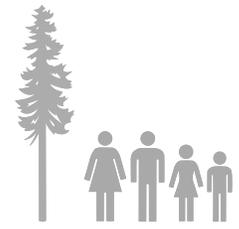




Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting May 21, 2020



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a 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 convened on May 21, 2020 as a virtual online meeting hosted off-site.

CFF Committee members participating:

Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Josh Barnard, Deputy Chief Private Forests (Secretary)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting/Vice Chair)
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Jim James, OSWA Executive Director Ex-Officio
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Rex Storm, AOL/OTFS Ex-Officio
Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)

ODF Staff:

Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief
Susan Dominique, Committee Administrative Support
Scott Swearingen, Interim Field Support Manager
Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator
Wyatt Williams, Invasive Species Coordinator
Nate Agalzoff, Incentives Coordinator
Kristen Whitney, Office Support
Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief
Terry Freuh, Monitoring Coordinator
Leana Dickerson, Executive Support
Amy Singh, Forest Legacy Coordinator

Members not attending:

Guests/Public:

Wendy Gerlach, Pacific Forest Trust
Jeremy Felty, OSWA
Andrew Owen, NRCS
Ron Graham, Deputy Chief Protection Division

1. Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Barnes opened the meeting and made note of the agenda. Roll call was initiated for the online participants.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Barnes asked for a Motion to Approve the minutes from April 14th, 2020 meeting.

John Peel moved to accept, Barrett Brown seconded the Motion. All were in favor of the motion to accept, none opposed.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments offered.

4. Private Forests Division Update – Josh Barnard

Barnard began by noting that there had been several emails distributed out to members on a variety of subjects. He wanted to begin by addressing the subject of budget reductions and noting the email specifically from the Deputy State Forester, Lena Tucker describing the budget exercise requested by the Governor to analyze what a 8.5% General Fund reduction statewide would look like for ODF programs. The exercise was to be a forward-looking piece of work which is going to be used following the May Revenue Projection. Basically the original impetus for that was, the anticipated impact to the economy because of the COVID-19 emergency. All the programs using General Fund were included in that exercise. To clarify, the Governor cannot modify a particular agencies budget or a particular fund by itself, only across the board adjustments. This is the only authority the Governor has. Then the Legislature has the authority to make more specific reductions targeting individual programs. Other context is that the State Emergency will effect other revenue streams. The Harvest Tax will be one impacted. Similarly, other agencies that rely on Lottery revenues will be effected as those revenues decrease. So there are other factors that cause an even larger impact depending on where each program and agency revenue streams come from. The budget exercise is at the Division/Program level that receive

General Funds making decisions on programs and any position changes occur to make up that reduction. Tucker's email documented the cost-saving measures tied to a potential 8.5% cut in General Fund and in trying to limit the effect on currently filled positions. One cost-savings will be to continue to hold open any currently vacant positions for the rest of the biennium. So that doesn't mean that there won't be any obvious impacts. Where we should be fully staffed these open positions drop the programs back to half capacity. But Abraham noted that we have identified some internal flexibility, so when a budget is finalized there may be other potential reductions that are required.

James expressed his disappointment in this news by sharing that he considers this situation an absolute disaster for the landowner community in Oregon, particularly around fire. And the landowner community will be lobbying to make sure that ODF gets their fair share of the limited amount of money that will be available. But ODF is not the only organization that needs money. Barnard went on to say that they don't know the answers as this is at this point a budget exercise, the Legislature could convene and propose additional reductions but for now its just an exercise of options. But impacts will be significant to the Protection Division as well. They are predicting a potential 20% decline in Harvest Tax revenues and many positions are split funded 60/40 General Fund and Harvest Tax.

Barnard continued by framing ODF's response to the COVID -19 restrictions. Current to this meeting, all the counties are opening in what's being called Phase 1. While we are in Phase 1, the Agency's plan is to maintain the status quo with a dependence on virtual meetings and those types of interactions and encouraging tele-work where appropriate. District offices are seeing the public by appointment only maintaining social distance and hygiene practices. He reported that the Agency will be maintaining this new work environment for a few more weeks and probably longer awaiting guidance from the Governor before normalizing our business methods.

Central to the Committee function Barnard announced that there will be some new appointments to the Board of Forestry that are going to be sent to the Senate for confirmation. Three new members and one re-appointment. He gave the names and associated backgrounds for the new members. Debbie Johnson, Chandra Ferrari and Karla Chambers. Jim Kelly was to be re-appointed. If confirmed they should be in place by the July 2020 meeting. He noted new members will change the dynamic a little bit in terms of geographic representation. Leaving two Board members from EOA and four Board members for the NWOA and one from SW, Mike Rose is the only current Board member from down there. In addition, Tom Imeson is stepping down from the Chair of the Board. One member noted that with these appointments there will be a lack of representation from forestland owners that understand operational forestry. Members commented that they would expect them to be knowledgeable and informed about forest management and their responsibility on the Board. Another noted one of the new members acted as a lobbyist for an environmental organization and questioned the wisdom of that appointment.

His final update was regarding the Siskiyou project. That originally the Monitoring Unit was working on a pathway to frame up the Siskiyou for a potential sufficiency call in July based on a literature review. Previously the Board had been interested in how the forest industry leaders and conservation organizations signatory to the recent MOU (that everybody has had significant interest in) came together and sent a letter to ODF and the Board Chair basically asking that the Board take on a different process with the Siskiyou Project. A request for a set of temporary rules to implement SSBT rules in the Siskiyou georegion and effectively halt the process for a sufficiency determination on the current rules for the Siskiyou. That request has been framed up for the June Board meeting as a decision point for the Board.

Members discussed sending a letter to the Board in support of adopting temporary rules for the Siskiyou as the Board will be making a decision on that in June. Barnard provided a little bit more detail on what the request

would look like, and how the process would play out in terms of temporary rules. Barnes emphasized that with the impending budget reductions it would seem pertinent not to duplicate efforts by accepting temporary rules and continuing the Review. Abraham agreed on pausing the Siskiyou process currently underway. And that the Board would have interest in hearing from the Committee on that and how that might affect the family forestland community. Brown endorsed that proposal. Swanson agreed as well and noted it would be a trial run of the new recommendation process they had proposed in composing the language of the letter. Barnes shared that when he spoke to the community in the southwest not everyone was happy with the industry/conservation MOU but he felt it was a way to move forward that deserves some credibility and support. James agreed. He had run the MOU by the Josephine and Jackson County OSWA Chapters. Following science and being satisfied with what science tells the State has been the landowners position all along and the right approach. Members agreed on writing a letter of support. Abraham clarified that the BOF will have two decisions to make in June. Once to decide on pausing the Siskiyou Streamside Review and the other whether to direct the Department to implement temporary rules to enact SSBT protections to the Siskiyou georegion. Barnes backed up the discussion asking if there was other comments to address in the letter. Vroman echoed James' comments earlier about the greater good and goals of the MOU, he supported the interim rules.

Barnard framed the decisions as halting the Siskiyou review process while the collaboration gains traction. Secondly, asking the staff to implement a temporary rule overlaying the SSBT rules in the Siskiyou region for up to 6 months giving time for the MOU signatories to gain traction and stop duplicative work and wait for the legislative session. But he didn't foresee reverting back to the old process. The six month mark is a limiting thing in statute for us if we do a temporary rule because it follows a different set of procedures that is much quicker and faster than a normal rulemaking process but limiting its use only until a real solution is in place. Verbally polling the voting members all seemed to be in support of a Letter of Recommendation.

