

**DRAFT Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes**

**September 5, 2018**

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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](http://www.oregonforestry.gov)

- (1) Presentation, [2018 Fire Season BOF Presentation](#), Agenda Item 2
- (2) Presentation, [Private Forests Monitoring Unit Update Presentation](#), Agenda Item 3
- (3) Handout, [Written and Oral Testimony from Scurlock for Private Forests Monitoring Unit](#), Agenda Item 3
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- (5) Presentation, [2017 Forest Health Report BOF Presentation](#), Agenda Item 4
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- (7) Handout, [Written and Oral Testimony from Josi, Yamamoto, and Baertlein as FTLAC Members](#), Agenda Item 5
- (8) Presentation, [State Forests Resource Assessments Presentation](#), Agenda Item 6
- (9) Handout, [Written and Oral Testimony from Jones for State Forests Resource Assessment](#), Agenda Item 6
- (10) Handout, [Written and Oral Testimony from Barnes for State Forests Resource Assessment](#), Agenda Item 6
- (11) Presentation, [Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Oregon and Washington – 2018 Update BOF Presentation](#), Agenda Item 7

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held on September 5th, 2018 at the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters on 2600 State Street Salem, OR 97310.

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

Board Members Present:

Nils Christoffersen  
Cindy Deacon Williams  
Mike Rose  
Tom Imeson

Absent:

None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Nils Christoffersen motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Mike Rose seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Nils Christoffersen, Tom Imeson, Cindy Deacon Williams, and Mike Rose. Against: none. With Board consensus, Items A through D were approved.

A. JULY 24, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.

**Action: The Board approved minutes from the July 24, 2018 Board meeting.**

B. REGIONAL FOREST PRACTICES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Reappointment of nine candidates to on the Regional Forest Practice Committees. For the Northwest Oregon Region, Southwest Oregon Region and Eastern Oregon Region.

**Action: The Board confirmed reappointment for the Northwest Oregon Region; candidates Scott Gray, Jim Hunt, and Jon Stewart. The Board confirmed reappointment for the Southwest Oregon Region; candidates Jay Christensen, Dale Cuyler, and Adam Stinnett. The Board confirmed reappointment for the Eastern Oregon Region; candidates Irene Jerome, Elwayne Henderson, and Bob Messinger as Chair.**

C. KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES ANNUAL REVIEW

Administrative Division provided information on the Department of Forestry's Annual Performance Progress Report for Reporting Year 2018, submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Office and Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office.

**No Action Requested: Informational item only.**

D. SILVER CREEK RFPA EXPANSION

Approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of an expansion of the current boundary for Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association to include additional rangeland not currently protected.

**Action: The Board approved the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of expansion of the current boundaries of the Silver Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association to include the Willow Flat area and additional rangeland east of the current boundaries.**

**ACTION AND INFORMATION:**

1. STATE FORESTER, BOARD MEMBER, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (21 minutes and 24 seconds – 9.8 MB)

Chair Imeson commented on:

- Public Meeting will be live streamed.
- Scheduled Executive Session was cancelled.
- Public Comment open to the public.

State Forester Daugherty commented on:

- Fire Season ramping down with 27 new fires over the holiday weekend and eight large fires on the landscape, only three requiring the Department's immediate response. The Department hosted a Governor's tour of Garner Complex and recently attended the Coastal Caucus Economic Summit.
- September meeting historically serves as an opportunity to report on how the Department is doing for the Board by reporting on key performance metrics, forest health conditions, monitoring program results, and state forest's resource assessments. As well as present on emerging issue topics, to inform the Board prior to the planning retreat in October.
- Highlighted key themes of the 2018 fire season:
  - The fire season started early with the Department's first Incident Management Team deployed on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, with seven deployments in total to date.
  - Acknowledgment of the Department staff's dedication to provide support for the incident command centers, who assisted with fires in other jurisdictions, and behind-the-scenes support.
  - Recognition for the district teams incredible efforts in catching fires early in initial attack and holding onto fires in extended attacks, as well as for the many partners whose coordinated efforts helped protect Oregon from fires.
  - Oregon encountered a higher than average fire severity, which challenges the Department in meeting the full mission of serving Oregonians by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of their forests.
  - Outlined the several strong initial attacks successes of the Department, and identified staffing and resource gaps that challenged the Department from being sustainable this fire season.

