

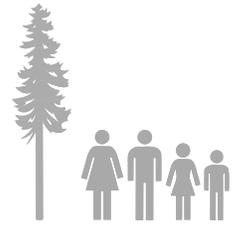


"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Committee for Family Forestlands

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 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 May 29, 2018 at the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Tillamook Room, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

CFF Committee members participating:

Guests:

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) (on conference call)
Rex Storm, AOL/OTFS Ex-Officio Forest Operators
S. Mark Vroman, Industry Rep. (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Evan Smith, Conservation Fund, Environmental Rep. (Voting)
Gilbert Shibley, Landowner-At-Large (Voting)
Jim James, Ex-Officio OSWA, Executive Director

Members not in attendance:

ODF Staff:

Linda Lind, Forest Service Regional Forester's Representative Ex-Officio
Janean Creighton, OSU College of Forestry Extension Ex-Officio

Susan Dominique, Committee Administrative Support
Adam Meyer, Protection from Fire
Danny Norlander, Forest Health Survey & Monitoring Specialist/Food Plot Rule Process Coordinator
Christine Buhl, ODF Entomologist
John Tokarczyk, Partnership & Planning Division
Russ Lane, Interim Deputy Chief, Protection from Fire

Call to Order 9:07 am

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the Agenda and asked for any additions. None were remarked.

2. Introductions/Roll Call – Evidenced above.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes from the April Meeting were not available to Approve.

4. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

5. Private Forests Division Update - Kyle Abraham

Abraham updated the members on what was going on within the Division since the last meeting. Staff is actively working on providing additional narrative for Private Forests portion of the Agency Request Budget for the 2019-21 Session. That budget goes to the legislature at the end of August. The Agency Key Performance Measures are part of the Budget so staff are working to report on that piece as well.

He reported that the Private Forests Conference was held in eastern Oregon mid-May about 120 people attended. District leads and Stewardship Foresters, Salem Private Forests administrative staff, as well as others. He emphasized that the conference provided an important networking and orientation opportunity for the newer employees and recently hired

Stewardship Foresters around the State. Time together enabled Salem staff to emphasize the importance of building relationships with landowners and providing consistency district to district in how they deliver technical assistance. It is vital to establish those relationships before a difficult situation arises that dictates that you work together. Any situation works better when trust has been established over time and foresters can anticipate landowner needs. Just part of the customer service aspect of our business is also having good relationships with local resources, conservation folks and everybody we come in contact with. Sherriff Shane Nelson, Deschutes County emphasized this in his presentation about building those relationships as a respected member of the community. Nils Christoffersen, one of Board members spoke on Monday. Another guest speaker 'Timber' Jim Serril from the Portland Timbers spoke a little bit on the last day. The Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee took advantage of the conference location to hold their quarterly meeting at the venue and attending members were introduced to their Stewardship Foresters and invited to join in the conference on the last day.

Abraham then updated members on the status of the Marbled Murrelet Rule Analysis. That at the last Board meeting the BOF did approve moving forward with the Expert Review piece of the Marbled Murrelet Technical Report. Weikel was beginning work to solicit names of experts in the field from different organizations to provide that review. She is working on a Charter to outline specific goals in terms of providing feedback to that scientific narrative, if there are gaps, or additional information needed. She noted that the Expert Review Group will have representation from the conservation community, public forestland owners, private forestland owners, from Tribal and the Research/Academic world. She expects that review to take about two months.

He announced to the members that the June BOF meeting would be held in LaGrande. It will be Tom Insko's last meeting. It was sort of a surprise to most of us to learn that he has been appointed to the Education Committee of the Governor. So the BOF will be down three Board members. Gary Springer, Sybil Ackerman whose last meeting was in April; and now Tom Insko. He is hopeful that those vacancies will be addressed in September. Resigning members can be called upon if necessary to help complete some of the Board's action items. Kyle added that the Agency-wide Strategic Initiative will be discussed in more depth in July. And the Committee's Annual Report to the Board will be in July as well.

6. Fire Season Outlook – Russ Lane

Russ Lane, came to brief CFF members on the Fire outlook for this year. Lane was working as Interim Deputy Fire Chief. (Lane when not in an interim role is the Fire Operations Manager.) He acknowledged that seasonal fire projections are always subject to change, especially this far out. May and June precipitation is a lot more telling on what our Fire season is going to look like. That said, he thought things are getting interesting out there.