James clarified that the MOU signatories agreed that the intent is that the legislature would prioritize legislation at the first opportunity possible for the Siskiyou rules. The mission of this temporary rule is to get us over the hump till the legislature can act so that the Department isn't burdened by going through this Review process which they are obligated to do when frankly they have more important things to take care of. And Barnes noted with reduced budget as well. Frueh reiterated that the MOU also called for passing the SSBT Stream Rules on the Siskiyou. To have that taken care of in a permanent way. Swanson called for a formal vote on sending a Letter of Recommendation to the Board and Motioned that intention. Vroman Seconded the Motion with an opportunity to review the draft letter before finalizing it. Barnes called for a vote. The Motion carried with none opposed to composing and sending the Siskiyou Temporary Rule Proposal Letter. Swanson would provide a draft for review. Staff will formalize the drafted and reviewed letter and send it to the Board Secretary.

5. Siskiyou

Terry Frueh, Monitoring Coordinator provided more background to the Siskiyou Review process in question. Staff are currently proceeding with completing the literature review. They had completed a draft and sent it out to the Siskiyou Advisory Committee. They met with the Review Committee about a week later to get some initial feedback from folks and then gave them an additional week or so to provide written comments. They received between 11 or 12 comments back out of the 14 Committee members. The staff will be taking all that into consideration as they complete the report, Literature Review of Stream Temperature and Shade. Even as they are completing the report they are aware that the Board may not move forward with a sufficiency decision in July. The Monitoring Unit won't be bringing the report to the Board to help inform a sufficiency decision however he repeated that they are completing the report that was in the final part of the process. They do need to have a finished product as requested and intend to deliver it to the Board only as an informational item in September. Frueh continued that in terms of the Siskiyou Advisory Committee, their future involvement is a

little bit in limbo until we get a Board decision on passing the temporary rule and suspending the process. So we're adjusting to this potential change in our focus. There may also be a need for a Rule Advisory Committee down the road on the SSBT. He ventured that assuming the Board makes a decision on June 3rd to pause the Siskiyou work, Monitoring Unit would certainly move on to other work. But for the most part they want to support the MOU process and facilitate that outline. But we want to be supportive not duplicative in our work load. Brown commented that he is sure that this literature review could have some utility to eventual legislation. He wanted to convey that he was hopeful that the work won't just sit on the shelf.

6. Food Plot Rulemaking

Nate Agalzoff, Incentives Coordinator and coordinating the rulemaking process for the Wildlife Food Plot Statute, provided an update summary of the timeline and next steps. The end of January the rule concepts were brought to the Board of Forestry as a Consent Agenda item. The Department requested staff move forward with formal rulemaking. Their request was approved. The next step was to schedule public meetings in each Area across the State. In declaration of the COVID-19 emergency restrictions which prohibited open public meetings. Staff had to consider 3 possible scenarios for public comment. One, to postpone the meetings. Two, proceeding without holding a hearing. 3. Do the Hearing virtually utilizing ZOOM option, that was the most likely option that would keep us on track with the original plan timelines. At the end of March, just in the nick of time, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Wildlife Food Plots was filed with the Secretary of State. To be posted in the April Bulletin. At that point, proposed rules will be opened for public comment. We also created all rulemaking documents in ODF Public Website, under Laws and Rules. The draft rule language, Fiscal Impact Statement, the Statute language and some summary information. It also provides the instruction to attend the virtual Hearing and all the venues to provide written comment. The members were sent a copy of the FIS for review at the April meeting. Near that same point in time the Division also sent a letter to the legislators and other interested parties identifying who to contact, particularly, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tribes as they have been involved and provided input over the last several years. The second week of April ODF sent out a press release. Again, pointing traffic to the ODF Webpage, which again has all the pertinent information for providing comments to the State. At the April CFF meeting, they didn't have any comments back to report so staff continued as planned. Letters were sent to the Tribes advising them of the process. Tribal representatives recognized they should be provided the same public comment opportunity but that more appropriately similar but separate format. The Tribal Communications Meeting was held on April 28th and another formal open public meeting on the 30th. No formal public comment was made or submitted. Nothing additional came in to be considered. No comments or testimony. He reported that there were a couple of inquiries. One from the conservation community wanting some clarity around how we would ensure landowners weren't going to have a way to 'weasel' out of reforestation obligations. And some clarification of the footprint they were likely to have on the landscape. They received a couple of comments from the Department of Justice. One was some inputs regarding the scope of the statute. The statute was pretty clear that the intent was to provide forage and other nutritional support but no other habitat components. And some questions around appropriate time frames, specific to retaining or removing food plots. Agalzoff will compose a Staff Report and summary which because of the lack of testimony received will be fairly brief. Attached will be copies of any comments received, if there are any, as well as a copy of the final rule to be adopted. If approved those will be re-submitted and posted at the Secretary of State.

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7. State Stewardship Coordinating Committee Workgroup

Barnard introduced this discussion noting the idea of combining the CFF with the State Stewardship Coordination Committee has been on the back burner for quite some time. Figuring out how to align and combine CFF and SSCC and maintain each's defined roles and still make use of the efficiencies in membership and staff time repeating presentations. One of the key pieces is that CFF has a fairly broad representation and the State Stewardship Coordinating Committee has a fairly broad representation. And do have members in common. When we start talking about issues about Seed and Seedling Availability a lot of the folks we would work with to come up with those solutions are on the SSCC, some federal agencies and partners. Barnard referred to the draft Charter and Operating Principles to set the context for a discussion. The SSCC role has been set withing the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. Earlier this month Gordon took the brought the concept to the Stewardship Coordinating Committee to seek any further feedback. The draft Charter incorporates that feedback. The Charter characterizes the SSCC as a working group functioning under CFF. So the SSCC would maintain their current roles and function but under CFF and encouraged to attend those meetings. It may also solve some vacancies on either committee. The working group probably would meet once a year and maybe twice depending on what's going on with their primary focus of work on Forest Legacy and Forest Stewardship Program processes. He concluded the proposal and asked for any comments, he considers this a working model to apply starting next fall.

As this reorganization has been in discussion for over a year, Abraham agreed that it made sense to follow through on it. That there is enough detail and information to help that transition move forward. Brown offered that Dan Logan, a landowner representative on the SSCC would be interested in filling the CFF vacant Landowner-At-Large position. James expressed his concern that each organization maintain their separate responsibilities, which is the way it is intended. Gordon shared that the rules and responsibilities for the State Stewardship Coordination Committee are outlined in the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, that is the language that governs their role.

Hearing no opposition, Barnard looked to the members for validation or disagreement of the concept. Barrett Brown Motioned to move forward codifying their separate roles. John Peel seconded. All were in favor of placing the current State Stewardship Coordinating Committee as a sub-working group beneath the CFF.

8. Forest Legacy Program Overview – Amy Singh

Singh introduced herself as managing the Forest Legacy Program for ODF. we've done this presentation actually when I was Googling, searching my computer to see the last presentation I gave on Forest Legacy I realized that a year ago yesterday this Committee met and I gave a presentation on Forest Legacy! So this might be a little bit of a review for many of you, staff thought it would be pertinent to set the groundwork for the Committee's and Stewardship Committee to understand one another's role and what verbiage to use. So this will be an overview of the Forest Legacy Program. She then described the program as administered and run through the USFS. Singh also noted that Janelle Geddes is part of this Committee is the Forest Legacy Coordinator for the Forest Service. So, first and foremost the Forest Legacy Program is administered and run through US Forest Service. The goals of the Forest Legacy Program are to identify and conserve environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest use. This is a National program with almost all states participating. And the purposes of Forest Legacy are to provide an economic incentive to landowners to keep their forests as forests and encourage sustainable forest management and supports for the products market. It achieves this through either Conservation Easement purchases or through Fee Title purchase so land can be acquired through government entities either through state ownership or local unit of government to purchase fee title or conservation easement. And for that are familiar with conservation easements it's a legal agreement between the landowner and either government entity or land trust organization that allows the land to remain in private ownership while ensuring that the environmental values of the property are retained. And then I just want to note that the Forest Legacy Program is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. So

this is a fund that invests a small percentage of federal offshore drilling fees to put into conservation of important lands, water and recreation opportunities.