- Recapped on the Coastal Caucus Economic Summit, stating that Oregon’s forests sequester half of our statewide carbon emissions, and there are opportunities to mitigate climate change impacts beyond the forests functioning as carbon sinks.
  - Three opportunities were provided:
    - To create incentives for private and family forestland owners that would encourage voluntary actions to increase sequestration, maintain working forests, and mitigate carbon.
    - To implement more fuel reduction treatments, and invest more in wildfire prevention.
    - To invest in urban forestry has a two-fold effect; sequestering carbon and mitigating impacts of climate change on underserved communities.
  - Discussed the successful statewide land use system, with Oregon maintaining 98% of their wildland forests and the minimal land conversions on non-industrial or family forestland.
  - Reminded the Board of their role and goal for private forestlands, to maintain working forests, protect resources, and to favor voluntary approaches when possible for the continuous growth and harvest of trees.
- Recognition of David Wells 40 years of service and introduced Well’s supervisor Joe Travers who presented the award. Travers commented on Well’s accomplishments and lasting impacts on our forests. Wells provided closing remarks and shared his appreciation of the Department’s problem solving capabilities while working in Tillamook.

Public Testimony: None

**Information Only.**

2. FIRE SEASON REPORT  
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (49 minutes and 4 seconds – 22.4 MB)  
 Presentation ([attachment 1](#))

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief introduced Russ Lane, Interim Deputy Chief of Operations to present an overview of the 2018 Fire Season severity, drought conditions, weather outlook, wildfire progression, and preliminary year-to-date (YTD) data.

Russ Lane reported that significant fire potential for July is above normal with increased severity in August, leading into September posing the same risks to forestland in Oregon. Fire danger indices show high to extreme fire potential for large costly fires, and Oregon has stepped down from PL5 to PL4 with significant regional fire potential. Northwest area is the exception, remains above normal to extreme fire potential, due to offshore flows. September weather outlook shows minimal precipitation, above normal temperatures and majority of Oregon is in significant drought.

Lane reviewed the large ongoing fires in the Oregon landscape and commented on three significant trigger events in the 2018 fire season. Continued to describe additional fires in the landscape, providing location, ignition cause, level of containment and acres burned.

Lane provided fire statistics, as of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, there are 11% more fires in 2018 versus 2017 and a number of acres burned are at a 111% increase in 2018 versus a 10 year average. Relative to all jurisdictions, there are 700,000 acres burned and the Department's share is approximately 10%, consistent with the long-term trend. About half of the fires on the total landscape are under the Department's protection and have been very successful in suppression efforts this year.

Grafe provided context to the team deployments, and the process that follows. Including cache systems, showers, and pump coordination to staff mobilization of IT and office support. Grafe approximated a range of 80 to 100 Department staff deployed to any given fire on the landscape and gave recognition to the agency-wide efforts for committed service during the fire season.

Grafe highlighted the tools used to check air quality and smoke in the Pacific Northwest Region. Tools used to track origin and movement of smoke, from British Columbia to California. Which has been where most of the smoke has been coming from.

Lane closed with the year-to-date financials near to \$90,000,000 and this continues to climb every day. Highlighted the net cost post reimbursables of \$40,000,000 after recovery from FEMA, BLM agreements, and other agency billings. Despite the severe fire conditions, there has been many successes statewide, in particular the coordinated efforts of the fire protection system, private landowner partnerships, and contractor networks.

Board Member Christoffersen commented on the lengthening fire season and the effect it has on community seasonal hiring. Is the Department encountering difficulties with retaining seasonal firefighters and staff as these fire seasons extend?

- Grafe responded with 'absolutely,' the Department has seen active fires in the spring up through October, which limits access to seasonal staff and diversity is important. In the shoulder seasons, contractors play a critical role to fill the gap of the unavailable seasonal staff, such as teachers or college students.

Board Member Deacon Williams asked for comment on the Departments coordination efforts with other states' agencies.