SNOTEL data indicates that although normally this time of year there is not a lot of snowpack left in the mountains, but even compared to normal you see SE Oregon has no snowpack whatsoever. Even in NE Oregon, the high elevation snow has melted pretty quickly this year. Talking to our counterparts in Alaska, D.C. Alberta, Saskatchewan, they also had the snow melt off pretty early and got snow free which doesn't bode well for long term water supply by late summer. What he found interesting is that this year NW Oregon has had some abnormally dry conditions as well. The sites are tracking between 30 to 40 days without significant precipitation in the Coast Range. We know the eastern two-thirds of the State is going to get dry, but this NW Oregon early dry out is beginning to be a concern, and is showing a moderate potential for Significant fire which are fires that go over \$100,000 in cost. The Forest Grove and North Cascade Districts are starting to see a number of fires in slash units. There is somewhere around a 50 to 80% chance of above normal temperatures going through the season. Even up into Alaska predictions are for above normal temperatures. This is a really broad scale wildfire risk prediction that also tends to be pretty accurate. So, Severity Aircraft has stayed pretty static. And we have been quite successful on our Initial Attack because of these aircraft. He continued itemizing contracted Severity Resources being pre-positioned going into the season. We do have the one 747 Global Supertanker is now on our Call-in Unit List. Its home base is Colorado Springs, but they tend to move it around as they see wildfire lists develop. The two places that we have that are reload bases for us are Medford or Moses Lake. Last year, they found with the Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) there is also one DC 10's that are on federal call when needed but costs rise tremendously when those resources are deployed.

He wanted to remind members of the complete and coordinated system and recognized the landowner partnership represented here at the meeting with OFIC, OSWA and AOL and then all those other partners we have out there.

He provided some detail on the Protection Division's understaffing issues and backfills in the Program which have been allowing them to provide a lot of capacity to our finance section, which is something we needed pretty badly.

He also wanted to touch on something he believed was of interest to some of the members, a new ODF-BLM Agreement is still under development and the current contract with BLM expires on June 30th. The Western Oregon Fire Suppression Contract is a firm fixed price contract to provide BLM fire protection for their lands in western Oregon. That contract is very significant and concerning for large and small landowners with public land checker boarded within private land ownerships in western Oregon. Having one protection agency taking care of that land makes all the sense in the world. He noted that the Agency is having a hard time getting to agreement with BLM on price. We made a lot of good progress because with ODF protecting the BLM land the way we are right now, there is exposure to the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund for Emergency Fire Costs but with that we paid a lot of money to put out Large fires on BLM lands. The goal is to get agreement with BLM to pay all their own Large Fire costs out of Federal Suppression Funds going from a firm fixed price contract to an Agreement partnership tiered out of the Master Cooperative Fire Suppression Agreement. There are some fundamental disagreements in the way we protect land and what we think it should cost and the way they protect land and what they think it should cost. So, it's certainly challenging. I think at the State Director/State Forester level there is pretty good understanding. He was optimistic they will reach an agreement but he is just a little nervous about it being this late in the year without an agreement signed.

Lane acknowledged the landowner community bringing a lot of horsepower to the table, resources, knowledge of the land, being there as a partner in protection and prevention. Just having a well-managed stewardship ethic helps with fire protection by taking care of the fuels. Barnes added that as a landowner his role isn't specified but landowners are highly valued when resources get stretched thin and they may have additional inventory of equipment that can support initial attack. Landowners cooperate with their District, letting them know what resources they have for fire protection and are encouraged to get that resource on a list if there are interested in signing it up. We have a lot of small landowners across the state that have a dozer, a water truck, they might not want to send it across the state, but it's there for initial attack when we need that extra resource. Landowner associations are also an important part in reaching out to their political contacts during Legislative Days in support of the Agency.

Storm reiterated that landowners do play a very important part in the Complete Fire Protection System. They pay a significant share of the fire assessment through property taxes. Another just as important contribution is every time a small landowner has an operation they are operating under regulated activities. And are required to conduct their activities in a way that they don't start fires and if they do, they have a required water supply capability and capacity to put fires out. That regulated contribution to fire prevention is really important and doesn't come for free. The cost of having an operation is higher because we are so thorough at preventing fires in Oregon.

Shumaker agreed that with the checkboard pattern of private and public lands, suppression efforts are complicated by differing philosophies on land management and fuels treatments. And obviously fire crosses ownership boundaries easily.

Lane continued on that saying it does cost more to fight fire on public lands. The BLM may not be so concerned if fire burns through a stand of old growth, but when you hit the private property line and its private regeneration, neighboring landowners care a lot. So trying to stop Large fires in the checkerboard is extremely difficult and why we want a really aggressive initial attack trying to catch them small.

He then reported a bit on the Catastrophic Fire Insurance that the State carries with Lloyds of London. This year's policy was achieved with only a modest increase which was a bit remarkable after the catastrophic loss industry took a big hit all across the world with floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. Lloyd's has a track record long term of paying off investors. As long as we continue to maintain an efficient and effective protection system in Oregon, it should be sustainable. Smith clarified that all other Agencies across the nation self-insure. Oregon is the only one to seek private insurance. The legislature is not on the hook for that deductible. It's on the hook for past that deductible. But it's unique.

Lane explained as well that the Severity Program is actually a Special Purpose Appropriation that we have to ask for every year. A piece comes out of the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund and a piece out of the General Fund. So it's a Special Purpose Appropriation and we have to ask for the General Fund allocation every year.