You might have been seeing a little bit of all these asks through permanent authorization for permanent funding and then also making the program funding, that both are happening. Just to give a look at the landscape this is about a year old but shows Forest Legacy across all accomplishments, so don't worry about the fine details here but, just see that a lot of land has been conserved through Forest Legacy? The colored in states show who's participating and the darker green areas are Forest Legacy Areas which each state defines through their original assessment of need which they use to enroll into the Program. And then as of the last few rounds the Forest Action Plan becomes our planning documentation. You can see a couple of spots in Oregon, that later get off the ground and running, but have had some good success and I will get to that in a moment here. So really what all of that shows is that Forest Legacy is quickly nearing up on 3 million acres in protection. 2.7 a little over a year ago. And 800 million + dollars in funding. And what is interesting to note is Forest Legacy is a 75% match federal contribution, 25% non-federal. But if you look at the total value of interest we are well over 50/50% match with non-Forest Legacy, non-federal dollars coming in for a significant funding source. And then you can see there over 415 projects nationwide. So to narrow that down into the State of Oregon, what are we doing with Forest Legacy here? In our last iteration of the Forest Action Plan we set out some strategies and... for the Forest Legacy Program that are there on the screen. And we try to mirror, really what the federal, what they are looking for in terms of ranking and reviewing projects so that we are ensuring success on our landscape in terms of greatest outcome and conservation value for what we are trying to accomplish. But also ensuring that we're getting funding for the projects that we are submitting. And then trying to work bridging partnerships with private landowners and the communities to help strengthen forest management and to hone into some of the resources that are across the landscape that can help us as an agency better implement and have success within the Forest Legacy Program. So here's, I don't have a good image of this, but this shows our Forest Legacy areas within Oregon. So the first metric for being interested in the Forest Legacy Program is that you have to be located in one of these areas. And our Forest Action Plan is what we've used as our tool to define and outline these and I'm sure you've heard a little bit about the current updates to the Forest Action Plan that are happening right now. And in relationship to Forest Legacy we've made the decision that our Areas right now are good and accurate for the work that we have and these 2011 Forest Legacy Areas will continue to carry forward for our next cycle of projects coming through in the next 10 years. Here we show the accomplishments of the Forest Legacy Program. We entered into the Program in 2002 but it's taken a bit for us to get up and running. The South Eugene Hills project was our first project. Back when we started the Forest Service graciously give new states a small grant to go ahead and get this program off the ground. So that's what we did with the Legacy's money is the South Eugene Hills Project. Fee Title 25 acres. And the rest of our projects have all been competitively ranked and funded, vetted against other projects across the national landscape. We used a portion of Legacy to help with the Gilchrist State Forest, our first conservation easement happened closed two years ago in Union County. A little over 4.3 million dollars for 1300 acres. The most recent acquisition was the East Moraine/Wallowa Lake Project which Wallowa County used the Forest Legacy dollars as well as many other funding sources for acquisition of 1500 acres and Forest Legacy contributed 3.9 million dollars. And the next two on our list there of projects we are currently working on that are just getting their funding in now, so we have a conservation easement project we are working on in Hood River County on Weyerhaeuser land. Right now we've gotten funding for, what we estimate to be just under 1400 acres, we are still gearing up to head into the appraisal process for that right now so all of that will shape in a little clearer. But we've got \$11 million dollars in Federal grants that are going to go to that project. And then another project we are just gearing with a 2020 grant is the Arch Cape Watershed which the Arch Cape Water District will purchase in fee title. A portion of a larger project we estimating around 600 acres with this first million that they have received but there is a larger rainforest reserve initiative which is happening with the local communities and local Land Trust to try to

do this large conservation effort so Forest Legacy will help with that. And then a couple of weeks back we got our next 'list' that we are awaiting Congress to get the budget passed and see how we come out with that. But we will likely get another \$2.5 million dollars for another fee title acquisition in Spence Mountain in Klamath County will take ownership. That just gives you a little bit of the landscape of what we've achieved if everything we got funding for moves forward and was successful where \$20 million dollars in funding that are completed projects and growing our acres that way. So I mentioned the Forest Legacy Program is a competitive program. They rank the projects for three attributes. How the attributes of the property, interests of importance, and environmental, the social and the economic. Forest Management, what are the benefits that this project is going to bring to the larger environmental landscape and the community. And the next one is the Threat, so this is conversion to non-forest uses, not that they would likely be lost but how likely, how immanent that conversion is. And this can be looked at through the traditional sub-division and development knocking down the door but also be through, hopefully there wouldn't be fragmentation of that larger landscape and what maybe happening with the larger forest landowners. And then how strategic the property is within the larger conservation efforts. Both within protecting suffering or supporting other protected lands that are within the area but also any planning documentations that focused in on an area. And within that looking at how the property specifically helps to achieve that. So, keystone piece would be more strategic than something a little bit. So one of the ways that the Forest Stewardship Committee Working Group will continue to operate within the Forest Legacy Program with the application process which happens across the summertime into the early fall where projects are vetted both for eligibility and their readiness and likelihood of success. We don't want to take on money and grants for projects that can happen within the timeframe or aren't quite ready yet. So the working group will evaluate projects based on the national criteria and scoring and then they will make a recommendation to ODF and we'll submit those projects and then they will continue to put through the process where potentially sometime in the early... it should be January 2021.. Projects are ranked and eventually a list will come out. One thing to note about Forest Legacy that's different than a lot of federal projects is we are asking for money for the next upcoming budget rather than a budget that has been passed in one amount and then they need to allocate which projects that goes to. So the Forest Legacy application process and the time from drumming up a project at completion is really long. 5 years or so, maybe even a little bit longer than that. So, it's really forward-looking. I'll just end it with some, I can add some of the properties that we have helped to conserve and to ensure that they maintain working forests. With that I will open that up. Is there any questions? Or any clarification that is needed on Forest Legacy or if you don't feel like pros in this program?

Barnes: Yeah, Amy thank you. A question, in looking at that map, I couldn't quite see the key on the right hand side that shows the different colored areas. I'm just kind of looking at SW Oregon.

Singh: Oh, yeah this one. The Legacy areas? The specific colors are less important than just where the colors are. So, the Legacy Areas have been broken down into smaller, the purple here and pinkish is the Blue Mountains Legacy Area, then we have blue down around the Coastal Range. East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, West Cascades and the Willamette Valley. So less important what specific Forest Legacy area you are in, just more important that the property is within the Forest Legacy Area.

Barnes: I'm here in Douglas County and looking at the county. So the swath up the middle is pretty much the Valley there and part of the Coast Range and part of the Cascades I guess and the blue...okay just trying to understand. So then when you talk about the imminent or threatened properties that's something that is sort of the fringe. What we call the WUI lands, outside of the urban boundary but probably would be in a revision of that included and becomes a threatened area? Is that how you appraise that?

