

State Forests Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary¹

Forest Grove Community Auditorium

Friday, October 23rd, 2015

In Attendance

Commissioner Bill Baertlein, Brian Pew, Denise Lofman, Lisa Phipps, Rex Storm, Rick Gruen, Leslie Shaw, Zach Haas, Bill Hadsell, Paul Lulay, Ed Kamholz, Andy White, Don Everingham, Barb Moore, Mike Totey, Blake McKinley, Shannon Loffelmacher, Ron Zilli, Wayne Auble, Kate Skinner, Steve Wilson, and April Davis

Absent Committee Members: Barrett Brown, Eric Emerson, Adam Meyer and OSU representative

Housekeeping

Ed Kamholz – SFAC Chairperson

Member Introductions – All

Vice-Chair Announcement

- Rex Storm has been selected as the vice-chair. Thanks to the other members, Lisa Phipps, Paul Lulay for being willing to serve.

Approval of Meeting Summary

- Approval of Meeting Summary 6/15/15 – Motion Passed

Review Membership Term Limits

- Members with expiring terms are: Lisa Phipps, Eric Emerson, Rex Storm (auto-renewal due to being elected vice-chair), and Commissioner Bill Baertlein (up to FTLAC to determine their representative).

2016 Meeting Schedule

- Tentative dates: April 29th, June 23rd – June 24th, and October 28th. Please send April an email if you have a conflict with any of those dates. Once finalized she will send them out to members.
- Brian Pew asked if the group would like to meet more often.
 - Consensus was the committee meets quarterly; including the new member orientation (first quarter of the year), so, not necessarily; email, conference calls with the option to join in at a District office would be the committees preference, but willing to meet in person if ODF needs SFAC's feedback and the timing is such that it doesn't line up with the meeting schedule.
 - Will continue to update the group via email.

OSU's Involvement

- OSU has been chartered since the beginning of SFAC, mostly on the research side of things; their participation has been challenging. Looking to have someone from the extension department join. Andy will be reaching out to OSU. Welcome to other ideas from SFAC members.

2015 AOP Accomplishment Reports

Don Everingham, NWOA Assistant Area Director

District Representatives: Shannon Loffelmacher, North Cascade; Ron Zilli, Astoria; Blake McKinley, West Oregon; Barb Moore, Tillamook; Wayne Auble, Forest Grove District

¹ Meeting summary reflects key issues, discussions and decisions, not verbatim language.

Historically these reports were provided by the Area Planner, a position which ODF no longer has. Due to budget cuts the reports were not compiled in 2009-2010. Since 2011, a more concise version of the reports has been created and has evolved based on SFAC's input on what information they would like to have. The purpose of the report is to compare operations described in the 2015 AOP to the resulting timber sale contracts and other annual accomplishments. The report summarizes; harvesting, roads, restoration projects, current stand structure, young stand management and recreation activities listed in the AOP summary tables. The report is based on the operations planned for the 2015 AOP and accounts for deletion or modification of primary operations and the alternative operations that were promoted to primary operations; it does not include non-AOP operations, such as salvage or "342" sales.

Harvests

For NWOA, 45 planned harvests in this AOP. Two primary sales were moved forward to the FY16 AOP (AT and NC) as Districts met volume objectives without them. In West Oregon, one primary sale was dropped due to T&E and was replaced by two alternate timber sales. Of the 44 timber sales that are now associated with the AOP; 38 have been sold, 4 are in Salem for processing and 2 are still in the field work stage.

Volume Summary:

Overall NWOA is at 89% of AOP sold (by volume).

Paul Lulay – Some districts over-achieved and some under-achieved; recognize you're trying to meet the IP 10-year target.

West Oregon's challenges included T&E issues and an ice storm.

Net Value Summary:

NWOA Districts Combined

\$61,189,152 AOP Net Value

Submitted Timber Sales – 42 operations 95% of volume

98% of AOP

Sold Timber Sales – 38 operations 88% of volume

124% of AOP

Paul asked about volume targets.

In the next 6 months, Astoria will be expanding the lists for solicitation to loggers.