Woodward inquired about the militia approach to the Agency's fire response and the pros and cons and Incident Management Teams staffing. Lane responded that the Program realized last fall that they would not be able to roster all three teams do to a lack of capacity. 3 teams make up a 33 person roster and another 70 are deployed as support staff with the IMT. The Exec Team had considered collapsing down to 2 Teams, but in talking with other agencies found out how difficult it was to add a Team back. He reported there are some holes yet to fill but agreed to only deploy 2 IMT at a time to borrow staff where there are holes from a 3rd rostered team. He shared that we want to be real deliberate about saying we are not going to try to hold that 3rd team together because all that does is robs resources from the deployed teams that really need it. The biggest gaps in capacity are with Finance and Planning with one current Planning Section Chief who is retired but still active. Every program is feeling the strain.

Lane wanted to focus on the positives. We were very successful in our initial attack of our own fires. What really stressed the system and challenged us was the fires coming off the neighboring jurisdiction. So looking at our business and what we are built to do, we are very successful doing that. We hope we don't get too many fires donated from the neighbors but, in terms of that, with two real strong incident management teams and all those aircraft and the good things that go on at the Districts he felt pretty good going into fire season.

Jim James and Evan Smith jointly praised the Department's Fire Program as the best anywhere and no State is as prepared or partner-oriented as we are in Oregon. Lane had experienced the other fire systems across the country and in Canada and with the Northwest Compact, he added that other States do envy our system. They look at what we have and they try to emulate what we have and so affirmed from his view, it *is* the best out there that he was aware of.

7. Food Plot Rulemaking – Danny Norlander

Norlander provided an introduction on the rulemaking process and solicited members feedback on a few specific topics related to Wildlife Food Plots, the timeline and clarification of topics. He shared that the current plan is for staff to work on drafting rule language during the summer. Staff will bring back that drafted language in the fall to the advisory committees for input before it goes to the Board, hopefully in November. And then once the Board has had a chance to look at it and provide input and it goes out for public comment, hopefully get it will get finalized and approved in 2019. The Approval date is undetermined at this point. Currently as lead for this rulemaking, Norlander is trying to identify stakeholders. Small forestland owners would be the primary stakeholder making CFF the primary Advisory Committee representing small woodlands. Stewardship Foresters are a major internal stakeholder because they are going to be tasked with the implementation and monitoring roles. And partnering up with ODF&W regarding nutritional and habitat needs for specific species.

He had presented this same information to the Regional Forest Practices Committees. And wanted to note that he does see common ground and universal concerns about some of the details by all the stakeholders. Additionally the Natural Resource Workgroup and Cultural Resource Cluster (those are the tribal groups) are stakeholders to this effort as well. The unintended consequences of predation was brought up in early discussions especially by the tribal representatives, as important to their culture. Meetings with ODF&W will begin mid-June to begin going through a variety of topics such as applicable plant species, wildlife group nutritional and habitat needs. The principal ideas he wanted to focus on are:

- How are we going to do monitoring?
- Looking at a minimum size at ¼ of an acre how likely is it that Foresters are likely to get to that plot to do the monitoring?
- How to deal with future maintenance and monitoring accomplishments with no end date for this activity?

Member suggested some sort of photo monitoring process might be used. The Chair asked about the continuation of the food plot when a property is sold? Another, equating the 'free-to-grow requirement' for reforestation timelines and

whether something like that would apply. (Abraham noted that the reforestation requirement does transfer to the new owner.

Continuing, Norlander clarified that a landowner can either maintain that food plot or they can choose to reforest it. But that reforestation requirement is still there. So, if not maintained the reforestation timeline kicks in. So he asked the members what their thoughts were on a blanket approval process for the 10 to 500 acre range.

- Should there be an approval on the establishment or blanket approval on the monitoring?
- Should the monitoring requirements differ between large plots and smaller ones?

The Chair thought it would be a good use of Voluntary Measures in maintaining compliance rather than regulating it. And liked the idea of taking annual photos a before and after could provide at least some monitoring.

Norlander offered another question:

- Does monitoring need to be done annually, bi-annually, every 5 years? Different time frames depending upon the size? (As part of the notification process they are going to be working it into FERNS which may be able to supply some technological fixes to the process.)

Woodward thought that keeping monitoring to six years they would be able to borrow language from reforestation requirement of free-to-grow. She noted that the biggest factor is going to be invasive species. And monitoring that would possibility be a pretty quick check as it is pretty easy to tell if it's become a patch of scotch broom. Aligning the rules with already established reforestation timelines would simplify rulemaking. And simply if it isn't managed for a food plot or reforested it's going to become some kind of invasive patch so easy to discern. Shumaker agreed that the rule needs language regarding invasive species.

Vroman suggested that in reforestation, free-to-grow basically means it's functioning as designed. So if you could incorporate some of that language that if after six years is the plot is functioning as designed?

