Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street
Bldg. D, Santiam Room, Salem
May 31, 2013
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Minutes

Pursuant to notice made by press release to newspapers of general and local circulation throughout the state and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the committee and the members of the committee, a regular meeting of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC) was held at the Department of Forestry in Salem, Oregon.

**Present Committee Members:** Tim Josi, Tillamook County Commissioner, Chair; Jim Bernard, Clackamas County Commissioner, Co-Chair; Annabelle Jaramillo, Benton County Commissioner; Faye Stewart, Lane County Commissioner; Scott Lee, Clatsop County Commissioner; Anthony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner

**Absent Committee Members:** Bill Bartlein, Tillamook County Commissioner

**Present Department Staff:** Doug Decker, State Forester; Mike Bordelon, State Forests Division Chief; Liz Dent, State Forests Deputy Division Chief; Mike Cafferata, Forest Grove District Forester; Mary Schmelz, Office Manager, Public Affairs; Mike Totey, West Oregon District Forester; Dan Goody, Tillamook District Forester; John Barnes, Policy and Planning Specialist, State Forests; Dave Lorenz, Southern Oregon Area Director; Andy White, NW Oregon Area Director; Steve Wilson, North Cascade District Forester; Kris Cotugno, Astoria Assistant District Forester; Kevin Boyd, Log Accountability Specialist, State Forests Program; Josh Barnard, Project Leader, State Forests Program

**Present Others:** Gary Springer, Starker Forests and Board of Forestry member; Gil Ridell, County of Forest Trust Lands; Bob Van Dyk, North Coast State Forests Coalition and Wild Salmon Center; Chris Jarmer, Oregon Forest Industries Council

**February 22, 2013 Minutes**
Motion to approve minutes: Jim Bernard. Second: Anthony Hyde. All in favor. Minutes approved.

**Public Comments:** There was no public comment.

**JUNE BOARD OF FORESTRY MEETING**

Forest Land Classification – Conservation Area Rulemaking

John Barnes gave an overview of the key elements of forestland classification rulemaking. It was noted that Washington County, Jackson County, the City of Wheeler and the City of Rockaway have supported the rulemaking effort.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Doug Decker
At this time no significant State Forests bills are advancing. Bills that the agency has drafted/bills of interest:

A. Wildfire Protection Act: Changes how the agency funds large fires. If the department can lever $1.6 mil in matching General Funds (matching forest landowner severity fund), it would lower
fire patrol rates by approximately 20%, allowing for acquisition of more severity resources. The Act:

- Reduces patrol rates in eastern Oregon, where productivity is low
- Increases severity resources to keep fires small
- Creates a 1:1 landowner/general fund match ratio at higher levels of large fire costs

State Forester Decker is scheduled to testify in Washington DC about fire oversight the “upside-down” nature of the federal fire budget. The department has drafted the Wildfire Protection Act as an example of a better proportioned fire budget, with upfront suppression costs.

B. Harvest Tax Bill
C. Agency Budget Bill: $303 million for the biennium
D. Policy Option Packages:
   - Money to fund an advisor to the Governor was cut in half
   - Common School Land monitoring on the Elliott was cut
   - The Gilchrist Forest $7.6 mil lottery bond has the backing of the legislature. NOTED: The state is producing positive revenue from the Gilchrist at this time. Because there is a higher risk of fire in this area, per acre fire patrol costs are higher.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL VIABILITY
The FTLAC reviewed seven recommendations that will be presented by the board subcommittee at the June 5, 2013 Board of Forestry meeting. In response to the recommendations, Chair Josi stated that he didn’t want to see agency staff “turn over new rocks; they don’t have the time”.

State Forester Decker commented that there is new energy and interest in alternative funding sources that may not be directly linked to timber revenue, that is, an alternative model that would fund other values. The process of improving financial viability may result in more of a business practices rather than an alternative management approach.

Mike Bordelon pointed out that recommendations five and six provide for board (subcommittee) and stakeholder guidance on an alternative Forest Management Plans (FMP). Exploring alternative FMP’s must be done in the context of the agency’s business model within the sideboards of the GPV.

ALTERNATIVE FMP’s/FMP DEVELOPMENT

Josh Barnard and Liz Dent

Josh Barnard gave an overview of the three phases moving forward in the FMP process:

1) Project Framing
2) Evaluating Alternatives
3) FMP Development

The above broad process involves other sideboards, criteria for success, opportunities for stakeholder input, and scientific consultation as needed.

NOTED: It was suggested that a timeline, with expected accomplishment dates, be added to the FMP development flowchart.
Chair Josi expressed concern about the potential high cost of contracting an external scientific team. Liz Dent responded that, in her experience, completing a review and having that information available prior to a scheduled board decision makes the process smoother. She stated that it is important that scientific findings are used to inform the board’s decision. The more these findings are met externally, the more credibility the department’s work will have. If the board decides to make changes to the plan, these alternatives must meet GPV. Ms. Dent said that there are some gaps in the science because the department’s management on State Forests is fairly unique.

Chair Josi asked what level of certainty the modeling results will have. Ms. Dent responded that the department has been updating and improving yield tables, resulting in more certainty in the findings. Some specific modeling improvements are due to better LiDAR and available acres data. Additionally, the agency reviews models to determine whether plans can meet model outputs.

NOTED: The agency will clearly outline the measure of certainty in the data.

DISTRICT UPDATES

Tillamook District
- Operations are increasing
- Campgrounds opened last weekend
- Litigation is influencing what the district is/is not selling; it is estimated that, due to litigation, the district will be 3 mil bf short of original harvest estimates

Forest Grove District
- Recreation, campgrounds and firewood permit sales are more active
- Timber sales are on schedule
- Salmonberry “Rails to Trails” project is moving forward
  Action: Add “Rails to Trails” update to August 2013 FTLAC agenda

West Oregon District
- Operations have begun
- Sales are selling well; the competitive bid process is starting to benefit the agency
- This is the first fiscal year that the district is using the new Implementation Plan
- T&E issues (owls and murrellets) continue to impact West Oregon forest management

Coos District
- Layoffs: 7 positions were laid off; all have found work or were transferred within the agency
- There was no harvest on the forest the past summer or winter
- The district currently has one active sale
- Two sales were recently sold

Astoria District
- On track to meet the $73 mbf target
- Getting final sales prepared
- Have made modifications to sales as a result of T&E findings
**North Cascade District**
- Getting good prices for timber sales
- State Forests staff has increased from 6 to 11
- The district is ahead of its sale preparation timeline

**West Lane/SW Oregon Districts**
- On track to meet AOPs
- Prices aren’t up as much as in the SW Oregon district
- Both districts are recruiting for Forester positions

**Tillamook Forest Center**
Andy White shared some statistics about the Tillamook Forest Center:
- The 2013 visitation numbers are at 11,338 (March, April, May); this shows a trend in increased visitation
- Average annual visitation is 45,000
- The budget is just under $1 million

**FTLAC Roundtable**
Chair Josi suggested that the agency consider working with John Barnum at OFRI to improve documentation detailing the history of the lands.

Commissioner Hyde mentioned a recent trip to Flagstaff, Arizona, where he visited one of the largest ponderosa pine forests in the world. He said that the impact and history of timber management on that area was apparent in the communities around (e.g., the mascot for local schools was often loggers, and there were many “sawmill road” addresses.)

**Meeting Materials**
- *BOF Timber Harvest Availability in Coos County*, J. Haynes ODF Coos District, March 6, 2013
- *State Forest – Legislative Bill Summary*, Department of Forestry, February 22, 2013
- *Forest Management Plan Development Phases Flowchart*, Oregon Department of Forestry