

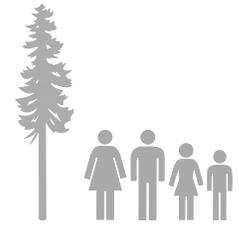


"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Committee for Family Forestlands

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2018



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held on April 20, 2018 at the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Tillamook Room, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

CFF Committee members participating:

Kyle Abraham, ODF, Deputy Chief Private Forests Division
Evan Barnes, Acting Chair, SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Bonnie Shumaker, Landowner, NW Rep. (Voting)
John Peel, EO Rep. (Voting)
Rex Storm, AOL/OTFS Ex-Officio
Janean Creighton, OSU College of Forestry Extension Ex-Officio

Guests:

Tom Imeson, Chair Board of Forestry
Peter Daugherty, Oregon State Forester
Gary Springer, Starker Forests

Members not in attendance:

Evan Smith, Conservation Fund, Environmental Rep. (Voting)
Linda Lind, Regional Forester's Representative Ex-Officio
Gilbert Shibley, Landowner-At-Large (Voting)
S. Mark Vroman, Industry Rep. (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Jim James, Ex-Officio OSWA, Executive Director
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

ODF Staff:

Lena Tucker, Private Forests Division Chief
Susan Dominique, Committee Administrative Support
Jennifer Weikel, Private Forests Wildlife Biologist
Brooke Burgess, Civil Penalties Admin. Specialist
Adam Meyer, Protection from Fire
Ariel Cowan, Monitoring Specialist
Danny Norlander, Forest Health Survey & Monitoring Specialist/Food Plot Rule Process Coordinator
Marganne Allen, Forest Health and Monitoring Manager

Call to Order 9:07 am

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

Abraham introduced Ariel Cowan as a new Monitoring Specialist and Brooke Burgess, new Civil Penalties Admin Specialist. Adam Meyers introduced himself as new to the Fire Protection Division doing Policy work.

2. Introductions/Roll Call – Evidenced above.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Barnes looked for a Motion for Approval of the minutes, but at the start of the meeting there was not a quorum.

4. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

5. Private Forests Division Update - Kyle Abraham

Abraham began by updating members on the vacancy recruitments and introductions of some new employees to the Division both in Salem and in the Districts. He reported on the success of the training and orientation sessions that were held for Stewardship Foresters and a few other folks that were interested in the Stewardship Forester role, back in January and February. He also announced that Thomas Whittington, Incentives Field Coordinator has been doing a developmental assignment as the NRCS State Forester up in Portland working a lot with NRCS field staff and some of our own folks that are implementing NRCS projects. In Thomas' absence we brought in a Stewardship Forester from Forest Grove, Nate Agalzoff to fill in for him. He also announced that plans were getting finalized on a Private Forests Conference in May. Nils Christoffersen, Board member has agreed to provide a dinner speech on the first day. He noted that the Conference was an important team-building opportunity especially as the Division had hired new Stewardship Foresters across the state.

He reported that staff are continuing to work on the Agency Initiative which will be part of our 19-21 Agency Request Budget. The plan is to bring a status report to the Board in April introducing the development process and asking for consideration to move forward with that and work on some more details for an approval in June or July. Tucker added that July is when the final Agency Request Budget is presented to the Board for the 2019 – 2021 Session. Tucker offered some more detail behind the Strategic Initiative request. Instead of individual programs putting in capacity asks, they are working on a budget ask for the Agency as a whole.

Abraham concluded his portion of the update by priming the members on their Annual Report to the Board at the July 24th Board meeting.

Tucker provided an update on the Short Legislative Session. And the few budget adjustments ODF had out of that session. One of the key adjustments being that eastside rate relief was restored and the Agency also received \$500,000 to accomplish Good Neighbor Authorities to increase the pace and scale of work on federal lands. \$1 million dollars was put into the E-Board for treatment of Sudden Oak Death (EU1) the European lineage that could affect conifer. The Forest Health team is finding new EU1 sites so in order to avoid a gap in the work, the intent is to ask for the funding now to keep the contractors working. Staff were pleasantly surprised that to gain some additionality in our funding and our capacity in the Short Session.

