



# Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for June 09, 2023



*Under public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a 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 convened on June 9th, 2023 as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.*

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**CFF Committee members participating:**

Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)  
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)  
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio  
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)  
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio  
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests  
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio  
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio

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**ODF Staff attending:**

Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist  
Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands  
Tim Hoffman, Public Affairs

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**Members not in attendance:**

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**Guests/Public:**

Theresa Hausser  
Eric Kranzush –  
Lester Frakes - DOR  
Toni Blessing – DOR  
Kathryn Charlton - OFRI  
Paul Morrison – DOR Timber Team  
Catherine McDonald – Global Warming Commission

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**Chair Comments.**

- Chair Gerlach calls the meeting to order.
- Asks for comments on the agenda/meeting minutes.
- Recognized a quorum was established.
- Asks for public comment.
- Moved on to chair updates.

**Division update.**

- Mike Kroon provides update on the current Org Chart and changes to staff was provided.
- BOF update provided as Ben Deumling is unable to attend today.
- Disproportionate Impacts update.

**Tax Discussion.**

- Larry Provides an overview on the Timber Tax process.
- Maurizio Valerio – Where do we get the numbers?
- Kaola Swanson – The spreadsheet would be helpful with that is there also a diagram available?
- Wendy Gerlach – Trying to track funding for the PFA and the legislation that added funding, my understanding is there is a period of time where it sits at one level and then bumps up to another level.

Since the PFA is a new thing I'm a little puzzled by this as there was an uptick in taxation. If you could talk on the implications on that and how it will impact peoples tax bills.

- Heather Hendersen will send out documents discussed to the committee members.
- Tracking House Bill 2087.
- Mauricio Valerio – With the new legislation, how will that translate to an incentive to stewardship for the private landowner? Can I explain this to other small landowners as a cost of stewardship? Trying to get the big picture.
- Julie Woodward – Oregon Forest Facts and Figures that OFRI puts out the numbers are provided by the Department of Revenue. You can look on the website to get an idea of historic records of these facts and figures as well.
- Julie Woodward – A great project for the committee could be to help the landowners to see how things are impacted through all of this.
- Glenn Ahrens – Helping people to understand where the taxes go/what they fund could be a good facts sheet. May be time for an updated facts sheet on the details of forest tax.
- Wendy Gerlach – For next meeting bring explanation/examples of lists to inform ourselves and how this could be turned into something useful for Small Forestland Owners.
- Julie Woodward to send what OFRI has and committee members to send items to Heather Hendersen

#### **Discuss Annual Report.**

- Kaola Swanson - Minor suggestions, in the second paragraph deleting take and adding share.
- Kaola Swanson - Appreciate the last paragraph around the Legacy and Stewardship work group. Maybe note the time and potential significance of the program.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Maybe in the last sentence to add on to what the opportunities are.
- Kaola Swanson will email Heather Hendersen a line to add to this.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Technical note, do we have the ability or are we planning to have in the electronic version linked to the correct page.
- Maurizio Valerio – As I read the priorities, maybe this is embedded in some of these, it is more and more evident that future generations are important to all of these. How can we point this out?
- Kate McMichael – I added it somewhere, at the end we are looking at the 2023-2024 plan and if we make sure it is in there and part of our presentation to the board.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – include it in the climate piece. One of the key pieces is reducing land conversion, we could tie it back into succession.
- Wendy Gerlach – Maybe it can be added in as a general comment.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Will anything be included for the PFA on the work that was done on the disproportionate impact? It is in the bullet but not in the narrative.
- Kaola Swanson – Shorten description and instead focus on how we discussed and provided feedback.
- Wendy Gerlach – Under PFA add a short paragraph about a topic of interest is Disproportionate Impacts, how it affects us, etc. Does someone want to volunteer to write this?
- Kate McMichael – Are we editing more or just sending ideas to Heather Hendersen?
- Wendy Gerlach asks for input, hearing none, Kate McMichael and Wendy Gerlach will do what they are able to add in a comment regarding the Disproportionate Impacts.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – One other question I have, under Wildland Urban Interface or Fire, this group engaged significantly on SB762 which spanned the biennium. Is there anything we want to say in this report about it.
- Kate McMichael – Wendy did note it in the small paragraph on fire.