- Grafe commented that states coordinate on a daily basis and neighboring states are partners with the Department to fight fires. The NW compact allows seamless and quick sharing of resources across the pacific NW region extending up through five Canadian provinces, and all states have compact agreements. Outside of these compacts there is a national system available to access state assets such as command teams from Florida or New Mexico. The Department uses all elements of the policy framework in which they have to operate to access available resources. Beyond Oregon, all State Fire Managers from the 17 western states, call in to communicate and coordinate resources.
- Grafe commented on California and Oregon's collaboration in fighting fires over the year through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) coordinated by OEM, as well as the help from structural fire engine crews, and California's state team.

Board Member Deacon Williams asked for Fire Protection to comment on the feedback received at the Smoke Management rules joint hearing that took place in Medford recently.

- Grafe described the hearing process as an opportunity for the public to comment on solutions to minimize breathing in smoke during wildfire season. There were five public hearings, all

with high turnouts, and many commented on more active forest management across the landscape to mitigate smoke from wildfire. Grafe commented that the Division has the policy review in motion with EQC and the Board. Grafe outlined the rule review next steps.

Board Member Rose commented on hearing a common theme throughout the Division's presentation and State Forester's comments regarding 'lack of help,' and asked what the Board could do to mitigate, if not provide help to offset this capacity issue.

- Chair Imeson mentioned the budget and reminded the Board about the latest policy option package submission to secure more robust funding
- State Forester outlined the next steps for the budget process and how the Board can support the Department by messaging the importance of the need to fund additional resources in the upcoming budget session.

Board Member Deacon Williams suggested the Department to conduct an internal assessment in the off season and to consider the following elements during assessment.

- Does the Department have the capacity, the funding, or the resources to continue fighting fires and managing smoke sustainably?
- Frame the assessment by categorizing the fires: initial attack, extended attack, and large fire containment until fall rain.
- Provide definitions of effective fire prevention, protection and mitigation.
- Address any fire commonalities or characteristics over the 10 year trend.
- Identify and define the conditions that contribute to fire severity. I.e. region location, geography, fuel loads, topography, drought and underlying weather conditions.
- Include the financial impact of wildfires and smoke on displaced communities.
- Does the Department return to areas where fire lines were drawn post-fire for restoration of those lands, if so what does that entail?
- Can the Department strategically assess the changed circumstances of a fire season, as it pertains to climate change?

State Forester Daugherty stated the Department has taken steps to look forward by tracking trends and statistics, such as the number of fires caught, being one of the agency's key performance measures. State Forester commented that large fires grow due to all of the elements mentioned by Board Member Deacon Williams and a fire season close out report would contain more information.

- Board Member Deacon Williams made another suggestion, to include the definitions of the conditions and the percentages or probabilities associated with them. As well as assess any policy implications and the Department is encountering resource limitations.
- Grafe recommended that the Board review the fire risk analysis conducted by western states, and to access the portal hosted by Oregon State University (OSU), where you can view the fire potential in your area and locate historic data, like acres burned.
- Chair Imeson commented that the Department is grappling with resource limitations, and that interagency coordination is complex in determining when or where to use those resources.

Board Member Rose asked whether there was an increase of injuries or fatalities due to the lack of resources.

- Grafe stated this information will be gathered, and included with the Fire season close out. There has been significant injuries and one fatality at the Substation fire.

Public Testimony: None

**Information Only.**

3. ANNUAL FOREST PRACTICES DIVISION MONITORING UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (43 minutes and 15 seconds – 19.8 MB)  
Presentation ([attachment 2](#))

Marganne Allen, Private Forests Monitoring and Forest Health Manager, opened up [presentation](#) and provided overview of the importance of the monitoring unit update. Focused on the priority work topics including implementation and effectiveness monitoring topics in relation to the Forest Practice Act (FPA) rules.

