

DRAFT Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2016

INDEX

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Page #</u>
A. MARCH 9, 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES	2
B. NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT.....	2
C. CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT WITH ASSURANCES (CCAA) FOR PACIFIC FISHER.....	2
1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.....	2
2. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY FISCAL REPORT	4
3. 2017-19 BIENNIAL BUDGET POLICY PACKAGES.....	4
4. BOARD OF FORESTRY STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES.....	5
5. DISCUSSION OF 2015-17 DRAFT BOARD WORK PLANS	5
6. FTLAC TESTIMONY	7
7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MONITORING STRATEGY FOR PRIVATE FORESTS	9
8. SPECIFIED RESOURCE SITES RULEMAKING FOR BALD EAGLES	10
9. RIPARIAN RULES/SSB RULEMAKING UPDATE.....	11
10. SALMONBERRY TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE.....	12
11. FIRE PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE.....	13

Items listed in order heard.

Complete [audio recordings](#) from the meeting and [attachments](#) listed below are available on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov

- 1) Public Testimony, Dave Kunert, Agenda Item 1A
- 2) Public Testimony, Adam Meyer, ONC, Agenda Item 3
- 3) Public Testimony, Mary Scurlock, Oregon Stream Protection Coalition, Agenda Item 5
- 4) Public Testimony, Chris Smith, North Coast State Forest Coalition, Agenda Item 6
- 5) Public Testimony, Ted Chu, Agenda Item 6
- 6) Presentation, Monitoring Strategy Update, Agenda Item 7
- 7) Presentation, Bald Eagles and Forest Practices Act, Agenda Item 8
- 8) Presentation, Riparian Rules/SSBT Rulemaking Update, Agenda Item 9
- 9) Presentation, Salmonberry Trail Project Update, Agenda Item 10

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on April 27, 2016 at the Tillamook Bay Community College, 4301 Third Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141.

Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Tom Imeson
Sybil Ackerman-Munson
Cindy Deacon Williams

Gary Springer
Tom Insko
Mike Rose

Absent:

Nils Christoffersen

CONSENT AGENDA:

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (19 minutes 55 seconds)

- A. MARCH 9, 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
The Board approved the March 9, 2016 board meeting minutes.
- B. NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT
- C. CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT WITH ASSURANCES (CCAA) FOR PACIFIC FISHER

Motion to approve of Consent agenda: Insko, Moved: Springer, Second Rose All in favor

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

- 1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

State Forester Decker invited Connie Green, President of Tillamook Bay Community College, to provide introductory comments. Ms. Green welcomed the board and audience and expressed understanding of the issues that face forestry, saying that together communities can solve those issues. Mr. Decker provided introductory comments:

The April 27, 2016 meeting is board member Gary Springer's last Board of Forestry meeting. Mr. Decker acknowledged Mr. Springer's contributions to the Board of Forestry remarking that his candor, knowledge, and understanding of forestry will be missed. He shared that the Governor's Office appointment of a replacement will be deferred until September 2016; the Board of Forestry will operate as a six member board until then. Chair Imeson thanked Mr. Springer for his service, his diligence, and his work as a liaison to the Environmental Quality Commission. Mr. Springer will be recognized for his contributions as a board member at the April 27 evening community social at the Tillamook Creamery.

State Forester Decker recognized Kevin Birch, Department of Forestry Director of Resources Planning, who is retiring, for his service to the department. During his career Mr. Birch has overseen board work plans, overarching departmental issues, and has been involved with land use planning and the federal forest planning process. Mr. Decker said that the Partnership Development Program, which explores partnerships outside of the agency and manages federal grants, will combine with the Resources

Planning program becoming the “Partnership and Planning” program. It is anticipated that recruitment for the director of the new combined program will be filled in June 2016. Chad Davis will be the acting Resources Planning Director until the position is filled. Tara Sell, interim Executive Support to the Board of Forestry, has promoted within the agency; Mr. Decker thanked her for her service to the board.