6. Marbled Murrelet Rule Process Update – Jennifer Weikel

Weikel reminded members that this project was initiated in June of 2016 when the BOF received a Petition to Initiate Rulemaking under FPA for Murrelets. The ODF&W Commission also received a petition to up list the species to Endangered. She emphasized that those two efforts were separate but initiated at the same time. The assumption that the ODF&W effort to up list caused our efforts was actually not the case. But two separate projects that happened at the same time. Weikel reported a finishing the draft of our Technical Report on the species and that materials could be located on the external website. The report is in draft form so the Board will be deciding whether to initiate an expert review of that document as per our rules. The first part of the document lays out a summary of the biology of the species and what we know for life history, population status, and habitat use. Because this is a species that is hard to study there is a lot of conflicting information which she tried to incorporate into the report. The second part of the Report is the required content that is needed for the rule analysis, identifying the resource site; what forest practices conflict with the resource sites and the consequences of those conflicts to the species. She noted that as this is a long term project the Department needs to step through the process very deliberately. The report was written in a way that basically describes a suite of options that might be available to the Board. After the required Expert Review they will tighten up that report and come back to the Board with the final version. She expected 18 to 24 months to get through the expert review. There were questions related to the ODF&W up listing decision and how that affected ODF's effort and Weikel clarified that ODF's project is just about the Forest Practices Act. The species is already listed as Threatened which triggered a review of these rules. One product that ODF&W will produce and will be used in our review are the species 'survival guidelines'. She emphasized that the State ESA doesn't have a *direct* effect on private landowners. Meaning that the restrictions in place if they vote on these 'survival guidelines' are not going to be defacto rules for private landowners. However it will effect State Forests lands, or lands managed or leased by the State. Basically, we use ODF&W's Status Review which was their summary of the biology of the species. Their decision on these survival guidelines will be another piece of information for the Board to consider. But there is no direct nexus there. When the report is final then the Board will decide whether to do something or not, or decide we don't have enough information. Weikel went over some of the bird's biology and behaviors pertinent to protections.

7. Food Plot Rulemaking – Danny Norlander

Norlander provided an update on the statute for Wildlife Food Plots and noted that the CFF is the advisory committee for this effort. He hoped to have this finalized and to the Board by November 4th meeting. The goal is getting BOF approval for these rules by the end of this year. Staff hopes to have the establishment of a process for landowners and managers to utilize food plots if they want to. And they will be codifying an arrangement with ODF&W to really solidify what counts as wildlife; what species we can use; what plant species can use so that they can attract the wildlife. He asked for some feedback on several concepts such as what species would be targeted with these wildlife food plots? He explained that the

Plots are an exemption from the reforestation requirement after harvest for a small section of qualifying units. Abraham added that in terms of background the Statute was received through the Legislature and the Statute directs the Board to adopt rules for carrying out this section. The Statute itself provides us some definitions but there are lots of things that are not defined. The role of staff and Advisory Committee members is to help sort through some of those questions that we need answers to both operationally and in terms of process. Peel suggested that it's going to require clearing, tilling, slash removal, all kinds of stuff depending on what you are going to be seeding for those food plots. It could be more costly than its worth unless there are some financial incentives or cost share grants. He thought there should be some landowner assistance, certainly technical assistance, about what would work depending on the site and whether financial assistance was available to make the site viable and get a good result.

Norlander continued that the statute does require us to consult with ODF&W in determining what vegetative mix would be appropriate species-wise. Big questions arose about the maintenance requirements. At what point is it no longer a food plot? Peel emphasized that the expense of doing this correctly is a critical component in its use. Abraham admitted that it was interesting to think about providing incentives for landowners. I think what this statute provides is an alternative requirement. If somebody harvests timber there is a requirement to replant or revegetate which comes as a requirement under the FPA.

Another question is regarding maximums and minimums. The Statute actually has set the maximums and they are based upon acreages. Only timberland owners that have between 10 and 5000 acres are eligible. The percentage of acreage eligible depends upon the total size of the parcel. For 10 to 500 acres it would be 2.5% of the total land base. So from a ¼ acre to 12 ½ acres. At 500 to 1000 acres eligible you are looking 2% so, 10 to 20 acres of food plot; between 1000 and 5000 its 1% so 10 to 50 acres in total over that entire space as the maximum amounts. There is no minimum spelled out in Statute. He posed the question of a minimum plot size and balanced with the capacity needed to ensure that use over time.

