will hold up in court during litigation.
4. Do we want to include the issue of the Malheur mill closure in our white paper, or send a separate letter to the BOF regarding the importance of infrastructure?
5. Susan suggested the CFF write John Shelk and others now – thank him for his time at the June tour and let him know that path that CFF is going to take.
6. Craig: Use the recent mill closure event and formulate a letter to the BOF to discuss infrastructure and other issues on the eastside.

Action Items:
1. Roje and Susan will work on drafting a one-page letter to the BOF.

Continued Review of Eastside Forests White Paper – Craig Shinn

Overview Section:
Goal is to help the BOF understand the CFF spent a year exploring the issues of eastside forests. The style of the paper should set up the tone for the CFF’s work and discovery and the recommendations that the group wants to make to the BOF. Family forestland owners are valued and we want to keep them on the landscape. Suggestions that the CFF make should help to tailor policy that more appropriately fits eastside forests.

Issue Section:
Missing Items:
1. The lack of federal forest management in eastern Oregon is a key driver that influences markets, infrastructure, forest health, wildfire, insects and disease, and cost of land management.
2. Note that absentee landowners, who don’t live in the community, do influence the area. These types of landowners have increased in population. There is a lot of diversity in the landowner community. There are different target audiences in eastern Oregon.
3. Include stand density in the ecology section. Federal lands are generally overstocked; private lands are generally well managed.
4. Forest Practices Act and how is it tailored for eastside forest conditions and specialized forest restoration work. Most riparian monitoring and research has been done on the
westside. Funding has been lacking for research on riparian areas on the eastside to fit the forest conditions.

Key Issues:
1. Send drafts to Susan, Craig, Roje and Lena by October 1.
2. Lena assemble document to send draft out to the group for review prior to the October 18 CFF meeting.
3. Remember to provide information on:
   1. the general condition on the issue
   2. CFF perspective on how it affects family forestland owners
   3. recommendations to the BOF

Assignments:
1. Overview: Roje and Craig
2. Fire Management: Rick Barnes
3. Changes in species composition: Sarah Deumling
4. Juniper: Sarah Deumling
5. Grazing: Scott Gray – Roje to review
6. Cultural transition: Joe Holmberg and Jim James (Cynthia offered to help)
7. Landscape ecology and the link between federal and private lands: Joe Holmberg and Jim James
8. Loss of wood-processing infrastructure- another link between federal and private lands: Rick Barnes
9. Riparian Issues – Rex Storm
10. Federal Land Management: Rex Storm and Scott Gray

Communication and Other Business - All

1. Future Meeting Dates:
   - October 18
   - November 13
   - December 17

2. October Agenda Items:
   - Refine the white paper
   - CFF legislative agenda
   - HB2165 draft language review
   - Extend invitation to the BOF – Lena will send out the CFF meeting dates to Board members

3. November Board meeting and tour:
   - Roje will do a lunch presentation to the BOF on the 8th during the tour
(CFF Minutes –continued)

- Craig may attend the Board meeting
- Rex will attend both

**Action items:**

1. Lena will send information on the BOF meeting to CFF; ask Sabrina for RSVP info for tour.

There being no further business Rick Barnes motioned for adjournment and the meeting was adjourned by Craig Shinn at 3:00 p.m.

/s/

Lena Tucker
Secretary
Committee for Family Forestlands