

DRAFT Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2016

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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) Handout, Forest Threats, Consent Agenda Item 1A
- 2) Presentation, Human Resources Dashboard, Agenda Item 3
- 3) Presentation, Oregon Community Trees, Agenda Item 6
- 4) Presentation, Eastern Oregon: Small Diameter Wood Study, Agenda Item 9
- 5) Handout, Recommendations from the Fees Advisory Committee, Agenda Item 10
- 6) Handout, Summary of Public Comments and Hearings, Agenda Item 10
- 7) Handout, Recreation Areas, Agenda Item 10
- 8) Presentation, Board of Forestry Subcommittee on NW Oregon State Forest Management Plan, Agenda Item 11
- 9) Public Comment, Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center, Agenda Item 11

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on January 6, 2016 at the State Forester's Headquarters Office, 2600 State St. Salem, Oregon 97310.

Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Tom Imeson
Nils Christoffersen (phone)

Gary Springer
Tom Insko (phone)

Absent:

Sybil Ackerman-Munson
Cindy Deacon Williams
Mike Rose

CONSENT AGENDA:

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (21 minutes – 10 MB)

Chair Imeson noted that a quorum of the Board was present and questioned the Board on their approval of the Consent Agenda. Tom Insko moved to approve and Gary Springer seconded.

Voting in favor: Gary Springer, Tom Insko, Nils Christoffersen, and Tom Imeson, against: none. With Board consensus, Items A through E were approved.

A. OCTOBER 14, 2015 BOARD PLANNING RETREAT MINUTES

Approval of Board Planning Retreat Minutes.

The Board approved the October 14, 2015 Planning Retreat Minutes.

B. NOVEMBER 5, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the Board meeting minutes.

The Board approved the November 5, 2015 meeting minutes.

C. REGIONAL FOREST PRACTICES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Recommended the appointment of one new member to the Regional Forest Practice Committees.

The Board appointed Lon Casebeer to the Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee with a term expiring September 2016.

D. HEARING REQUEST FOR PROVIDING PROTECTION FROM FIRE FOR PRIVATE RANGELANDS IN NORTHEAST BAKER COUNTY

Sought Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in the vicinity of Halfway, in Baker County, Oregon.

The Board approved the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Northeast Baker County, Oregon.

E. COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS APPOINTMENTS

Recommended the appointment of the Vice Chair and one new member for the Committee for Family Forestlands.

The Board appointed Evan Barnes for the Vice Chair position on the Committee for Family Forestlands and Bonnie Shumaker as the replacement for the Northwest representative.

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

1. **STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

State Forester Decker provided introductory comments with highlights including:

- a summary of the three day legislative session in November 2015;
- the kick off of the fire program review;
- ODF represented at a two day meeting with the Oregon tribes;
- a full day meeting attended with Doug Grafe with fire execs and staff reflecting on 2015;
- the agency achievement awards took place in December of 2015;
- noted several recent retirements across the agency including Dan Thorpe, Greg Alexander, Rick Dryer, in Southwest Oregon, Greg Pittman and Dave Horton in Klamath Lake, Central Oregon District Forester George Ponte, Chief Information Officer Steven Hoffert, and highlighted the opportunity for succession management during this time of change for the agency;
- welcomed the new Public Affairs Director Ken Armstrong;
- recognizing that Board Member Gary Springer has asked to finish his term early, attending his last meeting in April of 2016, and thanking Gary for his dedication and commitment to the Board;
- three Board members, Cindy Deacon-Williams, Tom Insko, and Nils Christoffersen, whose first terms are expiring and who will all be moved forward for reappointment for a second term in the February session;
- conversations for a replacement for Board Member Gary Springer are underway and are currently scheduled for the May session; and
- thoughts on the agenda and priorities for the year ahead.

Board Member Gary Springer mentioned the new Starker Lecture Series, highlighting that the first lecture would be on January 28 and feature State Forester Decker as speaker.

1A. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (21 minutes – 10 MB)

Paul Barnum, Executive Director of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), presented a handout on Forest Threats ([Attachment 1](#)) and provided an overview of the relationship that OFRI has with the Department of Forestry, highlighting the appointment of four new OFRI Board members that began service on January 1 and introduced Inka Bajandas, OFRI Public Outreach Manager. Inka Bajandas thanked those that helped to develop the Forest Threats report, specifically Board Member Gary Springer and ODF employees Christine Buhl, Stephanie Beal, Clyde Zeller, Danny Norlander, and Alan Kanaskie. Mr. Barnum finished with a timeline of the release of the Forest Threats report.