Mr. Decker recognized a leadership change on the SW Oregon Regional Forest Practices committee: Chair Brian Schlaefli has accepted a position with Weyerhaeuser in SW Washington.

Mr. Decker mentioned that several mills have recently closed. He said that what’s happening in manufacturing affects forestry in general, but there isn’t a common methodology tracking these trends. Mr. Decker plans to bring discussion about what could be done to track these trends back to the board at a future meeting.

State Forester Decker updated the board on the department’s fire insurance policy. The department’s policy with Lloyd’s of London is for a \$3.5 million premium and a \$50 million deductible, which will be submitted to the E-Board in a few weeks. The agency is also exploring a parametric policy and working to provide a diverse and resilient set of funding sources.

Mr. Decker congratulated Chair Imeson on his significant accomplishment receiving the Glen Jackson leadership award from Willamette University.

Mr. Decker invited the board and others interested to the May 11 and 12 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, which he will be hosting. The conference focus will be “connecting people with forests” and will include discussions about collaboration with federal agencies, urban and community forestry, and a tour with stops at Portland’s Forest Park and the Tillamook State Forest.

Gary Springer remarked that hearing about Brian Schlaefli leaving his position reminded him how important volunteers such as Mr. Schlaefli are.

1A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (14 minutes 32 seconds)

Dave Kunert, resident of Tillamook County and Hampton Lumber forester, provided public comment and [written testimony](#). He emphasized the important impact that state forests and timber revenue have on the local economy, such as job creation, recreational opportunities, money for public safety, education, medical clinics, and roads. He said that the Tillamook Forest is productive, with harvest levels well below their sustainable potential. He expressed excitement about green building initiatives using wood and Oregon as a leader providing sustainable resources around the world. He commented that these lands were deeded to the state for the purpose of managing them on the behalf of the counties. He stated that sustainable increases in harvest levels could achieve both increased timber revenue and environmental conservation to keep rural communities healthy.

Wayne Giesey provided testimony that for every million board feet at least 16 direct and indirect jobs are created. He expressed that forest health is the state, federal, and environmental community’s responsibility. He expressed concern about federal forest management, particularly the loss of timber value from fire due to lack of management. He estimated the loss to be conservatively \$11 billion and said that adopting a federal management program could create 50 thousand jobs in Oregon.

Jack Anderson, Garibaldi resident, commented on the effect of excess logging on tourism, forest diversity and management contiguity of privately owned forestlands. He said that Oregon State

University conducted a report which showed temperatures in 40 – 50 year old plantation forests to be 5 degrees higher than temperatures in older tree stands with a diverse canopy. He said that the National Marines Fisheries Service and the Environmental Protection Agency have fined the Department of Forestry regarding watersheds. He acknowledged that timber harvest could benefit Oregon but said that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute spends money on advertisements instead of that money going to Oregon.

2. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY FISCAL REPORT
([Listen to audio](#) 29 minutes 40 seconds)

Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Services Division Chief, provided an update on the Department of Forestry's financial status, referencing information on the Financial Dashboard.

State Forester Decker asked Mr. Upadhyay to speak to the 2017 – 2019 biennium, particularly regarding General Fund. Mr. Upadhyay said that preliminary communication projects a budget gap and that agencies will be asked to present reduction options. He reminded the board that natural resource agencies receive less than one percent of General Fund. Mr. Upadhyay said that the greatest financial challenge for the agency is that Forest Development Fund revenues aren't keeping up with expenditures, predicting that the fund balance will be zero in 2020.

Information only.

3. 2017- 19 BIENNIAL BUDGET POLICY PACKAGES
([Listen to audio](#) 29 minutes 40 seconds)

Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Services Division Chief, provided an update on the Department of Forestry's 2017 - 19 biennial budget development process while seeking input on the Policy Option Packages (POPS's) as developed with guidance from the previously approved Budget Development Guiding Principles.

POP's are the agency's additional resource requests. Specific POP's position requests, impacts and costs will be provided to the board on June 8, 2016. In July the agency will ask the board for action on recommendations.