Smith asked how much demand there might be for this forest activity? He personally didn't see this as a popular alternative but was concerned with making it easier for ODF to monitor. Relying on his personal experience in the southern U.S. it was his perspective that a lot of what gets planted are annuals so the plot will be very labor intensive with disking and planting, etc. Storm agreed that if planted in non-native forage it would require annual maintenance. But Smith further suggested that if planting non-native annuals it makes sense to at the minimum provide photo evidence annually, but if sown with native perennials it would make sense to do monitoring at year one, two and six. He further thought that perhaps the Department could limit the number of applications approved each year to help manage the Stewardship Forester's work load. Barnard summarized what he heard as suggestions on what degree of flexibility will allow us to further refine monitoring expectations commensurate with what species is planted. Abraham added consideration (flexibility) could be commensurate with the size and possibly location as well. And members were in agreement that a Written Plan would be beneficial for all parties as a permitted Forest Practice, but not a Plan for Alternate Practice.

Norlander clarified that his intention is to have a Written Plan required spelling out the landowner's goals and how and where it will be implemented. But staff will review and make recommendations but they won't be officially approved.

Shumaker likened the effort to maintaining an Oak savannah keeping the Doug-fir and Invasives out.

Barnard clarified that it is not to be a Plan for Alternate Practice as it is already under the Approved port of the FPA. And shared hearing that most folks would support some kind of plan describing that. The challenge is with the current Written Plan for standard operations we don't necessarily 'approve', we only review and comment. So we have a little bit of internal figuring on whether we want to shift completely to an approved scenario here or a Plan and how we might structure the process.

Abraham suggested that it might be somewhere in between a Plan for Alternate Practice and a generic Written Plan with more detailed information requested so the landowners are aware of what the use requirements are and how it will be monitored.

Shibley suggested something be simple and workable to begin and tighten up the process if need be. At this point he wasn't convinced that we will know exactly what we are regulating or what questions will arise.

Continuing, Norlander added that once landowners decide to relocate the plot and reforest they have to submit another notification and it is not a land change, not conversion. Once they decide not to maintain it or the land is sold and the new owners want trees back in the reforestation requirement kicks back in.

Shumaker asked if once established the trees naturally come back in? When does some kind of reforestation check begin or can the plot be counted in the total tract for the right number of trees per acre? Staff acknowledged that the process for that scenario is already being considered, how we close that cycle. Shumaker continued that she was aware of someone who made a food plot and they shared that if they don't maintain it every year the trees come back in. The nature of the landscape is pre-disposed to grow back to forest.

Norlander continued with the question of what species or functional groups could benefit from this forest practice. How wide open should this be? Functional groups could be undulates and game birds which are traditional food plot targets in the south. His preference is to allow it to be fairly broad including small mammals and song birds. Or pollinators. But thought that would be targeting species in the plan to determine the types of forage would be appropriate.

Woodward emphasized that a fifty acre food plot could really change species routes and could really start to have an impact depending on where it is. James countered that a fifty acre food plot sounds more like a land conversion to agriculture. He'd rather see breaking the acreage up into several food plots across the unit.

Norlander agreed that in the last discussion the distribution of this could be wide-ranging, or could be one chunk or little ones scattered all over the place. It could be just a strip through the forestland. There are a variety of different ways. He didn't think they necessarily want to be dictating what people do in that case. Shibley thought that would really depend on what you are trying to feed and what the ecology is of the target group.

Smith shared that these actions are how we artificially influence wildlife and it's important to consider because a food plot is just one small aspect of how we direct wildlife behavior.

Norlander assured members that determining what food sources are required for a targeted species will take a lot of consultation with ODF&W because they may know seed mixes and stuff, different plant species that would be applicable to different types of species or functional groups.

Storm contributed that from his experience in Oregon when operators create openings and disturb the soil those pioneer species come in and there is an abundance of invasive pioneer species. If we trigger this then we know in that first 6 years without careful tending and gardening and investments of dollars and labor that it is going to quickly become a bunch of Invasives. The other thing we know is if we are not going to plant trees we are going to have to establish that site in the first early period of time with some other desired plant vegetative species, non-trees, whether it be native shrubs and those kinds of things even grasses can be more expensive than trees. Even with the virtue of requiring a written plan for a targeted objective it will require significant investment by the landowner to establish it and keep it from becoming a patch of invasive brush!

The Acting Chair suggested that be the tagline for outreach, that this type of operation is significantly different than planting trees and requires resources that can be costly. Landowners should be well informed about the expectations of maintaining the plot.

Abraham: In terms of our next steps, the Board will be thinking in September or November?

Abraham asked about the timeline in the fall. Barnard reiterated that this rulemaking is directed by Statute rather than a Board-initiated process. He anticipated having some draft language available to report to the Board in the fall. At a minimum that initial interface with the Board on the draft rule language and then they have to determine at that point whether to initiate the official rulemaking process. But once we do that we have another interface following the initial public comment rulemaking process for the Board to approve as well. Norlander agreed and noted that the 2019 timeline is flexible and will be determined by how many meetings we will have to get through to finalize the language and complete the public comment period. This statute was passed by the Legislature in 2015 and went into effect January 2016. (He provided the actual Statute to members with their materials.)