2. **DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY FISCAL REPORT**

Administrative Work Plan – Ongoing Financial Status Check

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (17 minutes – 8 MB)

Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Services Division Chief, referenced a presentation ([Agenda Item 2, Attachment 1](#)) to provide an overview of the 2013-15 Financial Dashboard. Mr. Upadhyay then referenced a presentation ([Agenda Item 2, Attachment 2](#)) to provide an update on the first quarter of the 2015-17 biennium and a current look at the department's funding, revenues and expenditures.

Information only.

3. HR DASHBOARD

Administrative – Human Resources Dashboard

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (16 minutes – 7 MB)

State Forester Decker provided a brief history of the development of the Human Resources Dashboard and what to expect going forward with regards to this topic.

Jonathan Herman, Human Resources Director, referenced a presentation ([Attachment 2](#)) to provide a current overview of the Human Resources Program and a snapshot of the personnel, training and safety statistics for the agency.

Information only.

4. FIRE PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Protection Work Plan – Protection Ongoing Issues

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (27 minutes – 12 MB)

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief, provided an overview of the Fire Program Review Committee including its primary objectives and summarized the first meeting that took place on January 21, 2016.

Board discussion ensued with questions for Mr. Grafe on the role of the legislature in the work groups, the concern from private landowners that these meetings are not public meetings, funding for fighting fires in federal forests, and the connecting discussion on the Oregon Smoke Management Plan.

Information only.

5. DISCUSSION OF 2015-17 DRAFT BOARD WORK PLANS

Forest Resources Planning – Strategic Planning and Work Plans

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (46 minutes – 21 MB)

Kevin Birch, Director of Forest Resources Planning, reviewed the planning process to date and introduced the division chiefs.

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief, referenced [Agenda Item 5, Attachment 2](#) to provide an overview of the work plan for the Fire Protection Division, highlighting the topics of Firefighter Legal Defense, Forest Protective Association agreements, Fire Prevention Rules Committee, Fire Program Review Committee, and ongoing work.

Lena Tucker, Acting Private Forests Division Chief, referenced [Agenda Item 5, Attachment 3](#) to provide an overview of the work plan for the Private Forests Division, highlighting water quality topics such as the riparian rule language and the results from the RipStream project, enhancing and maintaining the Board of Forestry and EQC relationship, as well as the Forest Practices Act Rule policy review, legislative direction implementation, and the expected dates of Board updates and annual reports.

State Forester Decker provided a brief overview of the agency planning process and the importance of the planning work that takes place.

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief, referenced [Agenda Item 5, Attachment 4](#) to provide an overview of the work plan for the State Forests Division, highlighting the topics of the continued work on revising the current Forest Management Plan, improved business model and improved business practices, Recreation Rule revisions and rulemaking, Safe Harbor Agreement for Northern Spotted Owls, and the expected dates of Board updates on the Elliott State Forest land transfer and the Salmonberry corridor.

Kevin Birch referenced [Agenda Item 5, Attachment 5](#) to provide an overview of the work plan for Emerging and Overarching Issues, highlighting the heavy research component of the topics, the forest landowner viability issue, estimating the future cost of wildfire, the Oregon Timber Products Census, mapping and reporting the composition and dynamics of Oregon's forests, and the revised work plan for Federal Forests.

Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Services Division Chief, referenced [Agenda Item 5, Attachment 6](#) to provide an overview of the work plan for the Administrative Services Division highlighting six topics, most of which are routine/biennial in nature, including legislative concepts, agency budget development and request, Board governance and self-evaluation, key performance review, ongoing financial status checks, and the Human Resources Dashboard.

Mr. Birch concluded with what to expect for the final work plans at the March Board meeting.

Information only.

6. OREGON COMMUNITY TREES URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AWARDS

Private Forests Work Plan – Urban Forestry

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (18 minutes – 8 MB)

Paul Ries, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, provided a brief background on the Urban Forestry Program and introduced Ruth Williams, President of Oregon Community Trees.

Ruth Williams referenced a presentation ([Attachment 3](#)) providing an overview of Oregon Community Trees (OCT) with highlights including a background on her role in OCT, what OCT does and

how they operate, the annual awards presented to community leaders by OCT and the award recipients for 2015, the grants program to help fund Arbor Day celebrations in Oregon communities, multiple education seminars across the state, and the importance of urban forestry and ways to get involved.

Board discussion ensued with highlights including information on the Urban Forestry Program at the Department of Forestry and the funding for that program, as well as an update on the oak tree that was lost on the Salem ODF campus due to the flooding of Mill Creek in December.