Shumaker shared her experience visiting with a small landowner in Washington who clear-cut leaving ¼ of an acre that they put into grass seed to attract deer. Apparently they had enough stocking level to have this little piece open so that it all balanced out. And their only problem is they have to keep it up to get the Invasives out of there and put more grass seed out. Norlander appreciated the reference to stocking levels.

Creighton asked if there was an issue with ODF&W in terms of how their Wildlife Habitat Program would interact with the Wildlife Food Plot rule. Norlander said he will be consulting with ODF&W staff regarding many aspects of the rule. There are questions open around how it plays in with their wildlife lands and habitats and their Wildlife Habitat Program also. He went on to mention the Tribes are being consulted on this as well. He spoke with Baldwin regarding the response from the Tribes on Food Plots, he reported that the tribes had some really interesting ideas and good input on it that can be incorporated into our final rule process. The representatives he spoke with were concerned somewhat with predator interactions and the impacts to different populations. So a question on what the unintended consequences might be. Baldwin brought up the awareness of conflicts and benefits of successional management of the forest and the maintenance of the plot.

Storm encouraged Norlander to reframe the requiring exact species identification but maybe instead look at groups, like undulates, songbirds, pollinators, game birds, etc.... Norlander agreed that would be beneficial, keeping the target broad to allow for that flexibility.

Within the maximum acreages, he asked members to consider that there isn't any restriction at this point on breaking up that percentage across the ownership rather than a single plot of the eligible size. Or what benefit there may be from taking that acreage and creating a corridor through the forestland? In general at what point do we want to maintain or be conscious of how small each individual plot is? To add to the consideration, he asked again if rules should set a minimum size requirement for the food plots. Gordon added that the layout or selection of size would depend on the species that you are trying to attract as well. Some strategies may be more useful than others. Norlander clarified that the question was really at what point does it become onerous to have 100 ¼ acre food plots scattered over the landscape? How would they be maintained or monitored? Weikel asked what the trigger point would be in monitoring. At some point the size may be

below what we can effectively monitor. Norlander agreed that the smaller we go in minimum size the higher the work load for staff.

Weikel noted that there will be questions regarding ponds. Her personal opinion was that from a biological standpoint there is an important nexus there with wildlife, nutrition and water. But as this program is specifically an exemption to reforestation if the food plot is not maintained we can require you to reforest it.

Peel suggested that food plots may be a big help in keeping deer and elk out of farmers' fields in the winter if at a large scale and could benefit the movement of undulate populations in the landscape. Shumaker agreed that lots of forestland owners in eastern Oregon also have farmland and it may help them if they could manage have forage away from the hay fields. Norlander reminded members that the plot still carries the reforestation requirements if not maintained. So ongoing monitoring would continue for the life of the plot or until reforestation was completed and free-to-grow. Adam Meyer from the Protection from Fire Division wanted to point out that if considering forest corridors those could create a fire break. So considerations of that value could help in terms of plot design.

The discussion ended for the time being and will be picked up again at the next meeting. Norlander offered his contact information for any of the members' comments or suggestions.

8. Board of Forestry Chair and State Forester Discussion

The Committee has a standing invitation to the Board members and State Forester to join the CFF meetings at any time. Members were pleased to provide time on the agenda for a relaxed discussion regarding some of the Board's priorities and what role CFF plays as a Board Advisory Committee. Board Chair Tom Imeson shared his intention that this would be an informal discussion including Peter Daugherty, State Forester and answering any of the members' questions. His intent was to provide a brief background of the Board, their current work plan and what things they will be involved with in the next few years and any current issues. He clarified that the Board is a citizen Board, with 7 members no more than 3 of which can derive income from entities regulated by the Board so in other words, no more than 3 forest products folks, or forestland owners. As a succession of members will be leaving or termed off the Board by the end of 2020 none of the current members will remain on the Board, they will all be term limited out. So he shared that creates a sense of urgency around some of these issues they are dealing with. But the broad Mission of the Board of Forestry is "*leading Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote sustainable management for Oregon's public and private forests.*" The Board is in a sense, the regulator, when it comes to private land management overseeing the Forest Practices Act. One part of the mission is Active Management. The State's stance is that we believe Oregon's forests should be actively managed to maintain forest health, conserve native plant and animal species, and to produce the products and benefits people value. Another value is that landowners and the public share responsibility for sustainable forests. So we believe forests sustainability depends upon the contributions of both landowners and the public. In achieving that within the private forests community we have tried to recognize differences among landowner types when rules are made looking at the differences both financially but in other ways too looking at the economic impact to address those issues. He reported that a major issue ahead of the Board is the economic viability of State Forests as revenues are less than expenditures and that is not a good formula. All of the members of the Board are concerned about that and finding solutions to that problem. With the help of the Governor's Office, folks from the conservation community, the landowner community, the counties, Board members are helping ODF look at a whole range of options for getting to some resolution on this. The Board has started broadly but narrowing the funnel to really make decisions and try to get to a conclusion about State Forests management, while we are all still here. I think it would be a large disservice to the State and we'd all feel pretty badly or guilty about not getting to some conclusion on this in the foreseeable future.