Paul Clements, Private Forests Training Compliance Coordinator provided brief history of when the compliance monitoring process began in 2013. For the 2017 audit, 100 sites visited statewide, stratified by ownership and administrative area. Listed the rules divisions of the monitoring study included and described the operational process behind gathering, sampling, and analyzing data points for compliance. Provided the definitions for non-compliance and compliance. Commented that 25,600 observations on 100 sites in 2017 had an overall compliance at 98% statewide, and high compliance across the three regions and by landowner types in Oregon. Clements reviewed the scale of impact and compliance as subject to each rule division, including:

- Amount of sediment delivery
- Road construction and maintenance
- Harvesting practices
- Harvesting small type N stream awareness/avoidance
- Vegetation retention along streams
- Significant wetlands (>8 acres)
- Protection for other wetlands
- Operations near waters of the state (channel relocation)

Clements in closing, listed the monitoring study’s ongoing needs for improvement, acknowledged the completion of the compliance audit contract and outlined the unit’s next steps in the upcoming reforestation study slated for 2019.

Board Member Deacon Williams asked to expand the definition of “non-compliance” to include the sites that are posing risk of damage as well, in addition to the sites with observed damage.

Failure to implement the rule should be considered as a rule violation.

- Allen stated compliance is determined by rule.
- State Forester commented that the rules are not prescriptive and many rules are outcome based. Clements offered for the Board to review the appendices of the *Forest Practice Compliance Audit 2017 Annual Report* for specific data, metrics and outcomes.

Adam Coble, Private Forests Monitoring Specialist, laid the foundation for the Western Oregon and Siskiyou streamside protection review. Reviewed the scope of the monitoring project in the Western Oregon (WO) and Siskiyou region (SR) areas in relation to geography, desired future condition (DFC) of vegetation adjacent to small and medium fish streams, stream temperature and shade, and recruitment of large wood. Coble provided term definitions, outlined field data analysis with forest stand modeling, and described the systematic review for the Western Oregon and Siskiyou Streamside protected areas. Then listed the systematic review of Western Oregon to include DFC assessment, large wood, and RipStream field data analysis protocol.

Ariel Cowan, Private Forests Monitoring Specialist gave an update on Siskiyou Streams protection review. Under the direction of the Board, the Siskiyou Project is a separate streamside review from the Western Oregon review. Proceeded to list the systematic review of the Siskiyou region to include vegetative DFC assessment, stream temperature and shade with additional contextual information on fish status and trend, as well as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) information on stream temperature and shade. Acknowledged other agencies contributions to the Siskiyou systematic review process through water quality standards, fish status, and TMDL. Then closed by providing status of the reviews and the projected timeline for updates to the Board.

Public Testimony:

- Mary Scurlock from Oregon Streamside Protection Coalition provided written and oral testimony ([attachment 3](#)) to the Board for the Private Forests Annual Monitoring Unit Update. Appreciated the inclusion of stakeholders in reviewing the scientific protocols and methods. Asked the Department to consider increasing number of sites observed, to further review road impacts, and to include TMDL as a contributing water quality standard.
- Carolyn Eady provided written testimony ([attachment 4](#)) to the Board for the Private Forests Annual Monitoring Unit Update. Eady asked the Board to take prompt action to minimize investment type owners logging efforts, to invite other agencies into the FMP discussion as it relates to the FPA, and recommended for the Board to meet in Astoria or Tillamook.

Information Only.

**Break.**

4. 2017 FOREST HEALTH REPORT  
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (34 minutes and 36 seconds – 15.8 MB)  
Presentation ([attachment 5](#))

Marganne Allen, Private Forests Monitoring and Forest Health Manager, introduced the Forest Health Annual update [presentation](#) for 2017 by highlighting the report's areas of focus on aerial survey, the Bee project, as well as statewide status and trends of insect disease. Commented on the Forest Health unit's five-person team and who they collaborate with to provide technical expertise on forest health issues or projects. Outlined the unit's scope of work, and who they provide services for on forest health issues. Then continued with the importance of a healthy forest, restating their unit's mission and goals to meet.

Danny Norlander, Private Forests Survey and Monitoring Specialist provided background on Aerial Detection Survey (ADS), the history within the Department, and how ADS is mandated by law (ORS 527.315 and 527.355). Described the systematic manner and cost effective approach to complete the aerial surveys, equating to a cent per acre evaluated. To survey approximately 30 million acres of forestland takes a cooperative effort with USDA Forest Service and the Department to assess 45 percent of the total state area.