Singh: The Threats to Forest Conversion, especially when you look at the larger national landscape there are communities where absolutely where it is immanent. And keeping it at the regions of the country where that threat is different. I would classify us, as we struggle a little bit with our projects on this. But it is relative.

Anything that doesn't legally protect the property from conversion knows that there is threat. But just how immanent that threat is. So it could be an aging landowner with no succession plan for someone to come in and take over the property, could be seen within the larger context of a project just as threatened as something where there is a planned development coming in. So, it's on all fronts to say that maybe in that 5 to 10 year timeframe what's the likelihood that this property won't look the same in terms of forest management activities that are currently occurring.

Brown: The next slide showed a list of projects? So, this is, I'm curious about what we may see if there was a project cost column here? I don't want to get into the weeds of exactly...but could we generally see as to the balance of Forest Service funding to total project costs for this list for example?

Singh: Our State isn't one of the shining stars that can contribute a lot to that non-federal cost. There are many states nationwide, but a handful, that have a statewide funding source that focuses on either land conservation that include easements or that have a specific forestry component like a mini forest legacy program so they have a lot more funding to bring in. That non-federal match is one of the biggest struggles right now for our program is coming up with that. Since we don't have an obvious State funding source coming in to say here's the 25% we are looking at landowner donations. The East Moraine Project was an example of pulling in lots of smaller funding sources to keep that all together. And we were luckily able for the Blue Mountain other easement projects we had extra funding with the Gilchrist so we were able to fill one another to help achieve that. But we don't have a great story to tell for cost-share for the cost-share of non-federal match is a struggle. We are looking at that 75/25 and capitalizing on as much federal dollars as we can.

Barnes: So then Amy, on that same slide, that South Eugene Hills is that Mt. Pisgah park or something?

Singh: No, it's not. It's owned by the Willamalane Parks and Rec. It's a stand-alone smaller piece adjacent to... it's not a large resource.

Barnes: So for instance, that was subject, if reforested it must be some conversion of its use then?

Singh: This project was one that didn't have to go through the competitive process. This is before my time, but I believe it might have been something that was a little more ready to go. And a partnership that was raised...

Barnes: Just wanted to get a notion of what was happening and the outcome. Coming up with these amounts on the right side column you do some sort of appraisal of the property to get those numbers?

Singh: Yes, absolutely. The ones in red those have been appraised. The appraisals are to Yellow Book Standards so anybody who has worked for the Forest Service they have their own set of additional Federal Land Acquisition Appraisal Guidelines. It's not the standard forestland appraisal. It has an extra layer of requirements. And that appraisal is reviewed either through a contractor or Forest Service to ensure it met those guidelines. Not necessarily agreeing or disagreeing with the value, but just the process. So that's why the two that are in black there those are really just an estimate because we haven't done an appraisal yet. That is purposeful and intentional because if we get an appraisal before we do funding the landscape is going to shift and so we need a current market value. So we are just using our best guess at building information to help us narrow in on what that value is and what amount Forest Legacy will contribute to that appraisal.

Barnes: Yeah okay. Thank you!

Singh: One thing I really didn't highlight in this but it's kind of in passing is that partnership. These, as you look at the projects that are fee title but even the conservation easement ones the land trust community can't hold title under Forest Legacy are really essential in drafting up projects, ensuring that they have helped direct something to us that is going to be successful. Whether the landowner going through this is a private landowner that hasn't ever done this before. And they aren't quite sure what easements mean and appraisals and all of this stuff. In a local community that doesn't have the real estate resources. All of our recent projects have had a really strong partnership with the concentration entities that help us come to success and get projects funded and successful when the funds come through.

Barnes: Any other comments for Amy in this? Anybody?

Gerlach: I had a question, could you talk a little bit more about how Forest Legacy ensures that over time that it stays in forest use? Like the terms of the restrictions staying a conservation easement or elsewhere?

Singh: So the Conservation Easement will remain in private ownership but then the conservation easement terms that a forest management plan is needed for any forest activities or management. And the conservation values of the project. That plan is approved by ODF. Monitoring will occur of the plan and general terms and conditions of the easement over time. And when it is fee title the same forest management plan component is required and we are the grant agreement with the Forest Service indicates and then the deed is then restricted that there is no development, sub-divisions cannot occur, we've got that title legally covered through the instruments of conservation or protection and then through the management plan to get that working component.

Barnes: Okay alright, thank you Amy. Any other questions or comments? I guess we get these blank spots where nothing is happening... Thanks Amy again! Julie you are up on the fact sheet for CFF owners?

Woodward: Sure that sounds good. And Susan can I share my screen?

Barnes: It's just that 4 page sheet right. I saw a bunch of different attachments but just one sheet?

Woodward: Just one screen. Some of the ODF attachments aren't coming through. So I asked it only to be in Google Drive just to try and make sure people got it. So this is something we've been talking about for a while. You remember, a couple of meetings ago we brought in some numbers to show to the Committee and those will help all of us to see what this looks like. And then we said we would put some things on paper acting forward and sorry it's not a little further down the road but we have had some conversations and after today hopefully it will get off my plate and actually start moving faster to the ODF and Jim over in Public Affairs who has been a help take this and make it more visually graphic and edited and those types of things. Today we are looking for any content we are missing? Do people prefer the look of one chart tentatively over another? Today we have to edit exact words but I'd like people to send those comments to us. I think there is some editing, but I just wanted to get an overall picture today if we are heading in the right direction. And then Josh, Ryan and the crew there keep moving this forward for us to get it ready before you go to the Board in July.

Barnes: So I was wondering, if you go down, I think it looks great. I really appreciate the work a lot of stuff going into it. So when you get down to the part about family forestland owners care about their lands and then the challenges. And something about wildfire that we face? Did you think about that? I mean all of this is relevant. Huge items.

Woodward: I agree, these were charts that the American Forest Foundation already had put together. It's just an idea of get people to respond whether they like it or not. So, let me go through each piece and then let me know whether to add or change things. That would be helpful. So, this is our, at the top your logo and then just kind of a tagline there. And then this is about the Committee for Family Forestlands and it's from the Charter trying to minimize all those bullets. Kind of in to more of a simple format there. And I've been trying to from what I heard last time to really emphasize what it is that family forestlands provide. And so, we say it here, what are they providing and then some type of graphic. So this is just an example of something the American Forest Foundation (AFF) has. Again, the ODF design team can make something similar and make it even more Oregon-centric. Or we can ask AFF permission to use this if we like it. I'm happy to pause there and see if that, I think this first phase is important to get what is the main message you want to convey and make sure it's prominent. And so then on the last page would be more of the numbers. So we talked about last time, like how many owners, acreage, the various sizes kind of the top twelve. So this is kind of small and an example of how that can look. Either how OFRI puts those numbers together we can show that differently, have the charts look differently. Just one way that could be presented. I see on page 2 being a little more number heavy with some of that overview sheet where page 1 is more a couple of key concepts we are trying to convey about what family forestland owners offer and about the committee. And then page 3 would be again, if you want to go back over...a view more about family forestland owners or ask for a little more time on the Committee some of the issue the Committee has been talking about or doing. And conclude with more quotes by committee members. And then the end of it, would be I would say about the Committee members or the listing of the individual voting members or the whole committee to be page 4 and then the homepage website where people can see our meeting information. So just wanting any beginning input on that so I'm not tied to any of it just trying to get things out there for people to have conversation over.