Mr. Upadhyay overviewed his understanding of the Governor's five focus areas for building the budget:

1. Education
2. Thriving Oregon Economy
3. Excellence in state government
4. Healthier communities
5. Responsible environmental stewardship

Mr. Upadhyay presented the [2017-19 Budget Backgrounder](#) for each of the agency's program budget proposals.

Public comment

Adam Meyer, Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) and State Forests Advisory Committee member, outlined the department priorities that the OCN support: 1) A healthy department that's well funded and sustainable; 2) A trust land transfer program. He said that Washington State has a good example of this type of program; 3) An equitable state fire program (not disproportionately funded for the fire program); 4) Task force efforts on fire funding support; 5) The 2015 State Forests' POP for recreation; 6) The 2015 State Forests' POP #132 for research and monitoring; 7) The 2015 State Forests' South Fork POP #133; 8) Funding for rulemaking for protection against landslides; 9) Funding on special research sites to protect rare plants and animals; 10) Aerial spray rulemaking ensuring protections around schools and homes; 11) The Lloyds London insurance policy; 12) An increase from 1% of General Fund that is currently dedicated to natural resource agencies.

Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center and North Coast State Forests Coalition, agreed with Mr. Meyer's comments, stating that the State Forests' POPS stabilize funding sources so that the department remains whole and continues to contribute to values that are worthwhile to Oregonians.

Information only.

4. **BOARD OF FORESTRY STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES**
([Listen to audio](#) 20 minutes 51 seconds)

State Forester Decker provided an overview of past boards' application of the Forestry Plan for Oregon (FPFO) as a principles, planning and vision guiding document. He said that revising the FPFO offers an opportunity to integrate explicit values, however there are other options to consider that would capture the core visions and values in the document. At the October 2016 board workshop more in-depth consideration of the application of the FPFO, the creation of a document or format that is more contemporary, and other alternatives that capture the core values of the document will be explored.

Board member Insko stated that this is an opportunity to clarify ongoing activities and integrate values, especially for new board members, as well as an opportunity to make the public more aware of the board and department values to promote, rather than defend, their work.

Board member Ackerman-Munson said she thinks the FPFO doesn't need many changes, however, it may be valuable to invite a panel discussion to a future board meeting, including Dave Mormon, former Resources Planning Director, former State Forester Jim Brown, and former board member Peter Hayes. She asked that the board consider updating the language in the FPFO and other nomenclatures where needed.

Mr. Springer expressed that reviewing strategies, visions and values (within FPFO) needs to come before the board on a regular basis.

Board member Deacon Williams stated that the board has not used this document well regarding emerging issues.

Chair Imeson echoed the board conversation about the importance of making the nomenclature and format express the board's vision and values in a way that is relevant to present issues.

Recommendation: State Forester Decker recommended drafting a proposed plan for a facilitated workshop and bringing that back to the board in June 2016.

5. **DISCUSSION OF 2015-17 DRAFT BOARD WORK PLANS**

[\(Listen to audio 57 minutes 33 seconds\)](#)

At the March 2016 Board meeting, consent item “2015-17 Board Work Plans” was removed from the agenda to further discuss priorities in the Private Forests Work Plan, specifically 1) concerns about possible riparian protection needs in the Siskiyou geographic region since the board excluded the region from the November 2015 prescription package, and 2) the Eastern Oregon Riparian Policy, which is on hold. Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief, offered further information, outlined in the Final 2015-17 Private Forests Work plan staff report. Mr. Daugherty stated that the department does not have temperature monitoring evidence related to forest practices in that region and asked the board to recommend alternative 2 in the staff report.

Board member Ackerman-Munson asked what the timeline was, noting that rulemaking on riparian streams took over 20 years and that timeframe would not be acceptable for this policy. Mr. Daugherty responded that the question is “what does the board need to make a policy decision”? He further said that he needs more clarification on the criteria in the Siskiyous to frame up what monitoring evidence the board needs to move forward.