Daugherty added to that by saying that he appreciated the Committee's work and letters and reports to the Board really having influenced the Riparian Rulemaking process by identifying the location and concerns around differential impacts to family forestlands early on in the process. Some people have complained about the fairly complicated rule. But as said before if you add flexibility to a rule, you add complexity to the implementation. He wanted to highlight the ability of this group to shape Board direction. Particularly their charge supporting family forestland issues. Daugherty shared that it is really nice to see the continued use of the data that was developed in that rulemaking effort in conjunction with OSWA

and the Partnership for Forestry Education around the family forestland database. He also shared that at the Board retreat the Board asked the Department to complete their tasked work and to make strong recommendations to the Board on issues brought before them. The Board may want to change those, but they have a recommendation they can work with. We saw that most recently with the decision on the monitoring of the Siskiyou, and I think we'll see that going forward. Imeson added that the schedules for decision-making seem overly long but the due process and inclusion of stakeholder feedback processes are out of their control and drive the timeline.

Daugherty continuing in that vein, emphasized that the relationship between the Department and the Board is really important. And the most important part of that relationship is completed staff work on our part. Bringing the Board consistently high quality staff work speaks to the Board members confidence that the information they are given on a topic, or staff recommendations are well considered. He said especially on controversial topics, staff do a lot of extra work to go meet with Board members one-on-one providing education through the process which is appreciated and provides a strong footing for decisions.

Imeson, coming back to the issue of State Forests viability stated that the dynamic that is important for the Board to sort out is the financial situation on one hand and meeting our requirement statutorily around greatest permanent value. Those are the tensions that exist in looking at State Forests. He thought that there are also opportunities developing a special relationship with the counties where the State Forests exist as they rely on the revenues that come from the timber sales on those lands.

Daugherty added that the other big topic is not as much of a policy topic as it is a budget topic and the determination by the Secretary of State Audit Report and our own Fire Program Review, which says we are not sustainable as an organization. He stated his real concern is the impact of not meeting our core business functions satisfactorily has on all our employees at all levels of the organization. To address the capacity needs to accomplish our business the Department is creating an All Agency request rather than a divisional breakdown of need. That budget request will include 55 positions at right around \$12 million dollars. He recognized that the real concern is that we are asking for this from General Fund but there is a concern that the Legislature may choose to shift some funding responsibility to the landowner. And the ask will include some additional investments for training and some fire system investment, such as additional Severity Resources. Because of the militia concept the Protection Division relies on all fire qualified Division personnel to serve during fire season as they are able. The Board recognizes the challenge and the kind of impact it has on all the other Divisions.

Offering a Board perspective, Imeson shared the same concern Daugherty articulated around the militia model which has been the model for a long, long time. When you have the number of serious fires, and extensive acreage covered by those fires and the seasonal demands taking people away from their other work it really takes over the Agency. The Secretary of State's Office and Oregon State government has one of its responsibilities is to look at how agencies are doing and what issues arise. They are out to help highlight issues and suggest solutions to those. The legislature tends to pay attention to those things. So it helps create an environment where the kind of request we are talking about can at least get some consideration. It's important to address the Audit's findings as best they can but ultimately it's a financial issue.

They opened the floor and addressed member's questions.

Abraham shared one effort that the Committee had been discussing is allowing for an additional dwelling unit on forestland. Trying to provide some equality between Ag and forest zoning laws. Members have talked to the Department of Land Conservation and Development about this topic and also with our Partnership and Planning Division.