Barnes: So Julie did you consider having harvest sort of, you got those pie charts. It shows the federal government in the big percentage, 60% I guess. Is there a relative chart that would show actual harvests by the last few years or whatever? If you look at this as a layman you would go wow! 60% of the forestland is federal ownership and so it should be 60% of the harvest. Well of course it's not, but maybe there is a relative to show where the wood is actually coming from these days. We took a tour of Swanson's stuff a while back and Steve Swanson said, 30% of his timber comes from small woodlands. So the mills aren't really getting this. It's the ownership, I agree, but the wood is actually coming from different sources.

Woodward: So the forestland by owner so that is showing 60% is owned by federal, and then they are contributing 13% of the harvest. So, we could put some more words to help interpret that and OFRI does that in our... I think what we were trying to get at is the small private is 12% here and also contribute 12% their part of the pie is pretty equal. Similar to State at 4% and they contribute 9%. And so I think that is what this comparison would need to be. Again we could break these out and there could be word descriptions underneath the chart which would probably be helpful to tell that story. But I think on this particular, I don't think we are telling the federal story as much for CFF. I think it's important but I think for woodland owners to say they are contributing their share of the pie and they are an important part of this harvest piece for a sustainable wood supply. So that would be up to the Committee to tell, how they want to interpret that graph.

Barnes: Sure, okay.

Gerlach: This is Wendy, I wanted to ask about the definition of a family forestland owner, and I can't see the first page, is that on the first page. What is meant by the term?

Woodward: That would be something we should add in, where we had a lot of discussion about that and the various size holdings just to show that there is a lot of owners in these different categories of some 10 to 500

acres and that they vary across those holdings so, I think we could carve that out, what are those size owners, that we have that in our data.

Gerlach: So there where you say, small private forestland owners, I think that is sort of who you are talking about here. And then talk about the composition of the Committee. You again are referring who is coming from what group. And so it would be useful to have a clearer sense I think in the beginning of the document as to that definition. Thanks!

Storm: This is all really good work Julie! I think it is a great start and I think Wendy brings up a good point. You know definition of who are we? Who are the family forestland owners is a good thing to start out with.

Gerlach: Yes, that is sort of a friendly way to approach who we are is always kind of a nice way to bring a human element. Of what characters are involved.

Brown: I would second Rex's comments this is obviously going in a great direction. I think you are really on track here so...don't have much to add. I guess you are going to be looking for some quotes from Committee members. And some other content. I would keep asking those kinds of questions.

Woodward: I think some quotes would give it that personal touch. About why you are on the Committee, why you own your forestland. I think that is important flavor to add throughout actual words from the different Committee members like making Evan as the Chair I think to bring forth that and different Committee members share their work on the Committee, something they advocate doing, or something about their woodland and how it's important that they get involved in specific activities around those. And that is what I think the public relations office could even help flesh out a little bit or could even help... people have ideas about what they want to write. I want to make sure that we capture that. The other question is, do people have a sense of what they like these types of graphics that the AFF had or words that are simple? Or do we also want to mix it with these get pretty busy but we can break them up with more descriptions? Or is there is a sense for one way or another? Or go in a different direction? Kind of with the graphic look?

Brown: I personally like the graphic representation for the quick hit value which would meet the attention span problem here. I wouldn't want you to recreate these grab-n-go graphics but I do wish they had a recreation tab on there.

Woodward: Luckily we know people there! So I think between Jim and I and Rex and you we can reach out and ask them for that. I think we could work with them to modify it for what Oregon means. I like visuals to give to people, this is what I like. I think wildfire would be important to add into our 'challenges' and I think recreation could be something we can add into what family forests provides. In some ways wood supply and rural jobs are both economic driven and so we could break that up a little bit into or somehow combine or add another column.

Brown: Great.

Peel: Julie, this is John. Is there a kind of online version of this? And if so it would, the word online version that by clicking on some of these topics there could be more information. If you wanted to add more finely grained elaborations of these topics.

Woodward: And then that's exactly what the American Forest Foundation did so each of these are actually a button on their website where you click on it and it goes. I don't know for our Committee if we have the depth

to do that on the CFF webpage? But a lot of these are topics talked about either on an ODF page or OFRI or other groups. So we could think about that, that's later on the list, although I like the idea but I think right now for the fact sheet we are focused just for getting for the Board. And we can use it when we are talking to people or new members come in. But I certainly think John that we could keep that as something in the future to think about. And maybe the Department could think about that for the website about family forestlands. So, I'll talk about that with Ryan.

Peel: If this were linked to the Family Forestlands Committee website and then it stay internal to CFF or to the ODF. And/or actually link to the Federal Forest website, I guess permission would have to be sought for that.

Gordon: I was going to say, I could talk with Jim and other folks in Public Affairs to see what the options ultimately are for our external website. I know that we have some limits there. But we could certainly make whatever pdf products comes out of this available as a download on the external website and then we could also look at linking from there to some of our partners, like the AFF page, that Julie was referring to. And we also have through the Forest Stewardship Program, really through State and Private Forestry we have fact sheets and other details posted on the Forest Service website too. Which we could also link through.

Peel: I say pdf downloads would be great. It would be a source of information. Just a list of the kinds of things available to landowners through ODF. Stewardship Forester, the grants, the cost-shares and things like that. More and more information. I think it's amazing the number of forestland owners who are not aware of CFF and the more we can go to the website, and download current pdfs that give them information and other links I just think it would be a wonderful way to amplify this. I think this is a great document, I really enjoyed reading it this morning and congratulations Julie!

Woodward: Well, this has been a dual effort, I hope the other party can give it help to get it over the finish line. So, I would just say that if anyone has any edits feel free to either make comments on the document initially or send it in an email and then I will sort everything to Josh or Ryan to help take this through the ODF process to make it however we want it to look for the Committee. And the other part of this that I don't think...I have to leave at noon today and won't be back on later this afternoon. But I think we ought to talk about the Annual Report. We were going to make sure we had some PowerPoint if needed to do that. So I am still willing to help with that but maybe, Ryan or Josh maybe note if there's any events we want to cross into that, but it would be more for the Annual Report. But what would be a visual for the BOF we just worked on for this fact sheet?

Dominique: Can I ask a question? Part of the reason for having these sheets is to make the public aware of what the Committee does or can do. And all this does a really great job of describing the Committee but I am just wondering if there is some language that could be included, about, when legislation is passed, or when rules are formed these types of things will affect the vitality of our forests. So trying to link it to people's minds from just a committee that is out there, but how these things effect smaller landowners, if that is possible.

Woodward: We can think about how to phrase that. Did you have another question?

Dominique: Just that.

Storm: Susan makes a good point! That would be a great addition or improvement.

Barnes: Yes linking it till we make the sausage and sell it. We actually do something. Going to the Capitol and do things. And interface with the Board of Forestry. That's a good point, Susan. So Julie I was going to ask you and the rest of the members about listing the membership of the Committee. It seems like it would be good to

show the breadth and depth of the people who serve on it, throughout the state from different sides of the issues and how they work together. That we aren't just all one or the other. It's a diverse membership, what do people think?

Woodward: Sure, I didn't start listing them because I wasn't sure how things were going to go with the transitions. If more Board members are going to be added soon with everything that was assessed this morning. I didn't want to outdate this before we even got to the next phase. But that could something that we could keep updated certainly that's easy to add on. I think it would push us to a 4 pages it may be tight to list them all in 3.

Peel: It makes sense to me. It seems that what Evan just said, the broad backgrounds. We have industry reps, we have logging reps, we have landowner reps, we have environmental reps and we have quite a range of specialties on the Committee. Just some kind of listing, we don't want to get into 4 page biographies of every person. Except for Evan of course!