BREAK

8. Oregon Bee Project – Christine Buhl, Entomologist, Private Forests: Forest Health Unit

With our focus in trying to keep forests healthy by doing preventative management and guidance and surveying long term damage from insects and disease and other agents. Buhl came to address the Committee's interest the Department's participation in the Oregon Bee Project. As has been discussed there is potential for food plots to be utilized for pollinators so, Oregon Bee Project is interested in that, but that wouldn't be just broadcasting a random batch of flower seeds and calling it good. That's something what we really want to avoid.

She continued with how the Oregon Bee Project relates to forestry as we don't often think about pollinators when we think about forests. Or bees. A lot of concern for bees kicked off with Colony Collapse Disorder, but to put it in perspective, what we commonly call honey bees are not native. They are European. So, this project is concerned with both managed bees such as honey bees but also talking about our native bees. She reported that there are 500 species (that we know of) of native bees in Oregon. She shared that so it is clear she was not speaking just of honey bees, but all bees. And so along with Oregon, globally there is a global decline in native pollinators. A lot of data is needed on who our native pollinators are? What species? What abundance and distribution? A lot of that data was missing. When we started picking those questions apart and they were finding that over time we are seeing less and less of some of those species. Pollinator numbers fluctuate quite a bit making trends more difficult to detect and hard to monitor over time because their abundance and species diversity varies widely from year to year for a variety of different reasons.

Buhl didn't want to focus on honey bee colonies and Colony Collapse but noted there are a lot of different factors in population declines, like diseases, mites, pesticides, loss of habitat all of which have an additive effect on pollinator populations with managed and native populations. She shared that in 2013 the "Target" incident where landscapers had sprayed neonicotinoids on Linden trees. Most of our trees are wind pollinated, but Linden trees are heavily visited especially by bumblebees. So there was a systemic dose of neonicotinoid that got distributed to the Linden tree nectar sources and pollen picked up by the bees and there were a 50,000 dead bees in the parking lot. 50,000 bees in one very notable incident.

Federally, in 2015 a pollinator task force was put together. And so efforts were to allocate more money for research, education and outreach resources especially targeting folks that are applying pesticides and not just a single focus on licensed applicators, but anybody. The effort includes trying to have states take more ownership over their regions in terms of protecting their own pollinators by coming up with best management practices and things like that. The EPA also passed heavily focused rules on pesticides and reporting. So in Oregon those reporting issues are directed to PARC, the State's Pesticide Analytical Response Center. Yet, not many outside of State Government are not aware of it. Oregon jumped on this pretty quick, the Federal legislation was 2015, so in Oregon in 2015 we had two House Bills addressing public awareness. Increasing pesticide education; the importance of reading labels and application instructions and coming up with better plans and also collecting more information about bees and researching bees. The House earmarked money so that OSU and ODA could actually carry these things out. The Oregon Bee Project was born out of that. And so initially it started as an OSU/ODA venture. But ODF got involved because of the acknowledgment that there are pollinators in forestry that require specific forest habitats. So, for example, some harvest operations can mimic early seral forest conditions, mimicking the effects of wildfire, opening up ground and creating woody debris as a result of

operations. So they noticed a huge jump in pollinator abundance and species diversity after some of these harvest operations. It's something we didn't know before. We got interested. We've really been trying to disseminate some of this information to our audience as well. So the Oregon Bee Project, the mission is to bring Oregonians together to create (this is really important science this is not just feel good stuff), strategies to protect and promote Native and managed bees through education and pollinator-friendly practices and research. Buhl then outlined what OBP is doing and talk about how forestry intersects with that. In showcasing and incentivizing bee-friendly practices some Industrial landowners are already taking it upon themselves to actually incorporate pollinator-friendly practices. The Bee Project wants to showcase that and show other people the things that really worked for them and what didn't. And what are the basic pieces of information we want the community to know. Along with understanding their ecology, do you know that bees drink water? So if you apply pesticide and some of it may drip into some old ruts that are collecting water, those bees will visit that and connect with that pesticide. The development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) is really essential and the EPA is leaving it to the States to figure those out for their landscapes. And then collecting baseline data. The Oregon Bee Atlas is a citizen science effort led by OBP to collect this information and research. So OSU is doing a lot of research mainly with managed bees, trying to pinpoint other things with Colony Collapse, engaging the public so they understand labeling and then the citizen science effort in the Oregon Bee Atlas is focusing on collecting baseline data, diagnostics and research. So that is in progress. A few states are ahead of us in gathering data, but we also are a different circumstance because Oregon has a lot of specialized crops that are visited by native bees only, so we had kind of a different tilt on our BMPs. So, it turns out a lot of people are concerned about bees, but don't know a whole lot about them, especially their behavior and ecology and all of that. So ODA actually has a big block grant they were putting on the ground trying to help landowners and improve habitat for some of these native species. Buhl noted that ODA is leading this effort on educating licensed and unlicensed pesticide applicators. The Oregon Bee Atlas is the citizen science program to collect more information about what natives occur where. Okay, so as I mentioned bees are overlooked in forests we don't think about them a lot but there are a lot of bees that are ground-nesting or nesting in wood, nesting in soil, they are nesting in the pithy stems of plants. And we don't see them, because we don't think about seeing them. So oftentimes when we talk to people about the fact that we have 500 species of bees and people say, well I've only seen a couple of them. You've actually seen many more, a lot look alike or you are just not looking very closely. Some bees have been shown to only occur in old growth. Some only on the edges, some in clear-cuts. Then you will have trees and that canopy closure and then you will have a different type of bee that comes in that likes that type of habitat. A lot of different types of forests host a lot of different types of bees. One of the things that bees require are flowering forage plants but especially the larger bodied bees can fly pretty far and obtain those nectaries in spots where they don't nest. So even though you might have a closed-canopy forest that doesn't have a whole lot for nectary's they may ground nest there and then search for their nectary's in the open meadow adjacent to the forest. Some bees need soil not just for nests, but also for hibernation. The queens need to over-winter and so nest in woody debris from stumps.

