



EO Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2024

Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a hybrid meeting of the Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held in The Dalles, Oregon on April 19, 2024, hosted by the Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Resources Division. Present were:

Committee Members

Todd Kurtz
Chris Johnson
Elwayne Henderson
Paul Oester
Paul Jones
Jeremy Grose

ODF Staff

Secretary Kyle Abraham
Emily Gregorio
Scott Swearingen
Greg Erb
Nicole Stapp
Adam Coble
Camille Collett
Arden Guinn
Jennifer Weikel
Thomas Whittington
Brian Pew
Vance Cates
Brian Reel
Matt Howard
Logan McCrae
Hans Rudolf

Guests/Public

Jenna Diebel
April Ehrlich

Welcome & Roll Call

- Kyle Abraham called the meeting to order at 10:03am.
- Chris Johnson chaired the meeting on behalf of Chair Bob Messinger.
- Kyle Abraham and Chris Johnson noted no agenda changes or updates.
- Chris Johnson opened for public comment, no public comments noted.

ODF Updates & Member Training Requirements

- Kyle Abraham led the following discussions:
 - Review of Kyle Abraham's history with ODF.
 - Review of Forest Resources organizational chart, noting the increase in capacity.
 - Update on outcome of legislative session.
 - Many limited duration positions in the agency transitioning to permanent.
 - Update on agency training done for Foresters.
 - Reminder of Operator of the Year and tours in October.
- Chris Johnson asked about fire hazard map, Brian Pew provided an update – draft rules going to Board of Forestry in June and anticipated new map in October.

- Chris Johnson asked about fire funding next steps, Kyle Abraham stated conversations likely to continue 2025.
- Emily Gregorio reviewed the training requirement completion.
 - **ACTION:** Emily Gregorio to send an email reminder with instructions to set up Workday login to committee members.
- Brian Pew gave a note of thank you to committee members and a reminder that there is one vacancy to be filled.

Updates & Informing Post-Disturbance Harvest Rulemaking

- Nicole Stapp presented a slideshow. The following information was noted:
 - Terminal Np streams have provisions, opportunities for PFAP possible otherwise.
 - SB 15.01 defined rulemaking, one element was single rule package implementing recommendations from PFA report. Single rule package was exempt from normal rulemaking process, post-disturbance harvest is separate.
 - **ACTION:** Emily Gregorio to share economic impact results.
 - Scott Swearingen provided highlights of changes to current rules for riparian zones and post-disturbance versus new rulemaking.
 - Hardwood conversion removed.
 - Catastrophic events focused.
 - Moved away from basal area and moved to more standard prescription.
 - New rules on steep slopes.
 - Western Oregon pesticide use changes.
 - Stream type determines RMA harvest, but a PFAP may be pursued in catastrophic events.

HCP Updates

- Jennifer Weikel presented a slideshow. The following information was noted:
 - Paul Jones expressed concern around meeting the NEPA timeline.
 - No current HCP, so nothing currently linking PFA to federal ESA.
 - Reminder that this HCP is only for aquatic species as focused on in the PFA.
 - HCPs expire, this one will be 50 years for fish and 25 for amphibians listed.
 - There will be an annual report out and a larger report every eight years.
 - RFPCs will engage with pieces that help implementing the HCP operationally such as technical guidance and additional rulemaking.
 - **ACTION:** Jennifer Weikel to provide another update at the October meeting.

Planning and Priority for Guidance Development

- Scott Swearingen presented a slideshow. The following information was noted:
 - OFRI updating the illustrated manual.
 - **ACTION:** Kyle Abraham to determine when it will be accessible.
 - Jeremy Grose expressed interest in prioritizing stream guidance.

Forest Practices Technical Guidance Comment Review

- Greg Erb reviewed the Wet Weather guidance document and comments submitted.

- Arden Guinn reviewed the FRIA guidance document and timeline for any comments or questions. Arden Guinn documented questions for evaluation and incorporation into the future iteration of the FRIA guidance. The following additional information was noted:
 - Jeremy Grose expressed concern around the pre-inventory timeline.
 - Pre-inventory date was provided in rule, and there is a pre-inventory file available to guide what is needed.
 - Salem staff will be working to format inventory data in a consistent matter.

Closing Remarks

- Paul Jones expressed interest in data regarding long-term post-harvest data from tethered logging.
- Paul Jones expressed interest in a FERNS update. Scott Swearingen and Nicole Stapp provided the following information:
 - There will be an improvement to identifying as a small forestland owner.
 - There will be a place to indicate operation completion and automated reminders to enter them.
 - Documents will be able to be tagged to indicate what the document is.
- Paul Jones expressed concern that a recent housing law does not include a requirement for timber to come from Oregon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27pm.