Shumaker leading the Committee's effort on this issue shared that personally she was not seeing this as a division of forestland but a genuine concern about the legacy of family forestland holdings between the generations. She reiterated that there is a real road block in that you cannot have a family member in a second dwelling on your forestland for that person to become experienced and trained to continue the management of the forestland as landowners age and their abilities decline. The additional dwelling is allowed if you are agricultural, but it's not allowing zoned as forestland. She assured the Board Chair and the State Forester that she realizes that this issue is not something the BOF can make a

decision on but with OSWA's help they are going to be working through the legislative concept. So she affirmed that once developed, the Committee may ask for the Board's support.

Daugherty had briefed Imeson on the Committee's interest in this issue as the Board members support could go a long way with the Governor's Office even if it's not a concept originated by the Department. OSWA was going to be working on the concept. He didn't think that this would be that huge of an impact but suggested a thorough data check be done on eligibility and sideboards addressing potential concerns.

Tucker told the guests that the members received a presentation that morning on Wildlife Food Plots, a piece of business that has been on the Board work plan for a while. CFF will be the Rules Advisory Committee to help us as we draft up the rules to go with that statute. Norlander walked them through some of the questions they will be considering in providing advice from the family forestland viewpoint regarding rule language on Food Plots.

Peel asked about the fire strategy for the season, and any alternatives they were considering. Daugherty replied that they framed the Strategic Initiative under the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy which says you need resilient forests, fire adapted communities and efficient and effective response. And so the Initiative says, since we all serve in the militia, any addition to our Agency is an addition to the militia. Framing it up looking we are looking at overtime increases literally adding up the increase of Regular Time for fire. Overtime has increased by 50+FTE over the past 5 to 6 years. So Program/Division support needs are addressed in the Initiative as those various programs literally contributed 10 FTE to the fire program year in and year out. There has been continued interest in the wildland/urban interface foresters. We have 12 of those in the ask to really focus on urban centers, community forestry, fire-adapted communities, smoke management program and again the family forestland owners which dominate the interface. Efforts to promote and accomplish fire-adapted communities and resilient forests to serve as a defensible space where we can be more aggressive with fires as they approach the communities.

Daugherty continued acknowledging the complaints received regarding the Forest Service wildfire strategy. He pointed out that they have a different land base that they are protecting, different challenges in wilderness areas as well as very different goals than ODF. We provide protection from fire to private as well as some BLM lands. With the Forest Service a lot of public lands don't have that same resource value, because they won't ever harvest from that. So, in some cases, fire may be a beneficial role in those ecosystems. He recognized the tension and transference of risk between public and private lands so that is the other area he believes will be really important to work on. Not only creating defensible space around communities, but defensible space around boundary conditions with public lands. Imeson concurred that the federal stance is a huge issue, partly because of the way they have been forced to fund firefighting, drawing down prevention dollars. So if you are a Roseburg Forest Products across from the public land it's a pretty rough situation...

Daugherty described the "complete and coordinated" militia system which draws from all Programs and noted that it takes a whole agency to maintain a complete and coordinated system. He emphasized that the really important work to do is to improve forest conditions around our communities during the non-fire portion of the year. The capacity matches up pretty well but landowners have told them that they notice a lack of support for family forestland owners during the summer. He suggested that wildland/urban interface foresters will be provide ongoing support for family forestlands. It's important to note there is a nice nexus between being sustainable for fire protection and having healthy forests. Ultimately many answers can be found through an All Lands Approach which is challenging but emerging successfully with the East Face Project in eastern Oregon to encourage more management on the federal side of the boundary close to family forests.

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Barnes asked for any closing comments from the guests.

Daugherty wanted to leave members considering the reactive response the Department has had and the potential to shift to a more proactive way of dealing with public expectations and private forests. He saw one of those ways is to reinvigorate voluntary measures. And the second one a little further out is to move towards an outcome-based approach. Because we know that the best water quality comes off of forests, yet it is always regulation first. But how to change that conversation

from regulatory to voluntary? He recalled that the BOF in their value statement talks about their needing to be a public commitment to supporting incentives and voluntary approaches to achieve public benefits from family forestlands. So, right now as we are starting to do exploration around the Marbled Murrelet, the challenge is we can say we are open to voluntary measures but they only work if they are designed and led by forestland owners. Daugherty offered that he and the Board Chair would like to challenge the members, as we get into the Marbled Murrelet, to think about what it is you would do voluntarily as opposed being regulated to protect Marbled Murrelets. Family forestland owners tend to go for longer rotations and could possibly leave more platform trees. And not only thinking about the actual voluntary measures but also how to get some assurance back for participating in these measures voluntarily. How do you frame that up to something that's credible but gives you the flexibility to continue to manage the way you want under something like a Safe Harbor Agreement, but he stressed again, that the effort needs to come from outside the Agency. He expressed his concern about the importance of keeping working forests. Knowing that every additional restriction affects the margin of viability for the private forest sector. But free up the ability of landowners to manage the effects of creating and maintaining habitat without suffering too much loss of value.