Sort sales are a new tool that Astoria is piloting for State Forests.

Planned vs. Contract Acres

Overall as an area we will harvest less acres (mainly partial cut) than planned in the initial AOP.

Project Work

Roads Summary by District

Road improvement miles submitted in timber sale contracts were above what was planned. Timber sale contract project work was 105% of what was planned in the AOP.

Harvesting remains steady 12 months of the year. To accommodate wet weather hauling, project work costs have increased to disconnect drainage systems from streams and to improve the quality of the road surfacing in critical locations.

Paul – Industry really appreciates the investment ODF makes on improving wet weather hauling. Attended a tour that illustrated the improvements and the ability to haul year-round.

Rex – Noted that over-accomplishment of road improvement should be supported as it shows a commitment to water quality improvement and managing the lands responsibly.

Restoration Projects

2015 AOP Restoration Projects

There are 12 annual projects planned to meet IP restoration goals across NWOA. Barb shared some photos of projects done in the Tillamook District. Mill Bound in-stream structure placed by cable logging crew.

West Oregon had one restoration project; ODFW supplied the logs and labor for the placement and Mill Creek inmate crew did the site prep and rehabilitation work.

Total Number of Restoration Projects from 1995 to 2009 by District (As reported by OWEB)

NWOA Totals:

- Miles with Stream Improvement Projects – 79.45
- Total # of Fish Passage Improvement Projects – 394
- Total # of Road Improvement Projects – 1,112

Current Stand Structure

Snap shot of 2015 Current Stand Structure Summaries by District

Bill requested an explanation of the acronyms in the table.

- OFS – Older Forest Stand
- LYR – Layered (forest stand type)
- UDR – Understory
- CSC – Closed single canopy
- REG – Regeneration
- NON – Non-forested acres that ODF manages; non-silviculture

Young Stand Management

Initial Planting Summary by District

Districts planted about 221 less acres than planned in the AOP, but interplanted more acres than initially planned. This is a result of past seedling performance issues. Districts feel this issue has been addressed and likely the amount of interplanting will go down in future years.

Leslie asked why the acres treated for invasive plant control was so low (planned 36 acres, completed 18 acres). Barb said most of what is planned is for roadsides and also that canopies can shade out some understory as a natural “treatment”. Tillamook District has been working with Wyatt Williams and there’s a beetle that is available to be released that attacks Scotch Broom.

Roadside spraying is not captured in this table. It could also be a reporting issue.

Recreation

Highlights for FY15

Activity Level - 10k hours of volunteer work across NWOA Districts

- 7,176 of South Fork Crew “man days” (FDF dollars)

- 43k campers - the demand and use increases year after year

Investment – attempted to capture the value of volunteer hours, South Fork Crews, and ODF District Expenditures at \$2,864,495.

Applied for and received \$15k grant from Yamaha access Initiative Program for printing of OHV guides and trail signing.

Tillamook and Astoria Districts jointly applied for Land and Water Conservation Development grant for 2 new vault toilet facilities at Keenig Creek campground and new double vault toilet and kiosk at Lost Lake recreation area. Final grant decision to be made in September 2014 by National Park Service and work can commence in FY15.

Tillamook noted over the summer that there were larger groups that stayed longer on the forest. Rex said this might be a good time to take a strategic look at how to manage the increase in use.

Salmonberry Corridor Master Plan Update

Mike Cafferata, Forest Grove District Forester

The storm damage in 2007 put an end to the Salmonberry Railway that was created in the early 1900's.

New agency created September 25, 2015; Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency. It is an agreement between ODF, OPRD, Tillamook County, Washington County and the Port of Tillamook Bay.

2015 Fire Season

Andy White, NWOA Director

Wildfire Risk 2014-2015 targeted NW region of US, which included Oregon. We had to compete with 5-6 other states for resources. Drought conditions played a huge part of the 2015 fire season.

168 contract crews on assignment (8,000 crew days) throughout the summer. State of emergency declared in late July. 20 different states and 2 Canadian provinces assisted in our firefighting efforts.