Woodward: I think we could do name and then their position they hold and the organization they're with. So I think Susan has that information. I'll work with Susan to get that list from her for that page. And then we can add that in.

Barnes: It kind of duplicates it in the paragraph above that where it says Committee Members. You kind of hint at the factions or the sources of the members. So you could take some of that out. The other part where it says, voting members include a representative from each of the regional areas. I think that is where that could be included to show. The titles versus names and locations to show the diversity, not just from Salem, something like that.

Woodward: Yeah I think can get rid of the paragraph and do an overview with the list of members. And back to John's comment, we can even put in here, kind of a statement saying if you are a landowner with interest in getting involved to contact the Committee because we are always seeking new Committee members and that the meetings are open to the public. And invite people to be a part of that too here.

Barnes: Yes, that's good. Interested parties always welcome. Yes. Okay, moving forward should we send out comments back to you, or go through Susan or Josh? What do you think?

Woodward: I'm fine if Susan or Josh want to do it, but I am happy just to take them too.

Barnes: Okay we'll send them directly to you then and copy them?

Woodward: That sounds good.

Brown: Julie while you are still on the call, maybe this is time to squeeze a quick tangent here on the communication theme. I wonder, has anyone else spoken with Anthony...at OPB? The timber feature he and OPB and Propublica are working on?

Woodward: Yeah, it's probably best that I don't comment because OFRI is being heavily researched by some of the story, OPB and the Oregonian. It may involve some legal issues so I can't make any public comment at this point on these stories.

James: I don't mind making a comment, they are not our friends.

Brown: I actually solicited him for a chance to contribute to his work with that in mind. So we had a discussion last week and having work with media in the past I did some work in advance to try to learn what I could about his style and approach and have that interview accordingly. I'm not optimistic and he was very disjointed by my presentation of our tree farm and how family forests contribute to this picture. He seemed confused about why I was talking about this suite of values from economic to environmental to recreation values, legacy values while he thought that all he needed to know about family forestland he could learn about from OFIC. And it was just took me a little while to paint a picture for him about diversity of our interests and the fact that our community value comes from having and leveraging that diversity and not dividing ourselves into camps necessarily. So this communication piece. This kind of content is the kind of messaging that may not come out through him and their work there. But this was the kind of picture I was painting for him and the kind of picture we want to push out to the public.

Barnes: Any other comments? Julie? Closing?

Woodward: I think I got some great input, appreciate everyone taking a look at it and giving this input will help move it forward.

Brown: Julie what can you say, not about the content but just mechanically what did you mean by it being heavily researched?

Woodward: We have received public records request for just every topic from the Oregonian and OPB and we've all have received interviews and through it there will probably be things come out about OFRI and some of that may lead to legal issues. So, that is the extent of what I can say. If I say any more, I would have to report back that I said anything further.

James: I wouldn't mind adding that the Oregonian and OPB and the other organizations are making a valent effort to portray a very negative picture of forest landowners in Oregon, Forest Practice Laws, and the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. And I have no idea why they are going down that venue. But in my opinion it is wicked and a lot of lying and a lot misinformation. They are not our friends. I have no idea why they hate us but they act like they do.

Storm: Like action is louder than words but in their case they believe the words are stronger. Yeah, I echo what Jim says. Media outlets don't appear to be bound by ethics or honesty or truth in journalism anymore. It's sad to see.

Peel: Yes, we are in the post-truth age!

Brown: I tried to leverage that journalistic ethics angle a little bit. Not from any perspective. I told them both industry and the conservation community has begun a lot of their messaging with the words, 'the lying Dept. of Forestry did this', the 'dishonest Dept. of Forestry did that' and that is not reporting or constructive communication. That's just mission driven content.

James: I hope they used your comments! Typically, if they don't hear what they want to hear they ignore it.

Brown: I agree, I wanted to entice them into a conversation and see if some of it made it in there. We'll see.

Storm: You are a brave and noble man, Barrett!

Barnes: Wendy, are you still on the call there?

Gerlach: I'm on the call, just muted.

Barnes: You've been hearing everything? I'm just curious of your take on exposure or fact-digging on the part of media and impact, pursuits and goals. What do you think?

Gerlach: Well, it's interesting to listen. At first I was puzzled by Barrett's comment he was saying that he felt like the reporter wasn't listening to him and there was just saying they would think of a more commercial forestry approach and was looking for an extreme point of view that he was not providing. So it was interesting hearing that the media was not being a good listener in terms of hearing the little ground on this and then listening to Rex and Jim talking about looking for an extreme position and demonizing that. I basically agree that the press tends to find news in extreme positions but sometimes they are involved in constructing. In terms of how to rebuff that, I think the piece we were just looking at where it points out that there are actually forests being managed for a number of goals is a really good way to approach it. Even if you feel you aren't being heard it's good to keep repeating that. I think when something like the Oregonian or OPB comes out with something that is causing... actually it does give a voice for following up on that. And many people here would have said in rebuttal.

Barnes: And the surveys that were taken recently, it showed the reason for owning forestland for family forest owners and logging or timber harvest was way down on the list. And that is reflected in Julie's sheet here. That the vital resources, the details here, the 12 bars which were the things why we have forestland. So that is a good story to be told I think. So the sheets are really important. I appreciate your comments.

Gerlach: I just wanted to add, that respecting people with the expertise to actually be on the ground dealing with a resource is also a good line because people with opinions don't know the work actually going on to manage something. It's true in so many areas. So, to the extent you can look under the hood and say this is what we know, other people are not aware of how to actually get this work done!

Barnes: Right. Okay, we are right at 12 o'clock any other comments? Thank you Julie! I'll send these comments over to you that I have for additions or alterations. Your editorial expertise too. What you think is appropriate. And Mike too. We really appreciate and respect his interest and his knowledge. When is he retiring?

Woodward: Thanks Evan. He says next June. So we have him for a little over a year and certainly will have him take a look at this and provide input here too. ODF has a good communications team too that can help communicate you even further about this topic. We'll get it moving along the line.

Barnes: He'll have to get a couple of pairs of shoes in a smaller size so people can fit into them when he leaves.

Woodward: Good idea!

Barnes: So we are going to take a break then from 12 to 1?

James: Before we close can I ask if everyone needs a 1 hour break?

Barnes: We could end it shorter if it is consensus of the members. Sure.

James: An hour is a long time. I'll throw out 30 minutes!

Barnes: So 30 minutes, we'll reconvene at 12:30. Good idea Jim!

LUNCH

9. July Report to the Board of Forestry

Barnes: Report to the Board of Forestry then?

Barnard: I believe Susan sent out a draft,

Dominique: I re-sent a draft of some of the content of the report to come and also last year's report. I did some strike-outs so people could see the previous format. I explained to Josh it was pretty difficult this time around because I really didn't have any direction from the Committee about how we wanted it to look, or what things we wanted to include or what direction to take but obviously it was a very active year for all the things going on between the Board and COVID-19 and everything else so there wasn't a lot of accomplishments by the Committee for the year. I think other than today we've only met about six times. So I was thinking about leading off with something to the effect of a lot of the updates that came through and what went on in the Division and what went on with different programs and projects and then some focus on the Wildlife Food Plots and the Seed and Seedling topic. So at this point I would really love to have any kind of feedback or ideas on how you would like this to look or feel. I will also need an introduction from you, Evan. I don't know if you have had any chance to look through that content. But you might say, you want it really short this time or we wanted it broken out by category or work plan items and I mentioned the changes in our work plan and some of the items but I don't think it's going to be that beneficial to the Report to list the old work plan versus the new work plan. But that is entirely up to you. Open for any comments, ideas. Last time members wrote up a section on a topic. Nothing is set in stone obviously.