Norlander provided a snapshot of the data collection process from an aerial perspective, and reviewed the procedure to address data outliers with on-the-ground verifications. Continued by

reviewing data quality controls in place, the technology used nationwide, and how the data is interpreted. Then listed the range of surveys conducted by the unit either annually or as needed:

- Swiss Needlecast (biennial)
- Young conifer mortality in western Oregon (annual)
- General overview of entire state (annual)
- Sudden Oak Death in the south coast (annual)
- Special Surveys: Oak looper, Gorse (invasive plant), Ice or wind damage, etc. (as needed)

Christine Buhl, Private Forests Entomologist continued the Forest Health discussion by outlining the caveats that can delay or deter a survey. Stated that temporary flight restrictions for fire can delay aircraft access and extend the aerial survey season. The unit encounters impediments such as poor visibility, weather conditions, topography, and human error. Field data for insect and disease disturbance mapping when reviewed has an average 70% accuracy for host, agent, and location identification. Addressed the potential improvements and adjustments for aerial surveys and a ten-year review of acres with mortality including a mosaic of damage from insects, disease and abiotic stressors.

Buhl provided information on how the Oregon Bee Project (OBP) originated, what prompted concern for pollinators, why the Department got involved and who the Department works with on the project. Commented on the contributory issues to managed and wild bee decline, including Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), pesticide non-target impacts, and observed decline in the native pollinator habitat in Oregon. Outlined two federal initiatives that provide contextual background to address improvement of pollinator health and habitat. Oregon responded by adopting two bills in 2015, HB 3361 and HB 3362. Buhl stated Oregon has one of the richest agriculture sites for native bees in the nation and highlighted the bees' function, from pollinating specialty crops to utilizing forests for habitat.

Outlined OBP's mission, objectives, and values by listing the various objectives of the project ranging from outreach/education, pesticide training, research, habitat enhancement and public engagement in collecting baseline bee population data. Emphasized that forestland plays a key role in providing habitats for bee's nesting sites and offer diverse forage for the pollinators to consume. Mentioned the ongoing efforts to study pollinators and how this information will lead to the Department's evolving forest practices.

Chair Imeson asked about insect and disease decline and whether this was episodic or trending.

- Buhl responded that the ten-year outlook experienced periodic outbreaks, which could be climate and weather dependent. That within the last six years, Oregon has stayed below the ten and 20 year average.
- Norlander added that during 2005-2010 the bark beetle outbreak occurred between Klamath Falls and the Gilchrist area. Buhl cautioned this may be not a decline of forest resources but due to lack of hosts available.

#### Public Testimony:

- Cyndi Karp provided written testimony ([attachment 6](#)) to the Board for the Private Forests 2017 Forest Health Report. Karp urged the Department to stop the use of chemicals, to protect native species for pollinators and support the restoration of native pollinator plants.

#### Information Only.

## **Lunch.**

5. FOREST TRUST LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY  
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (8 minutes and 12 seconds – 3.75 MB)  
Presentation ([attachment 7](#))

Tim Josi provided oral and written testimony ([attachment 7](#)) as a member of Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee (FTLAC), not on behalf of FTLAC trust counties, and on behalf of Tillamook County Board of Commissioners. Josi paraphrased the Board of Commissioner's written testimony, starting with appreciation to the Department in assembling the State Forests Resource Assessment and onto requesting more information to be added to the document. Josi suggested for the Department to consider implementing benchmark alternatives including future resource capabilities and forest plans, which will help with informed decision making in the future. Josi recommended further discussion and expansion on trends to be included with the assessment. Josi listed additional trends:

- Associated costs for construction and maintenance of roads.
- Elaboration on trees available for harvest based on conditions versus acreage.
- Data on number of trees that exceed maximum log size for mill processing.
- Data on level of effectiveness and practices deployed to manage Swiss Needle Cast (SNC).
- Data the State Forests lifecycle such as annual growth, volume, harvest and mortality.
- Identification of the forest values, economic returns, and net return on asset value.
- Associated costs and data for Young stand management practices.