Abraham reported working with OFRI and OWEB to try to re-energize the awareness and potential for implementation and reporting of voluntary measures. Unfortunately, staff hasn't been able to continue those conversations but the plan there, is to report out some of those results to promote and increase reporting of voluntary measures. Gordon offered that some tools available to us are the Landowner Database and the connections that we have through the Partnership for Forestry Education as well. It's a matter having the time and capacity to connect all those dots.

Springer acknowledged that turning the corner from regulation first to voluntary first, is a big corner and an important one that needs to get figured out. But it's been talked about for a long time. He remembers when Jim Brown was State Forester and after a major change to the FPA Brown said, "I think we've gone about as far as we can go with regulation of forestland." and that was 25 years ago!

Daugherty spoke about the differences between a required rulemaking effort to meet a standard and the alternatives when there isn't a specific standard to meet, but more emphasis needs to be on beneficial outcomes. The problem rises in asking people to take less value from their lands and offer up that value for the common good by providing ecosystem services they are without any incentive or consideration back to them. Landowners are providing quite a number of ecosystem services and benefits free of charge. But we really haven't seen the emergence of those ecosystem markets other than a little bit in the carbon market. If there were some incentives in place, (as we see really well with CREP on Ag land) there are a lot of voluntary conservation measures that would be implemented if landowners were compensated in some way at least regulatory certainty.

Gordon offered that NRCS programs are potentially available for forestland owners but they are written and applied to agricultural landowners. Forestland owners are a 'new' customer, the rules and practices that govern payments for are not well suited to forestlands. He strongly believed an important piece of it increasing the level of social acceptability of voluntary measures. Does the general public at large accept that voluntary measures are sufficient and have efficacy in providing protections without rule?

Daugherty suggested providing input on additional questions for the Values and Belief survey sent to the general public from OFRI, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. Daugherty wound up the discussion thanking the Committee on behalf of the Department and the Board for their public service and believed Committee efforts on behalf of voluntary measures would help lead us forward.

Imeson seconded that appreciation especially as he is a volunteer as well. He knows that sometimes you don't know what you stepped up for. Their group representation on behalf of family forestland owners is helpful to the Board.

10. Siskiyou Stream Monitoring Update – Terry Frueh and Ariel Cowan

Allen introduced her staff and delegated the update to Terry Frueh, Monitoring Coordinator and Project Manager for the Siskiyou work that is going on, and to Ariel Cowan, Monitoring Specialist, who is the one who is actually going to do all the heavy lifting.

Cowan, a fairly new employee of the Private Forests Division, presented some key messages regarding the status of the Siskiyou Stream Monitoring Update. She wanted to start off by saying that the Oregon Board of Forestry and Department are committed to using adaptive management in reviewing and revising, if necessary, the FPA using available science, monitoring and research. Because of its different vegetative and geologic conditions the Siskiyou were not included in the review of the streamside buffers affecting a new set of riparian rules. In November 2016 the Board directed the Department to include in its monitoring plan the potential questions regarding streamside protections on Regions not included in the increased protection standards and estimate the work in terms of timeline and resources needed to address questions and various study methods. She described the stakeholder outreach and resulting input regarding study questions to inform the Department and the Board. The Board was ultimately provided a tally of science, potentially relevant to stakeholder informed questions. Staff also frontloaded GIS data on stream miles, acres of ownership by landowner type and harvest types. As well as an estimate of the cost and time that would be needed for approaches to each question. So at the recent March 2018 BOF meeting, the Board voted in favor of the Department's recommendation of conducting a Literature Review on Stream Shade, Temperature and Desired Future Conditions of Riparian Forests in the Siskiyou georegion which would include as discussed, associated contextual information, for example, on fish status. The review scope is limited to Small and Medium Fish-bearing streams. The estimated time line for completing the Literature Review is one year. The Board will use the results of this literature review to decide on whether the FPA rules are working as designed; whether the FPA rules meet the stated objectives; whether additional study is warranted; or no action is needed. So just as a reminder, prior to changing rules the Board must decide if a resource is being harmed. So according to Statute, effects to fish, wildlife and water quality and economic impacts to forestland owners and the Timber industry must all be considered in.