Information only.

7. **2017 LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND INITIAL IDEAS**

Administrative Work Plan – Legislative Concepts

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (12 minutes – 6 MB)

Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester, provided an overview of the process for developing the department’s legislative concepts and reviewed a set of principles that will help guide the development of those concepts for the 2017 legislative session and introduced Chad Davis, Policy Analyst.

Chad Davis provided an overview of the four legislative concepts that got traction at the last legislative session and an overview of the forest products harvest tax bill that is the only legislative concept on the docket at the moment.

Nancy Hirsch noted that there is the possibility of something coming out of the fire program review. She also provided a timeline of what the Board can expect going forward, including returning to the Board in March for additional direction and final concepts due to the Department of Administrative Services in mid-April.

Board discussion ensued with clarification from staff around developing resources to help landowners implement more complex rules with regards to the riparian rule rulemaking.

Ms. Hirsch reiterated that the legislative concepts being discussed and brought before the Board are for the 2017 session that begins in a year and outlined the upcoming February legislative short session where the department’s procurement purchase order system replacement will likely go before committee and action will be approved on large fire funding from the previous fire season.

Board discussion ensued with clarification from staff on the timeline of the fire protection piece.

Information only.

8. **PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE FOR 2017-19 AGENCY REQUEST BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

Administrative Work Plan – Agency Budget Development

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (9 minutes – 4 MB)

Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Services Division Chief, presented an initial set of guiding principles developed by the agency's executive team for the 2017-19 budget development process, seeking Board approval.

Board discussion ensued with clarification from Mr. Upadhyay on the differences between the guiding principles being presented and previous guiding principles and the timeline and next steps in the budget development process.

Information only.

9. **FOREST LANDOWNER VIABILITY – RESULTS FROM THE SMALL DIAMETER WOOD STUDY**

Forest Resources Planning Work Plan – Strategic Planning, Implementation & Monitoring

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (46 minutes – 21 MB)

Brandon Kaetzel, Economist, introduced Mark Rasmussen, Mason, Bruce & Girard, and Dr. Roy Anderson, Vice President, The Beck Group, and provided a brief overview of the history and purpose of the Small Diameter Wood Study.

Roy Anderson provided a brief background on the Beck Group and listed the three objectives of the study: 1) quantify small diameter supply and characteristics, 2) identify and analyze market opportunities for small diameter material in eastern Oregon, and 3) assess concept of integrated processing facility.

Mark Rasmussen referenced a presentation ([Attachment 4](#)) to provide context, background, and results of the Eastern Oregon: Small Diameter Wood Study with highlights including diameter distributions of timber sales, annual harvest from eastern Oregon forests, composition of non-sawtimber, and how biomass is used in eastern Oregon.

Mr. Anderson referenced a presentation ([Attachment 4](#)) to provide a summary of the cost of getting small trees out of the woods and the economics of material once it is delivered to a plant with highlights including delivered raw materials costs, green ton versus bone dry ton, residual value, and the integrated facility concept.

Mr. Kaetzel reviewed the groups that have utilized the report and addressed some concerns that the Board may have with the report including the need for additional treatment dollars, a definition and understanding of biomass and the role for ODF in biomass.

Board discussion ensued with clarification from staff and presenters on the following topics:

- the integrated biomass facility in Wallowa;
- the machines referenced in the presentation and how it would affect the results if machines designed to handle small diameter trees were analyzed; and
- the value of the results of this study.

Information only.

10. FOREST RECREATION RULEMAKING

State Forests Work Plan – State Forests Management

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (22 minutes – 10 MB)

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief, provided a brief overview of the recreation rulemaking process and introduced Justin Butteris.

Justin Butteris, State Forests Policy Analyst, referenced a handout ([Attachment 5](#)) to provide a summary of the recommendations from the Fees Advisory Committee with highlights including the amount of fees, the exploration of the possibility of rededicating 100% of fees collected from recreation back into the recreation program, the exploration of re-designation of designated dispersed sites to designated camping areas and charge a fee, keeping the fees uniform across all state forests lands, a Board review of the fees in Division 25, Rule 30 biennially, and the exploration of a day-use/parking fee. Mr. Butteris provided an overview of what this means for recreation expenditure and income.

Mr. Butteris also referenced a handout ([Attachment 6](#)) to provide a summary of the 25 public comments and hearings received on topics of weed free hay, road closures, concern over increasing levels of recreation without the capacity to manage it, proposed prohibition on nudity, concerns from ODFW regarding unintentional consequences of abandoned property language as it relates to the use of tree stands, blinds, and game cameras, the requirement to use earthen backstops when target shooting, concerns regarding the ability of ODFW to trap problem wildlife in designated recreation areas, and the change to large commercial event permitting as it relates to OHV clubs.