Barnes: Josh, does the legislature have to meet to finalize the new appointments to the new BOF members?

Barnard: Yeah, that could be as soon as the first week of June. And so they would be in place for the July Board meeting if that all goes according to those timelines with no changes along the way. So the Board members that they are replacing the last meeting would be at was June.

Barnes: So are those just Consent Agenda items or do they actually chew the fat on those appointments?

Barnard: I'm not sure how that has played out over history. It's a confirmation deal and I've heard that there are varying levels of discussion and that interest. But I haven't been around for many of those or tracked them I should say so I don't know if others have insight in terms of those confirmation hearings that have tracked that in the past.

Barnes: Okay but in any case, we'll be delivering the year's report in July Board of Forestry meeting.

Barnard: Yes, that is still the plan, it's on track for July at this point. With the potential to have three new members. Not guaranteed yet obviously but there's that...

Dominique: I do have until mid-June to get the report done. I still have plenty of time. That isn't too much of a concern if people want something changed.

Barnes: When we get everyone back now in this meeting. We'll see if we should divide it up well or something assigned so we know where it's coming from and who is taking input to get it to you. So is it two new members and then the re-appointment of Jim Kelly?

Barnard: Three new members and the re-appointment of Jim Kelly. The people they are replacing is Nils Christoffersen, Cindy Deacon-Williams and Tom Imeson. If it goes forward as described today.

Barnes: Okay. Have we got a tally of who has gotten back in?

Dominique: It shows 14 joining but originally was 17 on the call.

Barnard: Kaola had to drop off for another meeting but was planning on rejoining at some point here.

Vroman: And Julie Woodward was most likely counted previously. I believe in that original count was Julie Woodward was counted and she is not currently either.

Barnard: As I said Kaola stepped out for something else. I can see everyone else on the list except John Peel in terms of voting members that were on prior to lunch.

Barnes: So we can resume then?

Barnard: I think we can resume and I have things about the Report and I have some presentations type stuff for the July Board meeting that sort of thing.

Barnes: And you said that's probably going to be a virtual not an in-person meeting?

Barnard: The only one is June that is locked into being a virtual meeting. So I have not heard yet about July.

Barnes: Okay then let's proceed with the talk about the Committee Report?

Barnard: I think Susan has gotten a start on it. And she was explaining a little bit when we were returning from lunch. And Susan I'll leave that to you to see if you get the questions answered that you need and go from there.

Dominique: My first question would just be on format. Did you want to mostly adhere to the previous format? Or I was going for something more narrative and shorter, and we didn't have any letters that I could find. So there weren't any letters, and there might have been a couple of outside speakers I have to double check on that. It seems to lend itself to trying to be a shorter document and more of a narrative as to the types of discussion that we had on the different topics and what was presented.

Barnes: I would agree with that. You mentioned the idea of our topics just not Tier 1, Tier 2 and not note last year's as comparison.

Dominique: I listed the new topics or umbrella topics in the narrative rather than bulleted out. I can still add them to the back of the document bulleted out as I always have. I didn't know if there would be any constructive use comparing last year's and this year's. It was really more a reorganization kind of thing. I had planned to have a couple of different formats finished up for you to look at. But I haven't gotten as far as that. But you'll still get another opportunity to make changes. You have to look at the content and then visualize that I am plugging it into the Annual Report format where it lists changes in membership, and that kind of thing.

Barnes: I agree on not having to have the previous year's topic list included. It would be just 2019 that we are reporting on. And then...

Dominique: No its 2019-2020.

Barnes: So there are vacancies, that is pretty accurate and so page 1 has all the introduction taken out. And this is where I would add in page 2 introduction I would bring up to speed? Okay. And then the priority would be listed. A lot of these are similar to this year. And then the work plan would be in the end. And the letter I wrote to the BOF over the Wildfire Council schedule? I think that was included in last year's.

Dominique: I think so, but I will double check. I know part of it is, a letter was sent that didn't come across my desk necessarily because it wasn't put on letterhead. So I have to really look and make sure about that usually if there are any letters we would put them in as an attachment.

Barnes: This is dated May 31st 2019.

Dominique: That would have been in the previous year, it goes from June to July.

Barnes: I will add that to my list with the introduction. That part and then we would go into the priority issues summary? And list the items in there?

Dominique: Yes, that would be where a lot of the narrative would be.

Barnes: Yes.

Dominique: Barrett I would like to ask you specifically, I wanted to include some on the Recreational Immunity topic which currently is on the end of the pages that I sent. And it's fairly brief, but I am not sure I clearly understood where it was at, and what was happening. So, if you could pointedly look at that and change whatever needs to be changed in there? I know there is a statute and know there is opposition to the statute but I don't know the details. So if you can look at that I would appreciate it. A lot of it is just having people look it over to say, yes this portrays this in the correct way because I do a lot of re-writes and summarizing and I want to make sure I'm not missing something or portraying something incorrectly. Or maybe there is something in there that we don't want to emphasize to the Board or want to. My way of looking at it is how a Board member would view it. That I already know about these issues, but what are these issues telling me about the Committee and the Committee's accomplishments and work. I did include a little bit of discussion under some of those topics just to give some flavor of where you guys were at on the subject. But it's hard when you realize they already know about the subjects to figure out what do we need to say about them?

Brown: We could make some extra hay out of the fact...

Barnes: They could be, if legislature met in June and was able to get those done and not be distracted by other issues they could be available for the July meeting.

Brown: This could be a significant body of information for members not familiar with these topics.

Barnes: So 3 new and one returning.

Dominique: This meeting's minutes I will review for the same subject matter and would be more included in the annual report. SO that is a question whether we want to make mention, how would we mention new Board minutes in the context of our business. We will have things saying that that we are preparing a flyer and we are trying to do outreach to the Board, and get into those things as well.

Barnes: Barrett has a good point. If like you say, if we have these subjects Board members already know about if we have 3 new Board members they will be pretty novice... about our actions. If the Board members are there for the July meeting they won't have the background of these things we are working on. So I guess, when does it need to go over to them for the July meeting?

Dominique: Usually a month before, around June 15th?

Barnes: And by June 15th we might not actually know if new members have been appointed. Right?

Dominique: I'm not sure how they are going to make that announcement but I could go through all the topics and make sure that they will work as stand-alone narratives. Maybe keeping in mind that someone on the Board might not know. I'll go back and double check for that.

Barnes: Okay we'll do it that way. That sounds good. And then we will sort of be attuned to that fact. That new members may be on or not if they don't get them appointed.

Brown: And to be clear I was thinking we might be opportunistic and realistically topics that would help us as a Committee. Not necessarily all the backgrounds they would know but things that help us as far as our standing with that group.

Barnes: Good point. We will have 3 ripe new minds that we could make an impression on and take that opportunity. And it's our task anyway. So you are going to work on the Recreational Immunity? Alright, Susan when I get that drafted and sent up to you, the introduction. Does that take care of things?

Dominique: I think so, if all of you are fairly good with the direction the narrative is taking, I will start really filling it in and making it a true draft with everything in it and maybe send it out around the first of June or so for review.

Barnard: So just to be clear it would follow a similar format as the previous report? Pulling in all the new comment, how that needs to fit? Is that correct?