So when we consider food plots we need to be very specific from the very beginning if providing habitat for pollinators. She suggested putting up some bee boxes to do a general assessment of what bees occur. Then you know what habitat you want to promote that this species requires. Planting forage nectary's of flowering plants of various colors, shapes and bloom times native to the area. And planting forage in contiguous areas rather than scattered patches as a lot of the smaller bees can't travel far so it's better to have corridors.

Buhl suggested having a strip that has a different type of habitat on either side, one side a forest edge or the other side a meadow. Even allowing forage to grow along the edges of a stand or roadside can be an easy way to do it. Applying pesticides when bees are less active and avoiding pesticide drift and leakage especially into water sources. Don't sanitize sites! Cleaning everything up and getting rid of that course woody debris isn't necessary unless there are obvious fuel risks. She reinforced that wildlife people are thinking about providing for larger wildlife or birds, but insects are wildlife too, and there should be language written in there too, very specific language and guidance to go along with it when we are talking about food plots. The Oregon Bee Project has a new website where there is a lot of information. And there are other events if you are interested in learning about our native bees and a lot of educational opportunities if you are interested. Especially if you want to join the Oregon Bee Atlas go i.d. some bees!

9. Forest Certification – John Tokarczyk, Partnership & Planning Unit

Tokarczyk began that the Partnership and Planning Unit was assigned through Governor Kitzhaber's Executive Order to research what expanding market opportunities are available for forest sector products. One of the specific tasks in that was to look at how Oregon grown wood was treated relative to the green building sector which has a certain amount of sway in terms of what products can be purchased and can't. In the process of fulfilling that task OSU did an analysis of Oregon Grown wood relative to FSC. Because FSC varies according to which region it is being utilized in, the thrust of that work was essentially to see if these Green Building rating systems are only recognizing Certified material, which Oregon's wood did not and then determine whether that was fair treatment, or was there some significant difference? The work that was done looked at a variety of certification systems and found that wood that is grown subject to Oregon Forest Practices Act is in many respects very comparable to, or close to a number of recognized certification systems. That raised the question of whether there are opportunities in Oregon for uncertified wood and how to gain more market access for products. The reason certification is out there is because the standards for growing forest products vary around the globe and within the United States. And so, even though our FPA standards were on par with a number of certification systems it has not been treated the same. So, based on those findings there was a recommendation made to find an avenue for an additional certification to create more opportunities for Oregon grown wood. Because while SFI occupies a great deal of space in the State and ATFS (American Tree Farm System) also has a qualifying number of acres across the State, there is still a very substantial amount of wood that's grown that is not certified and not available to those markets. Obviously getting those products, or processors certified would be very beneficial to the sector. So the Program was looking for a mechanism to bring some manner of certification to the products that are grown subject to the Forest Practices Act.

Tokarczyk introduced members to some of the certification systems out there. ISO, the International Standards Organization; ASTM, the American Society for Testing Materials which operates in the same fashion as ISO does. Those are standards setting bodies and are a mechanism whereby when trade is facilitated across regions and areas because there is a recognizable set standards for products. If producers want to trade they would have to meet the standard that was set by the international committee. Those standards feed into the Green Building System certification and the International Green Construction Code, and a whole variety of other markets that dictate what wood or wood products are acceptable for 'green' construction. We needed to determine from a standard setting perspective how those products differ from uncertified forests. So basically the standard that says the wood was fairly traded, bought and sold, in other words, "Legal". The middle tier certifies wood as "Responsible" within the set standards. Which basically verifies that the wood comes from an entity that exercises some sort services relative to the ecosystem from which it is produced. The top end is "Certified". This international society has created three tiers for wood certification that allow people that are resourcing wood assurance the product is utilizing that standard. Recognized as Legal, Responsible or Certified. One suggestion was that we could use the ASTM standard for *all* FPA subject wood if we could find an entity that could certify that standard. That would suggest it be a landscape level certification to a standard which would be different certification systems like FSI, ATFS as they are proprietary systems with standards set internally and periodic audits. There is a cost to marketing the products as Certified, but also some benefits to it as well. A capacity to differentiate, a capacity to get into markets. And the ASTM is similar in the sense that there is a standard but it's not a proprietary one. ASTM raises the standard and puts it out there, and anybody that can meet the standard and verify that they meet it, could now claim that they are certified to that Standard. So recognizing FPA managed timberlands, much of which are currently uncertified meet the needs of the Executive Order, which is in essence would give Forest Practices Act managed forest products, a capacity to differentiate their goods as being Certified and Responsible so opening up access to some markets that are otherwise closed off.