Board discussion ensued about what information is needed to make a decision, whether scientific data is already available to make a decision, whether the board should make decisions about stream temperatures throughout the state, and monitoring priorities.

Chair Imeson asked Mr. Daugherty to clarify what the board will review in September 2016. Mr. Daugherty said that there will be a set of prioritized monitoring topics in the draft strategy, stream temperature being one of them. He suggested that in September the board consider the Siskiyous in eastern Oregon as a new monitoring priority; at that point a timeline would be defined based upon what information would be needed. There was discussion that department staff may have to rearrange priorities and defer projects, such as wood positioning downstream, depending upon priorities that the board decides upon.

Public comment

Mary Scurlock, Coordinator for Oregon Stream Protection Coalition, suggested that the board integrate monitoring strategies using resources already existing in the monitoring program to prioritize riparian adequacies in the Siskiyous. She asked for recognition that this is a high priority. She stated that the staff report didn’t reflect available information on stream temperatures in the Siskiyous. She asked that there be a decision to bind eastside projects to the Siskiyous and that the option of interim protection be considered.

Recommendation: The department recommends that the board select Alternative 2 and approve the Private Forests Work Plan as submitted. Alternative 2: the Oregon Siskyou riparian policy topic does not need immediate action and the planned higher priority monitoring work would proceed. The board decides the topic does not need immediate action, but wants to ensure the topic receives appropriate priority. The board would use the September 2016 review of the updated monitoring strategy to set priorities for monitoring projects. This process would allow the board to identify the highest priority questions in the context of all unaddressed monitoring topics, with stakeholder input on priorities.

Board member Ackerman-Munson requested amendments to the language in the recommendation. The board deliberated upon the amendment.

Motion with amended language: Mr. Daugherty repeated Ms. Ackerman-Munson’s motion, amending the recommendation to select alternative 2 to read: “The board wants to ensure that the Eastern Oregon

Siskiyou temperature topic receives the appropriate priority. The board would use the September 2016 meeting to review the updated monitoring strategy to set priorities for the monitoring question. The department would summarize existing readily available information on the eastern Oregon and Siskiyou topics to assist the board in setting priorities for monitoring. This process would allow the board to identify the highest priority of questions in the context of unaddressed monitoring topics with stakeholder input as part of the process.”

Board member Deacon Williams **seconded** the motion. Ayes: Tom Imeson, Sybil Ackerman-Munson, Cindy Deacon Williams. Nays: Tom Insko, Mike Rose, Gary Springer. **Motion doesn’t carry.**

Board member Insko said that he didn’t want the department to stop working on large woody debris and didn’t see the urgency in shifting priorities. Mr. Insko **motioned** an amendment to the staff recommendation. Mr. Daugherty read the motion: “The board wants to ensure that the Eastern Oregon Siskiyou temperature topic receives the appropriate priority. The board would use the September 2016 meeting to review the updated monitoring strategy to set priorities for the monitoring question. This process would allow the board to identify the highest priority of questions in the context of unaddressed monitoring topics with stakeholder input as part of the process.”

Board member Ackerman-Munson expressed concern that Mr. Insko’s motion would not require the department to provide additional information on eastern Oregon and that the presentation in September would not have enough depth.

Second: Gary Springer. Ayes: Tom Imeson, Tom Insko, Mike Rose, Gary Springer. Nays: Sybil Ackerman-Munson, Cindy Deacon Williams. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Daugherty read the second part of the original **recommendation: The department recommends that the board approve the remaining attached work plans.**

Motion to approve recommendation that the board approve the remaining attached work plans in agenda item 5: Cindy Deacon Williams. **Second:** Gary Springer. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

6. FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTLAC) TESTIMONY

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (42 minutes 57 seconds)

Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi, FTLAC Chair, shared appreciation that Tom Imeson, Doug Decker and Gary Springer have regularly had a presence at FTLAC meetings. Mr. Josi said that the FTLAC supports the department’s POP’s. Commissioner Josi welcomed all to Tillamook County and commented that Board of Forestry decisions have a profound effect on rural communities. He said that Tillamook County has endured budget cuts and that the county is sliding into insolvency. He referenced a ballot measure locking a low property tax rate into constitution. He said the board has an opportunity to change that trajectory when developing a new Forest Management Plan, a process he said that has been delayed and hence is losing money for the department and counties though it is a billion dollar asset. Mr. Josi questioned why another third party review of the department’s inventory was being conducted and asked whether the FTLAC will be allowed to participate using its own consultant. He commented that the aging forest reflects that 20% of timber emphasis areas and 70% of conservation areas will be greater than 80 years old in 30 years. He expressed concern that older growth would create habitat for owls and murrelets making management costly and difficult. Mr. Josi asked that the board abandon the 17% proposal because it won’t pencil out and is a waste of resources. He asked the board to reconsider whether the twin goals have boxed the department into something that is not attainable. He asked that the

board create the vitality the department needs to stay solvent and help the counties maintain revenues, schools, and family wage jobs.

Public comment

Chris Smith, North Coast State Forests Coalition, addressed the issue of county input in the critical process of state forest management. Mr. Smith remarked that last Friday (April 22) he was asked by Chair Josi not to attend a public County of Forest Trust Lands meeting. He said that the input he's seen from the FTLAC places timber harvest above other forest values, and the input didn't reflect the interests of all of the counties.

Ms. Ackerman-Munson asked Mr. Smith to elaborate on the April 22 meeting. Mr. Smith said Mr. Josi asked him to leave, saying that his presence would undermine the goals of the meeting.

Doug Firstbrook, a 40-year resident of Tillamook County and a member of the watershed counsel, commented that Commissioner Josi's testimony does not reflect the views of many people in the community who would like to see larger riparian zones, less forest management, and that the coast range be managed as an ecosystem. He said that to suggest that we educate our children on the back of environment is unsupportable.

Randall Koch, Tillamook County resident, expressed concern that Commissioner Josi asked Chris Smith to leave a public meeting, at which a quorum of the FTLAC was present. He questioned the integrity and transparency of the FTLAC. He said that he would support the model and talking points of the North Coast State Forests Coalition. He commented that communities are the beneficiary of timber receipts as well as other values, such as clean water, carbon sequestration, recreation opportunities, and wild salmon watersheds to promote healthy economies and diversify a healthy watershed system.

Ted Chu, Nehalem resident, testified that lands in Tillamook County receive maximum exploitation. He commented that herbicide spraying and sediment issues affect the water supply (mentioning Rockaway Beach). He said that timber creates money but so does fishing, recreation and tourism and that 'those are real jobs too', all of which depend upon healthy watersheds. In response to Commissioner Josi's mention about county budget concerns, Mr. Chu said he'd pay higher than average property taxes if it would reduce the exploitation of public lands. He said that state lands are available for balanced, not for profit only, management. He recommended managing public coast range lands to restore comprehensive ecosystem health.

Nancy Webster, Rockaway Beach and Portland resident, expressed concern that county and state elected officials are considering increasing harvest on public lands. She shared photos of Jenny Creek, the Rockaway Beach municipal watershed. She testified that at one point that area was intact but it is now 82% logged. She expressed concern about the effect of landslides and aerial spraying on water quality. She said she represents a group of Rockaway Beach citizens who are concerned about the future of air and water quality.

Bob Rees, Association of NW Steelheaders and NW Guides and Anglers Association, had concerns about the transparency of the FTLAC. He testified that the NW Coast State Forests Coalition represents upwards of 55 thousand Oregonians who rely upon Chris Smith for information; to have him excluded from a public meeting presents a lack of transparency. He stated that the conservation community in Tillamook County desires an ecosystem based management approach. He said that tourism, fishing and the hotel tax have brought in money to the county and that he is concerned about low Coho numbers and high mortality rates due to increased water temperatures.

Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center and North Coast State Forests Coalition, addressed Mr. Josi's testimony: 1) Mr. Van Dyk said Mr. Smith not being allowed to attend a public meeting is a grave concern. He further said the department has not had transparency issues. 2) Mr. Van Dyk questioned the process for drafting the FTLAC testimony Mr. Josi offered at the board meeting; 3) He said that Mr. Josi was incorrect regarding the TERG because the group was not in agreement and that is why a third party inventory is needed; 4) He mentioned that several counties endorsed conservation areas; 5) Mr. Van Dyk expressed concern that Mr. Josi encouraged the department to proactively prevent or destroy habitat for rare species and that he had not heard that issue discussed at FTLAC meetings; 6) Mr. Van Dyk stated that abandoning the 17% approach has never been presented to the FTLAC for discussion.

Chair Imeson clarified that the FTLAC is a statutory committee that has a formal relationship with the board and that the board does not have the same formal relationship with the CFTLC.

Commissioner Josi addressed the public testimony that preceded: 1) He said that his testimony is reviewed by every trust land county commissioner; 2) Mr. Josi remarked that the purpose of the (April 22) CFTLC meeting was to have a frank and potentially personal discussion about a notice received from Polk County stating that Polk County intended to leave the association. Mr. Josi said that he acknowledged to Mr. Smith that it was a public meeting but did ask him to leave. Mr. Josi voiced that at least no one asserted that he had demanded that they leave. Mr. Josi said that, in retrospect, he should have let Mr. Smith attend the meeting.

Board member Deacon Williams suggested that if the group could not have gone into executive session then it was a public meeting that anyone should have been able to attend.

Sybil Ackerman-Munson requested a more transparent process for drafting FTLAC testimony be presented to the board in the future.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MONITORING STRATEGY FOR PRIVATE FORESTS

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (28 minutes 33 seconds)

Terry Frueh, Monitoring Specialist, updated the board on the Private Forest Division's monitoring strategy. Mr. Frueh reviewed the [process for updating Private Forests' monitoring strategy](#) and the [monitoring strategy timeline](#).

State Forester Decker asked Mr. Frueh to estimate the number of possible monitoring tasks that came from the questions used in the process to update the strategy and how many questions the department can sustain on an annual basis. Mr. Frueh responded that the department is prioritizing approximately sixty questions, about forty for implementation (including compliance and voluntary measures), and about ten in both of those categories. Mr. Frueh estimated that one to four questions would be sustainable for the monitoring team at current staffing levels, depending upon the size of the endeavors.

Board member Deacon Williams asked whether, during the prioritization process, the department coordinated with other agencies. Mr. Frueh said that the monitoring group asks for their input and has conversations about priorities at the staff technical level.

Public Comment

Jane Anderson, Garibaldi resident, Tillamook County, expressed concerns about aerial spraying and pesticides that occasionally occur on private lands near her property as well as near schools and playgrounds. She testified that she has asked legislators for a reprieve from spraying. She requested that the board help resolve this issue and asked “what can I do to protect myself and my grandchildren?” She asked the board to improve real time notification of spraying activities.

State Forester Decker responded that there were rules about aerial spraying of pesticides around dwellings; those rules were eliminated because they weren’t founded on statute. Legislation has passed that is putting those rules in statutory form, and the department is working on guidelines that describe to landowners how to follow those rules. Mr. Decker said that these are some of the challenging policy questions that the legislature must consider; the department’s role is to implement statute and rule and to provide subject matter expertise.

Mr. Daugherty explained that the notification timeframe is valid for one year. The average window for applications is three to four months. He said that there are cases in cities where there is real time notification, but real time notification is a challenge because application depends upon weather conditions. The department will be asking for input on how the subscription notification process can be improved.

Board member Deacon Williams commented that technology should make it easier to post real time notification.

Board member Ackerman-Munson expressed understanding of Ms. Anderson’s comments and said she has brought the issue to the board and everyone agreed that improved notification was needed. Ms. Ackerman-Munson said that, though the legislature debates issues, the board provides statements on issues. She suggested that the board involve itself on this issue rather than shrink back from it.