## **Information Only.**

6. STATE FORESTS RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS  
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (2 hours, 20 minutes and 37 seconds – 48.2 MB)  
Presentation ([attachment 8](#))

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief introduced the State Forests Resource Assessment team, and provided an overview of the assessment's [presentation](#) goals. Outlined the assessment's origination from the Forest Management Plan (FMP) planning rules and overall objectives as the baseline of information for future planning work. Offered brief history of Northwest (NW) region forest acquisition act, forestlands deeded to the State to maintain and manage for the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) for Oregonians. Commented the analysis presented by the Division will primarily be from west of the Cascades, from Astoria to Southwest (SW) Oregon Districts. Reviewed the ownership patterns for these lands, block versus scattered and the accumulated 640,000 acres overseen by the Division.

Daren Cone, State Forests Road Engineer discussed the assessment of geology, roads, soils and access. Provided present-day tectonic, topography, and geographic layout of the land in the NW region. Premised with, knowing how the land is laid lends to knowing how to manage the soil, sediment, slopes and roads. Used Astoria and Tillamook district as examples of steep slope terrain grades from <30% up to >60%. Discussed the percentage of roadways surfaced, within ¼ mile of roads, and within 100 feet of streams, as well as the intricate planning of these roadways.

Jeffrey Firman, State Forests Forestland Inventory Coordinator discussed the forest condition and forest health. Based on current standing volume inventory, there are 17 Billion merchantable board feet and various factors make this timber inaccessible. Stated the average forested stand has roughly 27,400 board feet to the acre and this varies per district, forest type and stand age. Discussed the conditions and elements that influence tree growth, creating non-uniformed forests. Explained forest types informs on a stand's future conditions, and stand age informs on its developmental curve, noting that 2/3 of the standing inventory is Douglas fir with a mix of conifer and other hardwoods. Discussed forest condition relative to habitat development and timber production. The older forest structure layered with stand types comprise portion of the landscape is coined as 'complex.' Described that various forest types, lends to the percentage of a stands board feet to the acre and informs the timber harvest production value. Projected substantial Red Alder die off at 65,000 acres, roughly the size of Mt. Hood and 10% of the entire assessment area. Listed multiple forest health issues, but defined Swiss Needle Cast and drought as the most problematic, making them vulnerable to secondary agents and stated this trend will likely increase due to climate change.

Chair Imeson asked for questions to be posed after each section is presented.

Board Member Rose asked if the assessment includes other landowners as well or solely Tillamook forestlands and how other landowners are managing Swiss Needle Cast (SNC).

- Firman responded that the aerial survey includes other landowner forestlands, but the assessment consists of Oregon's states forests. How other landowners manage SNC is not included in the scope of the assessment.

Josh Clarke, State Forests Business Team Leader provided overview of the Timber Harvest Management Program and the Forest Carbon Resource. Under the program, sells and monitors timber sales in State Forests, complies with federal regulation, state policies and GPV rule to ensure reliable and sustainable flow of timber. Reviewed the economic and social benefits, as well as county distributions from timber revenues. Presented on areas harvested annually, noting divergences, effects of federal regulation and forest management planning. Described timber harvests supply chains, variance of planning area bidders and mill proximity are factors for timber sales. Listed conditions that impact timber value such as landscape, natural disturbance or influence, and historic management strategies. Explained the costs associated and variables involved with Young Stand Management. Summarized Timber harvest is a reliable resource for revenue and reforestation contributes to sustaining this resource.

Chair Imeson asked if the Division reviewed other landowner's costs for reforestation and stand management efforts.

- Robbie Lebevfre, State Forests Seedling and Reforestation Coordinator responded that the management efforts are similar to other districts with exception the Tillamook area.
- State Forester asked how timber management may change to combat the impact of drought. Firman responded as unknown and reinforced the importance of reforestation.

The Board asked clarification on costs.

- Clarke explained the operational costs prior to distribution in relation to stumpage costs.
- Dent explained the sales vary each year and the Board asked the Division to include a cost benefit analysis chart of timber sales. Recommended to list when the costs are absorbed

versus gained, as well as notating the various disturbances that could diminish the value of the timber harvested. State Forester commented any analysis will vary dependent on the economic conditions. Dent stated the fixed and variable costs vary as well.

Josh Clark provided a brief background on how forestland acts as sinks for atmospheric carbon, offsetting carbon emissions, and complimentary for climate change mitigation efforts. Outlined the main factors that affect forest carbon including tree growth, mortality, and decay disturbance. Commented that above ground carbon pool was assessed with relative values, not absolute values from the current forest stand inventory data. Annual sequestration is largely a function of age classes, stand conditions, and site productivity.