Governor Kitzhaber gave the thumbs up to proceed and we found an ISO Certified Third Party that helped process the qualifications to evaluate the FPA relative to the ASTM standard and then to validate that the FPA and the components of it were being administered on the landscape. Which meant that Oregon could have a landscape level type of certification back to the Standard. So researching back several years we were able to certify all of the subject wood as certified Responsible. The only challenge to that is, that certifying the landscape is all well and good, you still need a method of getting product to market through that Certification system. So ultimately it *doesn't* provide the benefit that the Executive Order is looking for until you have some intervening body to develop traceability. He emphasized that you have to be able to insure that whatever is coming out the mill was matches what came off of the FPA subject lands. Mill owners recognized that was a service that they could provide, a traceability protocol that would match up with other

internationally recognized traceability protocols. He reported that after a fairly long development process those protocols were recently finalized. There is at least one that is going to come on line that will start to identify their product as meeting that ASTM Standard. The nice thing about it is it doesn't cost the landowner and there is no cost to the processor so there is really no cost involved in this process. And will provide the opportunity to differentiate products and sell to previously unavailable market outlets. From a small landowner perspective, its different market but there is certainly a variety of products and if there is interest, to start identifying products as meeting the standard. There needs to be some kind of identification, a certificate of meeting OFPA on the landscape level. Staff is working on getting that available on the ODF website soon.

Members asked if this would affect the other standards. Tokarczyk replied that there would be no change as SFI and FSC are both have their own proprietary standards. Those systems will continue to operate and landowners that have invested in those systems probably wouldn't change what they are doing. There is a lot more forestland out that wasn't certified to anything. And so the ASTM Standard will provide some at least some additional benefit to those formerly uncertified acres. This standard could be added on top of other certifying identification because it doesn't cost anything. He provided the example of a USDA program called Bio-Preferred. Any product that is identified as Bio-Preferred according to the USDA standards gets first shot at Federal projects. And there is a whole Bio-Preferred set of marketing. It's kind of like, EnergyStar. So the ASTM is ironically in that Bio-Preferred language. So products identified as meeting that all of sudden it fills that space.

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10. Incentives Update – Nate Agalzoff, Developmental Incentives Field Coordinator

Agalzoff provided an update with Ryan Gordon on some things of interest. The Forest Stewardship Program, which would be the State and Private Forestry funds from the Forest Service, in the conversations we've had we are looking at a forecasted base level funding for the Uniform Management Plans for our landowners. So for the State of Oregon that will be about \$150,000 for the year with a good chunk of that earmarked for technical assistance. So somewhere \$25,000 to \$30,000 for plans. So much less available than has been in years past and only looks to be more competitive over the next year or so. The ODF/NRCS Statewide Agreement is going to continue to be the primary mechanism for providing financial assistance. The Farm Bill is still being discussed but all signs point to the EQIP funding to be really strong again. And also our Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) along with the Joint Chiefs Initiative both look to be very well supported also. One area we've been exploring, is the NRCS –American Forest Foundation Partnership that is in the works. They have still yet to formalize the financial piece from the NRCS but that's still progressing and still looks favorable. ODF Districts are going to frame up some conservation objectives and priorities for the unique landowner challenges in their Areas. He was hopeful they will put together a plan that ultimately that materializes like we hope it will to fill some of the gaps in the reduced funding available from the Forest Service. So with the Farm Services, Emergency Forest Restoration Program, they've recently awarded funds for the 2017 fires. So our foresters down south around the Chetco area have been working really hard to help landowners for financial assistance to get some of that restoration work in place. But it's expected to be a challenge for a number of reasons. Not just seedling availability.

Tucker added that use of the EFRP is a little new and different for Western Oregon and some of the Farm Service Agency offices just aren't that familiar with that piece of authorization that they have. Agalzoff, in his role as Stewardship Forester in Forest Grove shared that it's a steep learning curve for the Northwest Oregon Area but can work well.

Barnes asked for clarification regarding management plan funding, does it cover the entire plan creation or is it just cost-share? Agalzoff responded that the Uniform Management Plans which are funded through State & Private Forestry are a 75% cost-share model. Some others could be up to 100% but usually 75% currently. The AFF-NRCS partnership may.