Mr. Butteris provided a handout ([Attachment 7](#)) detailing designated recreation areas and outlined the next steps in the rulemaking process, stating that the completed language would be brought before the Board at the March meeting.

Information only.

11. ALTERNATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

State Forest Work Plan – State Forests Management

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 (49 minutes – 22 MB)

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief, introduced Andy White, Northwest Oregon Area Director, and referenced a presentation ([Attachment 8](#)) to provide an overview of the forest management planning process as it relates to the State Forests strategic initiative focused on sustainable management of forests, highlighting the need for more than one approach to solve this challenge.

Chair Imeson provided a history of the forest management plan concept and the 70/30 allocation approach, highlighting the twin goals of achieving financial viability and improving conservation outputs, the complexity of the process, the critical nature of this work to many different people and interest groups, the desire of the Board and the department to listen to all of the input before making the best possible decision, and the sense of urgency surrounding this process.

Ms. Dent noted that after the outreach and work that has been done to date it is important to acknowledge and identify the areas of agreement: 1) the need for the plan to be financially viable, 2) need

to deliver on greatest permanent value (GPV), 3) needs to be a transparent process that engages stakeholders, and 4) the solution has to be sustainable from both the stewardship and social perspectives. Ms. Dent highlighted how the transparency and outreach process will work moving forward, outlined the stakeholder process to date and moving forward, and the valuable role of the Technical Expert Review Group (TERG) to date and moving forward.

Ms. Dent outlined the direction given by the Board at the November Board meeting to evaluate the following four potential approaches: 1) two zone land allocation, 2) three zone land allocation, 3) current Forest Practices Act, and 4) Structure Based Management under Forest Management Plan; defined the milestones to complete this work; summarized the modeling process; and discussed the amount of time necessary for this work, looking for opportunities to increase efficiencies, the ever increasing urgency to complete this work, and the need to balance the amount of modeling work done and the timeliness of a decision.

Board discussion ensued with clarification from staff on topics including:

- a time price tag on the cost of doing this work;
- the value of the additional work;
- the importance and value of the TERG and whether an agreed upon perspective can be reached;
- the measurability of financial viability and conservation benefits; and
- the plan to elevate and illuminate the work being done by the TERG and how that work will be made more transparent.

Liz Dent provided an overview of the financial drivers for the forest management plan revision process and the need for having contingency plans in place in the event that a change is not implemented before 2020.

Andy White provided an overview of the contingency planning that has been done to date and outlined potential avenues that could be taken including forest management actions, continued business improvements, and cost saving measures, recognizing that the need for considering contingency plans is based on a significant timeline for the state forest revision process that goes beyond 2020.

Ms. Dent noted that a subcommittee meeting is being scheduled for February and outlined potential agenda items for that meeting including a final list of milestones and timeline associated working through those milestones, an update on the TERG and their recommendations, and more fleshed out concepts around contingency planning.

Chair Imeson called for comment from the Forest Trustlands Advisory Committee.

Craig Pope, Forest Trustlands Advisory Committee, opted to defer comment to the February subcommittee meeting.

Chair Imeson called for public comment.

Leanne Thompson, Clatsop County Commissioner, provided public testimony noting that Clatsop County is in the process of selecting a permanent county manager.

Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center, provided public testimony and written comment ([Attachment 9](#)) emphasizing that one of the goals is conservation improvements, expressing concern about where

conservation increase will come from in the modeling that is there so far, and suggesting a habitat conservation plan.

Chris Smith, North Coast State Forest Coalition, provided public testimony stating the view that modeling the current Forest Practices Act is not valuable to this process and instead encouraging the Board to direct staff to model a habitat conservation plan.

Board discussion ensued with clarification from staff on topics including:

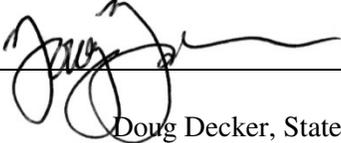
- the contingency issues and the distinction of ongoing business improvement opportunities and the options when more extreme measures are needed, as well as what those more extreme options might be;
- the lag between when a state forest management plan revision decision is made and when the economic benefits of those revisions are recognized; and
- the possible impacts to this process of another severe fire season in 2016.

Information only.

With no further business before the Board, Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Doug Decker



Doug Decker, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

TS