Chair Imeson said that he understood the board had to pull back on regulations because it didn’t have legislative underpinning, but that action in the last session may change the situation.

Information only.

8. SPECIFIED RESOURCE SITES RULEMAKING FOR BALD EAGLES

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (26 minutes 2 seconds)

Jennifer Weikel, Wildlife Biologist, summarized the progress on specified resource site rulemaking for bald eagles.

Ms. Weikel presented that the bald eagle was removed from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2007 and from the state ESA in 2012. She overviewed current criteria under the Sensitive Bird Nesting, Roosting and Watering Site rules in the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and said that administrative rules direct the board when a species is removed from ESA list. She said that the question is whether protection is still warranted for a species under the FPA and in this case whether the bald eagle can be added to Sensitive Bird Site rules.

Ms. Weikel shared the Bald Eagle Technical Report which included detailed, expert and stakeholder reviewed information to help the board answer the question of whether protection rules are warranted. Should the board decide protections are not warranted, there is a section in the document that fleshes out possible modifications to bald eagle FPA rules. Ms. Weikel overviewed the process and timeline of rulemaking if the rule were modified.

Board member Deacon Williams asked whether the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) developed a state management plan. Ms. Weikel said to her knowledge there was no action plan. Ms. Deacon Williams asked that the department check whether a state implementation plan is in progress and that at the July board meeting an eagle expert from ODFW participate in the presentation.

The department will return to the board in July to continue the discussion of bald eagle rulemaking and will request decisions regarding changes to bald eagle rules.

Board member Springer mentioned that he heard concern at a Committee of Family Forestlands meeting that, given the success of the bald eagle, landowners share in that success to represent that the costly buffers they have implemented have contributed to that success.

Information only.

9. RIPARIAN RULES/SSB RULEMAKING UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (19 minutes 31 seconds)

Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief, updated the board on the Rule Advisory Committee, its charter and operating principles, and the rule advisory process.

The role of the advisory committee, which will meet five times, is 1) to discuss and provide feedback on policy issues that need further clarification / decision by the board; 2) to provide feedback to assist the department in developing clear language that describes the board's new riparian standards; and 3) to discuss and provide input on the fiscal impacts of proposed regulations. The committee has identified and will address policy issues as it proceeds. The committee has hired a facilitator and will operate by consensus. The board has final decision making authority on the committee's recommendations. Mr. Daugherty overviewed specific areas that have been discussed in the committee and where agreement has been reached.

Mr. Daugherty reviewed next steps:

- May 2016 rule advisory committee meeting will clarify policy
- June 2016 rule advisory committee will review policy recommendations to the board and begin rulemaking and fiscal impact review
- July 2016 Board of Forestry meeting: The department will ask the board to make decisions on policy clarifications
- September 2016 Board of Forestry meeting: The department will ask the board to approve proposed rule language and the fiscal impact statement
- September 2016 proposed rules will be filed
- October 2016 rules will be published

Board member Springer asked about the role of the Regional Forest Practices Committee in this process. Mr. Daugherty responded that the committee would be engaged after July in the rulemaking language process. Mr. Skinner observed that it will be a challenge to include in rule language well

distributed trees throughout the RMA (that can be measured) without getting complicated and that the board wants to encourage active management.

Information only.

10. SALMONBERRY TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (51 minutes 5 seconds)

State Forester Decker provided an overview of partners involved in the project and recognized Michele Bradley, Port of Tillamook Bay, Jack Mulder, Commissioner of Port of Tillamook Bay, and Bill Baertlein, Tillamook County Commissioner who were in the audience.

Ross Holloway presented information on the history, recent developments and future work anticipated for the Salmonberry Trail project. Dennis Wiley, Project Manager, described the concept of long trails, regional trails and infinity loops. The vision for the Salmonberry Trail is that it be a main section of an infinity loop comprised of regional trails, which would attract international interest and be a major asset to Oregon. Mr. Wiley overviewed the planning process:

- 2012 Feasibility study – concluded that this is a worthwhile project with high historic interest, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities.
- 2013 Concept plan – Public input and research resulted in a concept plan, which has begun but many questions couldn't be answered due to the modest budget and project's complexity.
- The vision for the trail is to connect urban and rural environments, the valley to the coast, and people to recreational experiences. The many benefits of developing the trail include: economic benefits; health/fitness opportunities; an increase in safety on highways; and cleaning up the environment in sensitive areas.