Terry Frueh provided a handout detailing the Literature Review and other work products that are related to stream monitoring updates for the Siskiyou area. In response to a member's question, the DEQ Water Quality Standard is still in play and what information is there to address that question is to be determined. But he wanted to focus on differentiating between two monitoring projects happening somewhat simultaneously in the Program, the Siskiyou review and the completion of the RipStream Study.

Frueh provided members with a project product chart to help members understand the separate but similar processes. Each of these projects will eventually be before the Board to inform their decisions regarding sufficiency in meeting the intention of the rules. The Siskiyou project is going to address water resources, temperature and shade along with wildlife habitat and Desired Future Condition. We've done the temperature and shade work on RipStream study area but will come back to the Board with information on Desired Future Conditions and Large Wood to address respectively wildlife and fish. He cautioned that staff are having to work carefully with one another to make sure that we are looking at the world the same, and ensuring that when the Board makes a call on DFC that they do this consistently as well as separately for these two projects.

Frueh pointed out the expected work products from a high level view that they plan to bring to the Board. One 'product' is the Literature review on stream temperature and shade and then a Literature review on Desired Future Condition (DFC). They will also be including contextual information on fish status and water quality evaluations. So that's all information we are bringing the Board regarding the Siskiyou riparian protections. And then the Board will look at that information and make a call on sufficiency of riparian protections to accomplish those goals.

Then, we have the RipStream DFC Literature review (similar but separate from the methods used on Siskiyou). Essentially the same methodology except for geography differences. There is also an analysis of field data and modeling work from RipStream. Also under similar efforts they will be finishing up analysis of field data collected for the RipStream Study on Large Woody Debris which will also be a Literature Review. So the Board will also be making a call on sufficiency of the riparian protections related to the two parts of the same statute, supported by a suite of products provided by staff to help the Board make that call. And one of the key messages is there are a number of different outcomes that could be anticipated, from: everything is fine; to we need more information; or we need to increase or decrease rules.

To clarify, Frueh reminded members that the RipStream Study data was only collected on the Coast Range and some Interior georegions as those were where the majority of Small and Medium SSBT streams were located from Clatsop down to Coos County. Springer added that half the study sites were on State Forest lands and half on private lands. Allen encouraged members to bounce back any questions that weren't addressed clearly because it has been challenging to staff to be as clear as possible with these similar but parallel monitoring efforts.

These efforts are especially applicable to the CFF by the fact that in the Siskiyou Study 60% of the affected stream miles are once again on the non-industrial private lands lower in the stream network. In totality there are a lot less miles of streams in the Siskiyou than there are in the rest of western Oregon. But every stream is important. Members requested a better map defining the Siskiyou georegion. Abraham suggested a new map be added to the Talking Points document. They are continuing to finalize the literature review and will be happy to share those results and once the Board makes a decision on sufficiency, folks will still be included in any additional steps.

Continuing Frueh described the Siskiyou Project as actually having two literature searches, one on looking at stream temperature and shade and the second on Desired Future Conditions. The RipStream Project will look at the data collected on Large Woody Debris and Desired Future Condition of the riparian stand structure on the west side. Questions continued regarding DFC, clarifying what the desired condition would be. Allen stated that the Board's intent is to achieve on average across the landscape approximately 120 year old riparian stands buffering some classes of streams. Not necessarily old growth, not unmanaged but mature riparian stands. In monitoring we look to see how much was left relative to the FPA and futuring out the result of those choices. Is there an even distribution of diameters or species? She added that landowners do really well in complying with the rules. But what that means for determining status and trend relative to what the FPA wants to achieve next to streams, not so much at this point.

The next step in the Board's process is they will be brought an update in September on the progress of these projects as well as the protocol for the Literature Review which members will see drafted. So there are steps for stakeholder involvement even before the September Board meeting.