ODF acres burned:

2013 – 104, 167 acres

2014 – 53.387 acres

2015 – 94,979 acres

27,599 is the 10-year average

of fires was average for 2015; acres burned is where we saw the increase.

In NWOA we saw an increase in the number of Type 3 fires (6 in 2015). In 2014 there were 3-4 and unfortunately we don't anticipate this trend to discontinue.

ODF Large Fire Costs

2013 - \$74.3 million

2014 – \$47.7 million

2015 - \$29.5 million (YTD as of 9/23/15)

2015 Funding of the Protection Program has multiple levels; \$25 million insurance policy which has a \$50 million deductible (\$30 million State of Oregon and \$20 million shared GF and OFLPF), statewide severity of \$5 million (GF and OFLPF), and the base level of \$48 million (50/50 private landowners and general fund)

*OFLPF – Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund

Severity funding was used to contract 16 aircraft; airtankers, fixed wing, medium and light helicopters which were strategically placed (pre-positioned) across the landscape statewide.

Key questions looking forward in sustaining the Fire Protection effort. ODF will lead a multi-stakeholder process involving legislative leadership, landowners, and fire cooperators that considers key questions in a context of increased fire activity and intensity.

- Fire Finance: Severity and Base Level Funding, Insurance
 - What is the right mix of existing and alternative insurance options as a backstop for large fire costs?
 - How are they structured and funded?
- Capacity: Militia Concept, Technology, Personnel
 - How do we ensure sufficient, sustainable, qualified and equipped fire response?
 - How can new technology assist with response effectiveness?
 - How do we fund those improvements?
- Policy
 - What policy improvements would produce a more fire resilient landscape long term and reduce overall long term fire costs?

Lisa Phipps asked how the affected landowners are feeling about ODF's effort and response to these larger fires. They are fully supportive and see the increase.

Leslie said it was a struggle to get more accurate fire related road closure information. She used Travel Oregon, TripCheck and the ODF FaceBook page, but information varied.

Division Updates/Ongoing Business

Brian Pew, Deputy Chief State Forests

AFMP Update

- Met with the subcommittee a couple times over the summer
- Presented draft results in August of the model runs
 - Asked for more time to work things through
 - Harvest in owl circles
 - Took another look at the financials
 - District harvest levels
 - Impact on counties
- Conservation report
- Preliminary report proves financial viability can be achieved in the
- Predictions beyond 20 years for the budget and timber prices is extremely challenging
- Technical Review Board – comprised of 3 members that will be with us for the rest of the process
- Meeting with FTLAC next week
- The timeline will be extended due to the model run requests

State Forests Conference Highlights

Riparian Rules Revision

Andy White, NWOA Director

Rip Stream Project

Riparian project across multiple ownerships, both public and private. Emphasis was looking at the impact of harvesting on streams. The data that was looked at really hard was stream temperature in watersheds that are harvested (varying buffer widths) vs those that are not harvested. One metric that wasn't being met was protecting cold water criterion (you can't have a harvesting activity effect the stream temperature by

more than .3 degrees centigrade). The outcome of some of the research was that we had sites that exceeded that. The BOF was informed and they found that degradation had occurred. They initiated a process for Private Forests and stakeholders to figure out a way for that not to occur in the future. A stakeholder group was formed. They were tasked with developing a group of prescriptions to mitigate the impact of harvesting on streams. Then they were asked to identify a geographic area to apply these new prescriptions to. They were also asked to seek out other research that would help inform some of these same questions. They also had to run some models to show how well some of these prescriptions might or might now work and show what the financial impact would be from these prescriptions. It has been narrowed down to two prescriptions (which did not have to be solely regulatory). A decision will be made at the November BOF meeting.

Lisa asked if there is awareness of the consequences that have already happened as a result of this non-compliance. Is that at least helping drive the conversation that there needs to be some resolution?

Public Comment

None

Close Out

Potential Future Meeting Topics

- Options for addressing Target Shooting
- Recreation Rule Revisions (may need to occur prior to the April meeting)
- Sort sale process
- Sale of the Elliot

Adjourn