Nick Palazzotto, State Forest Wildlife Biologist discussed fauna on state forest lands, riparian functions, and habitat development in the forest structure. Habitat complexity is useful in all forest structures, young to old stands with different stand types. Listed the FMP stand types as regeneration, closed single canopy, understory development, layered and old forest structure. Highlighted the district acres by structure type and how wildlife species inhabit the various structural types. Commented on the deficient structural types needed for late seral species habitats like the Spotted Owl or Marbled Murrelet and noted other species habitats of concern.

State Forester Daugherty asked about age distribution of tree stands and Board Member Deacon Williams asked about corresponding trends with the structure types.

- Palazzotto commented that habitat distribution correlates strongly and that tree stands are aging, then provided layered and old forest structure data.

Nick Palazzotto reviewed aquatic resources, from rivers to wetlands, highly variable and naturally dynamic. Commented on stream formations are inherent to watershed conditions, which can be prone to natural disturbances or a product of management histories. Stated by assessing the tree stands, habitats, aquatic organisms and ecological functions in riparian areas will contribute to forest management plan implementation. Defined stream classification and summarized stream type and fish type by district.

Board Member Deacon Williams asked for information on the habitat and species conditions by district. To identify State-owned watersheds versus not owned, to better understand how management decisions are the primary driver for the conditions by district. To summarize the areas of ownership of State Lands, either geographically stratified or by district, if not both.

- Dent stated that the information they do have on habitat and species conditions is fairly dated, but ODFW has done some aquatic surveys for seven of the largest watersheds. Palazzotto stated the Department has this data. Board Member requested for the information to be summarized and added to this assessment.
- Board Member inquired on if the Division has assessed proper functioning condition and identified which watersheds are a drinking water source. Dent commented that the Division has not done a landscape survey to determine proper functioning condition. Palazzotto mentioned many of the Board's queries were considered for the HCP.
- Board Member requested a geographic distribution of State owned lands that are vulnerable to climate change.

Ty Williams, Assistant District Forester for the Astoria District reviewed the recreation use assessment and highlighted unique elements of the districts. Identified the many recreation functions in the district, such as education opportunities, interpretive services, public day use facilities, and trail use for a variety of visitors. Reviewed challenges of increased recreation use and in public presence on State Forests, use differs by district and region. Explained variables that influence recreation use; like location, year-round access, recreation diversity and displacement. Noted risks with increased crowds from safety issues, property disposal, to resource protection. Commented the Division's staffing levels have not grown to meet the steadily increasing demands of recreation users and capacity is stretched to address emerging risks or public needs.

Board Member Christoffersen asked with the rise in public recreation use if the district is observing any impact on wildlife habitats.

- Palazzotto stated as public recreation use grows, so will the level of trash management near occupied sites of seral species, which can be challenging.

Board Member requested post-assessment to provide trend information on sport, recreation, and commercial fishing industry values generated by State Forests.

Williams continued by listing the significant districts impacted by increasing public use delineated into two categories, the North Coast Districts and the Scattered Tract Districts. Different factors reviewed for each of the eight districts highlighted, including tree stand inventories, landscape context, Environment Species Act (ESA) constraints, and challenges presented. Williams closed by commenting on the management shift in Western Lane district.

Dent summarized that variability was the observed theme, presenting challenges and opportunities across the management areas, which will be considered in the FMP project. Commented on the challenge in navigating the high expectations of the public on how State lands should be managed when core business includes timber harvest, reforestation and recreation use. These aspects present new challenges on the land's riparian areas, watersheds, forestland health, and seral habitats. Recapped on how critical adaptive management is to address the complexity on the landscape and provide range of expected public benefits in a cost effective manner. This assessment is essential to the continuing work on the FMP project.