11. Incentives Update – Ryan Gordon

Gordon began by mentioning that there had been some staff transitions in the last few months in the various program areas that impact incentives and landowner assistance. Our Federal Initiatives Unit that helps us manage our grants and agreements with federal agencies, have hired had two new staff people Al Devos and Joe Arbow. It has helped tremendously to back fill lost capacity. We have a whole host of landowner assistance programs in Private Forests, but on the Protection side there is also cost-share available for landowners around fuels reduction, thinning, particularly on the eastside and southwest Oregon. So it's very complimentary to the work that we do. He went on to note that as he travels around the State, he makes a point of mentioning to folks that we don't have any dedicated state funding for landowner assistance. That everything we do is based on leveraging partnerships and leveraging federal dollars. He feels that it is important to be an agent of change to increase understanding of our funding structure and garner public support for the services that we provide the State.

Next he touched on the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) through the Farm Service Agency. We now have a sign up open for EFRP for landowners who were impacted by the Chetco Bar Fire. He stated that about 1200 acres or so of non-industrial private lands were impacted with somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 or so individual landowners. We are working with them, with FSA to get landowners into that sign up. NRCS also has created a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) around the Chetco Bar Fire to bring some additional assistance for folks. NRCS funding tends to focus more on kind of immediate emergent needs and EFRP is that long term piece that helps landowners move through all the processes of re-establishing forests in areas that were burned. Seed and seedling availability is always the bottleneck for these programs as you all are aware and nursery space is really tight right now. He reported he is in communication with the Forest Service to see if there is any chance we might be able to leverage space in a federal nursery facility.

Moving along to NRCS, he's seen a really big uptick in interest, particularly on the eastside of the state. And I'm looking at the potential interface between our Agreement with NRCS and our Federal Forest Restoration Program. And I think a

lot of folks are increasingly seeing the value of those two programs working together in terms of being able to create treatments that cross from private/public ownership boundaries. But there is still a lot of ground work to be laid there. Abraham referred back to the presentation that Chad Davis brought to the Committee talking about that framework in terms of what we would like to see happen in Federal Forest restoration.

Gordon continued with a few other related NRCS announcements. As to the connection with the FFR program there has been some substantial increase in engagement with this Agreement, particularly on the eastside. And there has been a lot of really great work building slowly on the westside as well. Thomas Whittington who is normally our Incentives Program Field Coordinator is working developmentally serving NRCS as their State Forester as they were unable to recruit for open positions because of a hiring freeze. Misty Seaboldt who had been the NRCS State Forester took a position up in Washington.

Moving down his list real quick, he didn't have a lot more detail regarding Federal level funding updates but noted that everyone is probably aware that Congress did pass an omnibus spending bill which included a fix for fire funding for the Forest Service effective in 2020. That bill essentially creates somewhat of a fire wall between their normal operating budgets and their expenditures for fire suppression costs. So, a lot of folks are really happy about that. He shared that now on the State and Private Forestry side there was actually an overall increase in their budget. So State and Private Forestry, Forest Service funds a lot of our incentive, cost-share and landowner assistance programs. But along with the overall increase in their budget, but they also re-structured their program removing some programs and creating others.

Gordon mentioned two concepts he has been working on with the American Forest Foundation which he feels confident will come to fruition. One is this NRCS Pilot Project planned for Oregon and Colorado that would provide NRCS funding to contract locally in both Oregon and Colorado with additional forester capacity on the ground to engage with landowners around the development of stewardship plans. The intent being to increase the number of shovel-ready projects for NRCS Cost-share. The second bit of that is, the potential to pilot a landowner engagement tool called 'Woods Camp' which comes from Nova Scotia and has been piloted in the southeast. AFF is interested in piloting it here in Oregon as well. This is sort of a social media tool invites a landowner to come in and answer some really basic questions about their forest property and their goals and objectives. And based on that, it puts together a little report for the landowner about resources that are potentially available to them; including cost-share and assistance and gives them basic details and basic mapping about their forestland. So the idea behind that is it's potential to compliment the NRCS pilot just described in terms of an outreach tool to help engage landowners, get them in the pipeline for those management plans. So Tom Fry and crew are coming out to Oregon in the first week in May and have a series of meetings around the State to have some discussions with local ODF staff for both of those opportunities and hopefully start to lay the groundwork for the pilot.

12. Good of the Order; Adjourn

Abraham noted a couple of agenda items for the next meeting on May 29th, potentially:

- Fire Season Outlook
- 2018-19 Work Plan
- Food Plots policy
- The Oregon Bee Project
- Carbon Sequestration
- Federal Funding update

Barnes congratulated new ODF employees! Meeting adjourned.