

## **Lane County Forestland Classification Committee Meeting**

August 8, 2016 – 9AM – 3PM

Veneta - Meeting Minutes

### **In attendance**

#### **Committee Members:**

Sue Bowers (Chair) – At large Representative

Steve Cafferata – Eastern Lane Landowner Representative

Lauren Grand (Secretary) – OSU Extension Agent – Lane County

Terry Ney – Chief, Lane Fire Authority, State Fire Marshal Representative

Lindsay Reaves – Western Lane Landowner Representative

Tom Soward – Oregon Department of Forestry Representative

#### **ODF Staff:**

AJ Hudgik – GIS Expert

Link Smith – Western Lane District Forester

Micheal Curran – Eastern Lane Unit Forester

Brent Peterson – South Cascades - Fire Prevention Coordinator

Ole Buch – State Lands Unit Forester

### **Meeting Called to order 9:05 AM**

#### **Review and approve minutes from 7/12/16**

Terry Ney moves to approve the minutes. Steve Cafferatta seconds. Sue ask for discussion. Motion to approve the minute's passes.

#### **Sue Bowers opens the floor to public comment**

No public in attendance.

#### **Review & confirm detailed classification mapping**

The Committee began their review of the lines drawn around the lands that were not classified as forestland in Lane County:

We are reviewing the GIS lines that were inputted to define the mapping layer of lands classified by the committee during the previous sessions. As the lines are reviewed we discuss if the lines make sense for the definition of forestland, follow the rules and suggestions of the forest

classification laws while still using a clumping method so that we follow major fire breaks, tax lot lines, and section boundaries.

**Committee approves layer for Florence area.**

**Review of classification lines made in Township 18S R5W:**

Lines around the sub division are approved within section 6.

**Review of 18S R3W sections 10 and 15:**

Lines around the Lane Community College campus are approved.

**Review of 20S R3W:**

After reviewing the lines around Cottage Grove the committee has decided to pull back the lines of classification to not include the subdivision and golf course to the northwest corner of the city. The rest of the lines are approved by the committee as they are drawn within the Western Lane Fire Protection District Boundary.

**Review of 17S R2W**

After reviewing the lines around the south eastern portion of Springfield the committee has decided to pull back the lines of classification to not include the denser subdivisions that are included in the city limits of Springfield along Main Street.

**Review of 16S R1W**

After reviewing the lines around Marcola the committee has decided not classify the densest part of the city that is not adjacent to forestland.

**Review of 21S R3E**

After reviewing the lines around oakridge the committee has decided to not classify the portion of the city in the north east and moved back the classified boundary to 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Break 10:25**

**Return From break 11:30**

**Dates for public meetings**

ODF will send ½ page post cards with information of all meetings and the hearings for the properties that will be affected after this classification. The committee will invite a moderator from Salem and the Commissioners. ODF will also assign staff to put together a presentation with background, case studies, and information with Q&A availability.

Florence – September 26<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 – 8:00 PM - Information Meeting

Lowell – September 27<sup>th</sup> – 7- 8:30 PM - Information Meeting

LCC- October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Public information meeting and hearing – back up date September 29<sup>th</sup>

## **12:05 Break For Lunch**

### **Meeting Called to Order – continuing our conversation on time and dates and lesson plan of meetings**

Consider that we open the maps for viewing 30min before meeting start time for people to be able to view their area.

We will give the commissioners and committee members opportunity to speak and be part of the meeting so that ODF is not taking the heat of the concern.

Include information of where the money goes so people are aware of their services

Time line ideas

- District forester – background of ODF
- committee member explain process
- Commissioner – back it up or support previous process
- Q&A

### **To Do List For meetings:**

- AJ will be
  - collecting the addresses of people with classification changes to be contacted for the public meetings and hearings,
  - printing new maps, and
  - Trying to get the website updated with most recent information.
- Tom will be confirming the dates, times and locations for the public meetings and hearings
- Link will be
  - drafting the post card,
  - collecting the information to be put on the website,
  - confirming the moderator,
  - collecting and put together presentations for meetings,
  - sending out presentations, card and info sheet drafts to committee for review
  - Inviting commissioners to meetings and hearing.

Sue Bowers may need to preside over the public hearing since committee runs the meetings.

### **Committee Reviews Principles of decision making – Classification Considerations**

The committee chose to have a populated list of the factors used to make the decisions of whether land would be classified as forestland or not.

1. Land that meets the definition of forestland will be classified
2. Lands will be looked at on a 40 acre square and if more than ½ the 40 acres meet the definition that that land is classified.

From 4/11 minutes

“Large maps of each township will be printed before each meeting and the committee will classify forestlands a township at a time. These maps will also be available on

Google earth and ArcMap for more in depth review where necessary. The committee will review the townships ¼ ¼ sections at a time (40 acre blocks). If 50% or more of the land is considered forestland then the entire ¼ ¼ section is classified.”

3. Houses, and lots abutting forestland are classified
4. Guidance within cities was followed where appropriate –

Pg 40 within the section “Conducting Forestland Classification” in the Forestland Classification Tools Manual)

“Wildland protection within cities should be minimized, since most cities have adequate fire protection and infrastructure. However, if areas exist where the local forest protection district, with input from the local classification committee, and the city agree that there is adequate risk to warrant ODF fire protection, then it is appropriate for ODF to assess for and provide wildland protection within cities. These will typically be high fire danger areas with a potential for expenditures from the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund (OFLPF).”

5. WUI Flowchart page 41 for lands within the interface zones.

From 4/22 minutes “Forest Land Classification WUI Flowchart in the Forestland Classification Tools Manual (pg. 41) will be used as the procedure for classifying lands.”

6. Discernable boundaries such as roads, firebreaks, section lines, etc were used when choosing classification boundaries.
7. 1/8 mile threats –

From 4/22 minutes

Link Smith mentions: Oregon Department of Forestry has the ability to enforce rules and laws pertaining to fire prevention within 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile outside of the fire protection boundary, but NO lands outside of the fire protection boundary can be classified.

From 5/20 minutes

Pg. 24 of Manual

We are considering forestland as the definition in in 526.005 #6(a) and (b).

We are defining threat as within 1/8 mile of land that also fits the definition of forestland. Lots that are clearings as defined in as 526.005 #6(a) and (b) and fit this definition of threat can be classified as forestland.

8. Lands classified must be within fire protection boundaries
9. Lands are not classified as forestland if paved, golf course, or have no vegetation.

**From 5/20 minutes**

Pg. 30 discusses some considerations

1. Not to consider structures only vegetation and what it can do
2. Consider the boundary of forestlands non-continuous with others and surrounded by noncombustible material or vegetation.
3. We consider vegetation and if it fits the definition of forestland. The committee will not consider zoning.

Pg 41. Review of the flow chart for the WUI

- This is the chart to help guide the committee for classifying land within the WUI.
- If the land is outside of the WUI then we classify strictly based on the definition of forestland.  
# 3 for our purposes will say “Is the area outside of a city or rural fire district?”

#### 10. Grazing lands were not classified

From 4/22 minutes Sue Bowers asks if grazing land will be classified differently. Greg Wagenblast reads OAR Statute 629-045-0003 which states that lands west of the Cascades and north of Lane County’s Southern Boarder do not need further classification separating grazing lands.

#### **Review of next meeting**

No need for official meeting before info meetings and public hearings. There will be one more meeting after the public hearing

Choose meeting date for October – 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 11am.

#### **Sue Bowers opens the floor to public comment**

No Comment

**Meeting Adjourned 1:10 PM**