

Agenda Item No.:	D
Work Plan:	Agency Administration Work Plan
Topic:	Reappointment to Emergency Fire Cost Committee
Presentation Title:	Reappointment of Brennan Garrelts
Date Presented to Board:	January 3, 2024
Contact Information:	James Short, Chief Financial Officer 503-302-8478, James.Short@odf.oregon.gov Nancy Hirsch, Emergency Fire Cost Committee Administrator 503-881-5255, Nancy.Hirsch@odf.oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to recommend the reappointment of Brennan Garrelts (current chairperson) on the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC).

BACKGROUND

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 477.440 directs that the Board *shall appoint an Emergency Fire Cost Committee consisting of four members, who shall be forest landowners or representatives of forest landowners whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district. At least one member shall be selected from each forest region of the state. Members of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall be appointed by the board for four-year terms.*

ORS 477.445 gives authority to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) to *supervise and control the distribution of funds from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.* The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF), established by ORS 477.750, is used to equalize (reimburse) emergency fire suppression costs expended in protecting forestland statewide by forest protection districts, both state and association. The annual expenditure limit of the OFLPF is \$13.5 million which includes up to \$10 million for emergency fire suppression costs, up to \$3 million for statewide severity resources, with the remaining available for administration/operating costs and up to a fifty-percent contribution towards any annual premium for catastrophic suppression cost insurance policy. If there is any unspent authority the EFCC may consider strategic investments in the state's complete and coordinated fire protection system.

The current EFCC membership and terms are outlined in Attachment 1. Brennan Garrelts's first term began in January 2020. Consistent with ORS 477.450, the EFCC elected Brennan as their chairperson at their June 2021 meeting. While serving as the EFCC chairperson, Brennan has represented the committee on multiple policy efforts that includes: 2022 Co-chair of ODF's Emergency Fire Funding Task Force which resulted in draft legislative concepts, 2023 EFCC Membership Policy development and approval, and he is currently representing the EFCC on Senator Steiner's Wildfire & Forestry Workgroup. Brennan Garrelts brief biography is in attachment 2.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board make the following appointment:

Reappoint Brennan Garrelts to the Emergency Fire Cost Committee with a term expiring at the end of January 2028.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Emergency Fire Cost Committee Membership
2. Biography Brennan Garrelts

EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
January 2024

	First Term Began	Current Term Began	Term Expires end of month
Brennan Garrelts, Chair	1/20	1/24	1/28
Chris Johnson	7/18	9/22	9/26
Erik Lease	9/21	9/21	9/25
Kathryn VanNatta	9/23	9/23	9/27

Position recommended for appointment is in **bold**. The appointment term would end September of 2028.

Current members

Brennan Garrelts, Chair

Southwest Region
 Coos, Douglas, and Southwest Oregon Forest Protective Associations
 Vice President, Lone Rock Timber Co.

Chris Johnson

Eastern Region
 Eastern Oregon, Walker-Range and Klamath-Lake Forest Protective Associations
 Executive Director of Operations, Shanda Asset Management LLC

Erik Lease

Northwest Region
 Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association
 Director of Silviculture & Regeneration for Western Timberlands, Weyerhaeuser

Kathryn VanNatta

Northwest Region
 Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association
 Small forest landowner, representing all Oregon small woodland landowners.

Brennan Garrelts Biography

Brennan developed a passion for Oregon's forests early in his youth and spent much of his spare time exploring the public and private forestlands behind his childhood home in Southwest Oregon. In college he sought to continue that passion for a professional career and after receiving his B.A. in Environmental Science from Willamette University, he went on to earn his M.S. in Forest Science from Oregon State University's College of Forestry.

Brennan spent the first decade of his professional career working for the Bureau of Land Management as a Field Forester in Redding, CA and later as a Timber Manager and Assistant Field Manager for the BLM's O&C forestland on the Roseburg, OR District. In 2015, he transitioned to the private sector and began working for Lone Rock Resources, in Roseburg, Oregon as a Harvest Administration Forester. He has since transitioned from this role to Vice-President overseeing Lone Rock's internal logging Company, Government Affairs and Policy, and Lone Rock's Fire Prevention and Suppression on wildland fire.

Throughout his forestry career Brennan has consistently sought to grow his professional wildland firefighter experience and qualifications. He has spent 18 seasons fighting wildland fire in various operational positions from crew member to task force leader. Beginning in the Douglas Complex fires in 2013, Brennan has seen action on 12 large wildland fires and numerous small fires in Oregon. He worked extensively and repeatedly with all three ODF Teams on separate large fires, leading Lone Rock's coordinated attack side by side with ODF. Brennan also serves as the current Chair of ODF's Emergency Fire Cost Committee and immediate Past-President of the Board of Directors for the Douglas Forest Protective Association.