- Wendy Gerlach – I will add in more details since it is still relevant.
- Wendy Gerlach – Are we okay with removing the brackets and expanding on the Forestland Grant Program and saying it is a useful program?
- Kaola Swanson – Do we want to reword to open to support after the 2020 fires?
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Also, adding in details and numbers.
- Mike Kroon – Pull out SB 762 instead of just putting it in fire as fire is a general term, really calling out the SB762 to catch attention.
- Glenn Ahrens – Maybe call it Fire and Fire recovery and call to the fact it provided support and that continued support is needed.
- ORS 477 is the protection law.
- Kate McMichael – Are there really an increase in Stewardship Foresters?
- 12 SFO foresters and 6 stewardship foresters.
- Wendy Gerlach – Are there thoughts on the last sentence of the Technical Guidance section?
- Glenn Ahrens – The example documents statement, could be good to actually have examples to show. Showing a 10-page booklet to show that you don't need a really long management plan to get the job done.
- Julie Woodward posted in chat - <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/forestplanning/>
- Maurizio Valerio posted in chat - <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/tree-farm-management-plan-templates>
- Mike Kroon – Having a management plan puts you in the queue so to speak for any of the incentive programs.
- ORS 477.748 for Grant Program.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – For the WUI, don't know that we would call it the ODF approach since legislation repealed the maps.
- Julie Woodward – CFF helped to shape some of the grants around the fire mitigation, so it feels weird to say we didn't spend as much time, we just spent it in a different way.
- Kaola Swanson – Maybe strike the second sentence in the Wildland/Urban interface section.
- Glenn Ahrens – Maybe just change the whole sentence to say that it was put on hold and add we are committed to remaining informed.
- Mike Kroon – The position we had for the Seedling Availability was a limited duration that goes away in June.
- Glenn Ahrens – It is important that we had that program and it's important to see how we will proceed going forward.
- Mike Kroon – Express this in the annual report.
- Kaola Swanson – SFO Assistance Office did include a Seedling Coordinator that was LD. CFF would like to emphasize the importance of this role and resource.
- Kaola Swanson – In the last sentence, could we say that CFF wants to elevate the critical ongoing need, instead of saying viable say that prioritizes landowner access.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Our last report included work that AOL was doing on this topic. Say something on how the committee has been supportive of positions and policies that would create more programing that would deal with this issue and continue to support those policies.
- Wendy Gerlach – Adding at the end that the committee has been supportive of new policies that would help deal with this issue.
- Rick Zenn – This one really is depending on partnerships and this committee cannot do it alone, but we really need to work with partners. I would put working with partners at the top. This includes business partners.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor will draft something up and send it over to Heather Hendersen.

- Eastern Oregon Specific Needs
  - Maurizio Valerio - How would the stewardship foresters support EO?
  - Mike Kroon will send a map of the covered areas to Heather Hendersen.
- Forestry Program for Oregon
  - Kaola Swanson – Is there a way to describe that CFF is appreciative of the revision for the Forestry Program for Oregon and the efforts to integrate the agencies. Echoing support for that effort, which is a challenge. Is this something we would want to say?
  - Kate McMichael – How much of this part is the looking back? And how much of saying that is looking forward and maybe put it in the 2023-2024 area. And all the pressures especially on family landowners and how we support them in the delicate dance of land conversion.
  - Amanda – Change the tone a bit to say more that the committee is aware of the work the BOF is doing and would like to be engaged in that process. Identifying some of the opportunities to engage.
  - Kate McMichael – Kaola Swanson if you wanted to draft up your thoughts on the integration piece.
- 2023-2024 Work Plan
  - No comments.

#### **BOF Update – Changed to Roundtable.**

- Kaola Swanson provides an overview on the Forest Conservation Easement Program.
- Kate McMichael – Is this asking us to sign as individuals/as a committee?
- Wendy Gerlach – In terms of how to approach this, I believe that the idea is that it is important for CFF to know about these opportunities.
- Wendy Gerlach – I only know anecdotally, I think that people work with a partner like a land trust. Could be good to work with the SFO Assistance on what is available.
- Glenn Ahrens – I get lots of requests from small woodland owners on easements.
- Amanda – Invite NRCS in the future to further discuss this to learn more.
- Wendy Gerlach – Presentations for the September BOF meeting, do we have volunteers for those who would be interested in presenting?
- Kate McMichael - Will talk about the avoidance of conversion and the pressures on small woodland owners.
- Gary Jensen – Will provide input on small woodland owners on his lands. Focus will be a broad perspective of the dynamics of the owners and there are many perspectives on the forestlands. Many of these ownerships are residential ownership, have the conflict of family involvement.
- Maurizio Valerio – Can bring in an EO perspective on the infrastructure, timing, prices. A new pressure after COVID of people moving and looking for properties.
- Julie Woodward – Spoke on seedlings the urgency as there is no longer a staff focused on reforestation and seedlings, could be important to bring this up.
- Wendy Gerlach – with three volunteers we can move forward from here. Will continue to stay in contact working with Mike Kroon and Heather Hendersen.
- Tim Hoffman – Will be sending out the stream reclassification. A postcard will be going out regarding this change.
- Mike Kroon – In an attempt to reach out to all landowners this is one way that ODF will be reaching out to landowners to inform them of the changes. 16,000 landowners will be sent this postcard. This is landowners with 10 acres or more.
- Kate McMichael – The July 1<sup>st</sup> date might be confusing. Could change this wording.
- Kate McMichael – Every time I look at a map, things change, but it would be helpful if things were current.

### **NW Landowner CFF Position and Future Committee Member Recruitment.**

- Send nominations to Heather Hendersen.
- Kaola Swanson will share a template for recruiting.
- Can we post recruitment on the website? Heather Hendersen will ask Public Affairs.
- Glenn Ahrens can add to a newsletter.
- What is the process? If there are multiple options how is this decided? Heather Hendersen will find out.
- Theresa Hausser – Open invitations were often responded to by the people who could be very disruptive to community gatherings.
- In the by-laws we may need to move appointments to September.
- Refresher on how to make appointments/how they are evaluated. Provide template for recruitment.

### **Global Warming Commission Update.**

- Catherine McDonald provides an introduction and overview on the Global Warming Commission including a PowerPoint.
- Kaola Swanson – For bullet 3 support the implementation of six climate-smart forest management programs on slide 11 are those described in more detail on the website?
  - Yes
- There is an advisory committee for the Global Warming Commission now. Opportunity to apply in September/October should the legislation go through.
- Please feel free to share thoughts/comments with the Global Warming Commission as it is really important to their work.
- Meeting is adjourned.