Public Testimony:

- Kathleen Sullivan Clatsop County Commissioner forest representative and representing the county provided oral testimony to the Board regarding the State Forests Resource Assessments. Asked for the assessment to include Climate Change throughout and to consider listing the conditions of watersheds, wildlife and insects on State lands. Urged the Division to add an outlook, listing how these resources may be impacted in the future.
- W. Ray Jones representing Stimson Lumber Company provided written and oral testimony ([attachment 9](#)) to the Board regarding the State Forests Resource Assessments. Commented that opportunities of the assessed resources were not articulated enough and losing confidence in the inventory accuracy provided with each planning draft. Suggested for the Department to secure sufficient revenue for the cost to conduct an annual inventory update, and establish a protocol to ensure inventory accuracy. Advocated pre-commercial thinning of younger tree stands.

- Seth Barnes representing Oregon Forest & Industries Council provided written and oral testimony ([attachment 10](#)) to the Board regarding the State Forests Resource Assessments. The Division has not provided definitive explanation for why the inventory numbers and projections have changed from past reports to the current assessment. Requested the Division to redevelop an alternative FMP.

**Information Only.**

7. LAND USE CHANGE ON NON-FEDERAL LAND IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON  
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (37 minutes and 32 seconds – 17.1 MB)  
 Presentation ([attachment 11](#))

Chad Davis, Partnership and Planning Director framed the land use topic as originating from the Emerging Issues work plan, and outlined the process for the topic’s discussion. Davis emphasized a three-pronged approach to maintain working forests and promote ecosystem function, with the statewide land use system, Oregon Forest Practices Act, and the voluntary measures that landowners take. Davis stated the topic’s focus as the state land use system as it relates to resource lands in Oregon.

Dan Hubner, Partnership and Planning Analyst provided background on how effective state land use planning has been in limiting resource land development. Discussed trends, as well as conversion rates impacted by 2007 recession and beyond. Reviewed basic methodology with aerial imagery assessment at each sample point, and data secured over various years. Described how each point is assigned to one of the eight land use classes and how surrounding structures are counted. In Oregon, there are 37,775 sample points and eight land use classes.

- Resource use:
  - Wildland forest
  - Wildland range
  - Mixed forest/agriculture
  - Mixed range/agriculture
- Developed use:
  - Intensive agriculture
  - Low-density residential
  - Urban
  - Other use: Sand, water, rock, etc.

Dan Hubner continued with illustration of land use class examples and land use changes in Oregon and Washington from 1974 to 2014. Discussed the conversion of resource land from the 70’s and how Oregon converted 2.6% of non-federal resource land (704,000 acres). Oregon maintained majority of their wildland forest over Washington. Hubner reviewed the change of wildland forest by percentage of land remaining, landowner types, and percentage of wildland forest with less than 10 residents per square mile.

- State Forester asked about thresholds of low density residential. Hubner responded that it needs at least nine residential developments within a quarter mile of each other to qualify, and if less than five residences per square mile zone, this would disqualify as wildland forest.
- Board Member Deacon Williams asked about the points of deflection on the bar graphs, and Hubner stated it appears to be associated to the economic slowdown of the 2007 recession. Board Member Christoffersen commented this could be related to the dot com boom during the 2000’s period.

Dan Hubner continued with explaining the trends before and after land use planning. Noted implementation of land use planning in 1984 directly limited development in resource land

observed in the previous 10 year span. Post 2007 recession, development in resource land declined and continued further in 2009-2014, a function of the land use system.

Chad Davis commented on the collaborative efforts of the Department with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) to continue collecting data on land use, because this topic is prevalent during legislative sessions and impacts forest land deliberations. Stated value behind the analysis shared and how it overlaps with the Board's work plan.

- State Forester commented on the high level nature of the report and how it can help inform the public on the state of forest lands. To consider comparing Oregon data on water quality and fish habitat quality with Washington's data, and identify outcomes based on retention of working forests versus non-wildland forests.
- Chair Imeson concurred with this direction, and expressed value for a comparative outcome-based analysis to better understand impacts.
- Board Member Christoffersen commented that land use laws are becoming more sophisticated, and how the Department plays a role in valuing forestland, as well as to sustain the use of forestland.
- Board Member Deacon Williams asked to include fire data of human caused fires as a contributing factor behind conversions of land use, and that 'other' types of land use to be further categorized.

Public Testimony: None

**Information Only.**

With no further business before the Board, Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 4:08 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Daugherty



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Peter Daugherty, State Forester and  
Secretary to the Board