Mr. Holloway presented information about the inception and governance of the project, highlighting the work of Oregon Solutions which lead to the formation of a new intergovernmental agency. Mr. Holloway outlined partnerships and contributions to date.

Mr. Wiley outlined project and operation plans and challenges that have been identified, such as zoning, ownership, maintenance, future management, routing, permitting, bridges, and costs. An advisory committee will be established for each segment of trail to understand what works best for each particular community. The timeline for the next two years will not “break ground” but involves fundraising, planning, convening advisory groups, land use process work, and campaign efforts.

Three key partners in the audience were recognized and invited to comment:

Paul Wyntergreen used a map to point out areas of project issues, such as an area that was planned to go through dairy farms and wetland/sensitive areas. Alternate routes that would pass near private properties, such as businesses that would benefit from the trail traffic, are being identified. Mr. Wyntergreen mentioned the Crosstown Connection, a fully funded project that would connect two city parks and include a hiking trail and a bicycle/pedestrian path from the rail to downtown Tillamook.

Jack Mulder, Port of Tillamook Bay Commissioner, said that he joined the Port Commission because of Salmonberry trail. He said he has seen strong support from the Port Commission for this project and that a great deal of progress has been made over the last three years.

Commissioner Baertlein thanked the board and the audience, especially State Forester Decker, and commented on several partnerships with the Department of Forestry that have worked well. He remarked that the Salmonberry partnership is a team effort and is working well.

Board member Springer asked for an estimate on overall costs. Mr. Holloway said the feasibility study estimated a range of \$19 mil to \$50 mil depending upon challenges and scope. The initial campaign focus is on \$23 mil with the potential for up to \$80 mil depending upon donations.

State Forester Decker expressed appreciation for the energy and resources each department and community has brought to the project. He said the department sees this as an extension of its recreation, interpretation and education goals but that it is important to recognize the department's limited resources. Mr. Decker said the goal is that fundraising efforts will fund next steps as the project moves forward.

Public comment

Adam Meyer expressed appreciation for everyone working on the Salmonberry project. He shared that one and a half years ago he ran across the country, which included a 330 mile stretch including the C and O (Chesapeake and Ohio) trail, the longest trail in the country. He commented that millions of dollars for rural jobs and businesses come to surrounding communities because of that trail.

Information only.

11. FIRE PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (11 minutes 50 seconds)

Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester, provided an update on the Fire Program Review Committee's progress to date.

Ms. Hirsch said that as a result of the significant increase in wildfires over the past several years, the department convened this committee to develop and implement ideas to create a more sustainable fire organization focusing on the state's complete and coordinated fire protection system. The process began in December 2015. Ms. Hirsch overviewed the current discussion of the three focus working groups:

Sustainable Large Fire Funding Working Group: Exploring new revenue sources. At this time there is a lot of alignment on the concept of a Trust Fund.

Sustainable Fire Organization Working Group: Considering investments in statewide severity, POP's and efficiencies.

Wildfire Policy Working Group: Focusing on wildland urban interface, SB360, and rangeland protective associations.

Potential recommendations will be moved to the full committee on June 6, 2016. At the June 8 Board of Forestry meeting Protection Chief Doug Grafe will provide more details of the committee's progress.

State Forester Decker mentioned that about seven key legislators are on the committee, some who have been impacted by fire, and that the committee is a good cross section of both urban and rural interests.

Chair Imeson said he's attended some of the meetings, that stakeholders are raising good questions, and that there's a desire to proceed to recommendations thoroughly and quickly.

With no further business before the board, Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Doug Decker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Decker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Decker, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

MS