At this point, the Acting Chair offered to return to the topic of Certification to finish up what was paused at lunchtime.

Tokarczyk pointed out that it's not the ASTM Certification which basically is being certified as having Responsible standards. The effort has been and will remain aimed at providing value specifically for those un-certified products and processes. Tokarczyk further summarized that all lands subject to the OFPA are de-facto certified Responsible. The OFPA

serves as the management plan and the administration of those rules and implementation are able to be audited in our Compliance Audit Monitoring to determine whether we are actually achieving that standard. And the fact we are working towards continuous improvement allows that certificate to extend across the landscape without exception. FERNS will be an important piece of the traceability aspect as notifications are required for the mills and the processors that utilize it. FERNS with its tracking of operations and that notification number will make it quick and easy to have that traceability protocol established. So it's a very open easy process to access and allows that traceability which makes it super inexpensive and highly applied. So if landowners want to differentiate their product, we will be developing a 'timberland certificate' with a sync up to the notification number so the ingredients are there relevant to the Standard with appropriate traceability to back your claim.

James relayed that he thought the Governor's original motive was that the State was requiring that new State construction be LEED certified and it was brought to the Governor's attention that ironically no Oregon wood could be used in those buildings, so prompted the certification efforts.

11. Annual Report and Board Meeting planning

Abraham provided a copy of the 2017 CFF Annual Report as reference to the discussion and pulling together the Work Plan for the coming year. He suggested not trying to tackle so many topics as there were quite a few that weren't covered in past meetings and simply an overly long report or plan is hard for the Board to digest. He suggested focusing on the topics that had been discussed multiple times and considered action items for the Committee such as additional dwellings on forestland homesteads, wildlife food plot rulemaking and the Siskiyou Monitoring Project, and filter down to additional topic summaries.

Smith liked the concept of a much smaller report without the level of detail of last year's. The work plan items that are watch only updates only need a mention.

Abraham suggested that staff continue to work the language down to something better digestible, just let the Board know we are paying attention to the issues that are emerging as important to the viability of family forestland management.

Dominique pointed out that she thought that some additional language would be beneficial on the topics that the State Forester and Board Chairman discussed in their last visit to the Committee. And the intersection of this topic and the tax discussion they had with Tammy Cushing as far as succession planning.

There was a short discussion on the follow up data that Daugherty requested as basis for the Board's support of the zoning issue. Such as: minimum acreage; the number of family forestland issues that would potentially be interested and acreage involved to qualify. As well as the proximity of those lands to the urban/rural interface.

James reported that the plan is to bring this topic back to the Board before the 2019 Legislative Session to get that thumbs up and support to introduce a Bill in 2019.

Woodward offered that there are issues we want to make sure the Board knows are a concern to small forestland owners, like succession and viability as well as how CFF members are providing that landowner perspective back to the Department when asked for input. Like Food Plots, like the Initiative. Abraham agreed that it would be beneficial to introduce their concerns at the July meeting and continue to collect data to support that interest and mitigate the arguments against to diffuse detractors concerns.

Jim James, OSWA Ex-Officio member agreed to take the initiative for gathering some supporting data and drafting language. One of the biggest challenges in that is to project how many would take advantage of it. A situation that Barnes noted that changes rapidly within the family dynamic. Woodward suggested statistics dealing with the aging demographic of those landowners which is compelling information. James offered that with the Forestland Database they could easily come up with a count of landowners within specified acreage ranges. His concern was opposition from the 1000 Friends of Oregon group who were the major impediment to this issue getting out of committee in past efforts.

Abraham gave a timeframe to receive additional feedback on the report. Getting to the presentation itself, in the past the Chair had presented the Report on the Committee's activities annually. He liked the idea of having Committee representatives for each Area concentrate on one of the topics being worked on. Whether that resonated with the members as a format or not was open for discussion but he did consider it important to let the Board members know that the Board Chair and State Forester accepted an invitation to join one of the CFF meetings. There was then discussion on specifics of the presentation, times, audio/visual needs. And then discussion shifted the issues and format of their 2019 Work Plan which will be part of the Report.

12. Good of the Order

Barnes asked for additional news or discussion for the good of the order.

Smith informed the rest of the members that he would be moving at the end of the summer and was unable to complete his term as the Committee's Environmental representative, working for the Conservation Fund. As far as candidate for replacing him he suggested running the need through the Conservation Caucus and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts because they tend to work with private landowners pretty well.

Abraham asked about scheduling future meetings way in advance and it was agreed that potential dates will be sent out for response. He thought that we would schedule a September meeting through Doodle Poll or a calendar invite and figure out when this room is available for the other months. Hopefully we can at least get those out on your calendars. And if we are going to miss the majority of members we can reschedule. We'll just schedule when the room is available and matches staff availability and if you can't make it then we will readjust the date.

Barnes adjourned the meeting.