Dominique: If there's a part that was in that format that doesn't apply this year, I would just leave it out. But as you can see I've highlighted/bolded the subject heading so I could go through and pull these out with subject headings with the narrative. So it could look pretty similar.

Barnard: Okay.

Barnes: Sounds good! You have anything else to fill in?

Barnard: I see Ron's name on the list, so I believe that Ron is on. And Susan if you could make him a presenter.

Dominique: Right now I have it set so anyone could share their screen, multiple participants. So if he shares his screen it should appear.

Barnard: So Ron, can you hear us?

10. Fire Season Readiness and Outlook – Ron Graham, Protection Division Deputy Chief

Graham: Yes, Josh. What I'm going to do is just a little intro to make sure you can see and hear me okay. And then I will stop the video and share the screen just so I don't have a lot of bandwidth issues. It's been a little bit quirky this morning through a couple of other presentations. So I want to make sure that everyone is able to see the screen well and hear me. Can everyone hear me?

Barnes: Yes.

Graham: Alright, I'm going to share my screen. And let me know hopefully you see a nice big slide on there, title slide with Committee for Family Forestlands. My name is Ron Graham I am Deputy Chief of the Fire Protection Division. And I've kind of put together our standard fire season outlook as well as what we are doing to prepare for the fire season. And certainly happy to take questions along the way or at the end or both. I always enjoy interacting with your Committee and feel we can have that good open dialog. So, before I dive into it this color photo says a lot. Ironically, this was a month ago today down in southwest Oregon. The Shangri-La Lane Fire. Pretty impressive looking picture. As we talk look at the fuels, the topography, everything at play. The structures down towards the bottom of the slide. That's what things look like for us about a month ago in SW Oregon. Things were pretty concerning, we are seeing quite a bit of fire activity and it prompted the SW Oregon District to go into fire season May 1st. Which is one of the earliest in recent decades. Honestly since the mid 60's that they went into fire season so early. But that was largely in part due to an increase in human-caused fires. And a lot were backyard debris burning. So not necessarily industry-related burning or not even related to reducing forest fuels but typical backyard debris burning. Now that looks like a pretty impressive fire, it had a lot of potential and fortunately was held at less of 20 acres. So an extremely good catch by the SW Oregon District. They utilized quite a bit of aviation resources and heavy equipment dozers to get that thing in check. And this image will come into play as I talk about our preparedness measures. Especially as it pertains to COVID-19. So I wanted to set the stage with that a little bit before we get started.

Barnes: Hey, Ron. Excuse me, this is Evan. Where is this in SW? Identify which SW District?

Graham: I don't have the exact location at my fingertips of this particular fire. Our SW District is Jackson and Josephine Counties. And encompasses our Medford and Grants Pass offices.

Barnes: In the Rogue Valley, not over in the Umpqua Valley yet?

Graham: Correct. So this is fresh. This is the latest as of May 19th drought monitor. I waited to get what I could on the very latest today. We've had a lot of moisture lately. It's been fairly widespread. Even to the extent that up in NE Oregon, and they were starting to dry out, now they are looking at potential flooding issues even. Once again like they had back early in February when we saw flooding up near Pendleton and all that. Certain areas are seeing heavy amounts of rain. But as you can see these maps and the depiction of where drought is setting in and strengthening across the State the moisture isn't widespread and it's not enough. We'll see how May continues. The saving grace is we haven't had long periods of extreme temperatures and heavy winds. So we are not getting the continued heating and drying effect on top of the lack of moisture. SO we'll see if that trend continues as we go. I was honestly hoping to see a little bit more improvement out of this, but that is easy to do when you are sitting in one location and seeing the rainfall you see and not taking into account that might not be the conditions everywhere else. And then as I walk through some of the factors as we evaluate the upcoming fire season you'll see that it's not just about the current rainfall. It's about what has led up to this. So

again, we are not in the same situation that we were in 2015 and such when we were facing several years of drought. Building and strengthening and deepening across the State. But it is moving back in. So that is a concern to us for sure. And especially when you look at the surrounding areas, the West, the Great Basin and the Pacific NW that are seeing some of these drought areas. Quickly it becomes a reality that not only here in the State of Oregon but in our neighboring states might see this same increase in fire behavior and draw on resources and that is a factor that we consider very closely as we plan and prepare for fire season. So the temperature outlooks and again this is fresh today. What this really says, it doesn't say we are going to have above normal temperatures. So the darker the color doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be 30 degrees hotter for us. It says there is an above likely chance that we could have above normal temperatures. So the probability of seeing above normal temperatures exists, greater than the probability of us just having normal or below normal temperatures for June, July and August. Of course, essentially May was supposed to be quite a bit above normal and it may play out to be on the average above normal. We had that really warm period around Mother's Day weekend where we had some pretty extreme above normal temps. And since then temperatures have somewhat moderated but overall it may have influenced the average for May enough that it becomes above average. I don't have that data yet available to me till after the end of the month. Likewise the precipitation outlook, so green is good means the above normal chances of above normal precipitation. Unfortunately you can see we are not in the green. And so the color on the other side of it is referencing the probability of below normal precipitation chances and the entire State is covered in light brown and tan and a good portion of NE Oregon, North Central, and even greater probability of below normal precipitation that said currently the weather pattern in the NE part of the State has given us some decent moisture as of late. So that's good. They were seeing some fire activity as far into that area just a couple of weeks ago. So not long after the SW Oregon District declared fire season on May 1st, we were tracking that Walker Range was going to declare fire season as of May 15th. Fortunately it did start raining before that. So they backed off on declaring that fire season that early. To give you some reference, typically June 1st is around the time that we see both SW Oregon and Walker Range declaring fire season and they are typically are the first two to declare fire season. And then we get into the significant wildfire potential outlook produced by the predictive services branch and the picture here is somewhat similar to last year's for us. We had a higher probability of seeing some significant wildland fire potential in most of the summer months through September last year. Last year one thing that was different was NW Oregon, the NW corner of the State had an early target on it. We saw some early spring fires in March, April, and May and then it kind of backed off. So it went a little bit against the outlook. This year the NW part of the State doesn't have that kind of bull's eye or target on it. But as you see as we progress through June, July and August it only expands across much of the State, all but NW Oregon. Again we'll be watching that closely and then each 1st of the month these outlooks are updated. So on June 1st we should be seeing a new outlook that will cover July, August and September. The bulk of our fire season. So again these are the tools that we look at for our planning measures. These are based on a lot factors of fuels, weather, drought, some historical averages and analysis of past five seasons and modeling done out of a National Inter-Agency Fire Center, the Predictive Services Branch so these are something we use they are a tool. As I mentioned before they end up being not accurate by the time the season is done. So, we are not putting all our money on this and saying it's going to be terrible right? We see the red on the map. The red on the map makes us prepare for certain things and plan for certain things and I will go through of some of that. But more so too is I look at this map and say how many of the different geographic areas defined by those bold lines on the map, have red in them? And if we see a lot of the country showing up having that red in it, indicates that we could have some serious competition for resources throughout fire season. We see that a little bit early on in June, July and look at the SW in the June outlook and currently the SW is having some fires and a little bit of fire activity that we are watching closely. Of course we know seeing Northern California coming on line there in June and July will be a factor for us to consider. Florida has had some early activity already. But by-in-large not all of the geographic areas are engaged. And in the past years Alaska has been heavily engaged and last year we sent significant resources. We collectively, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, State of Oregon, Federal partners in Washington, our

geographic region sent a fair complement of resources to Alaska and very late in the year at that. For their fire season which can impact their ability to reciprocate and help us out. So, I'm glad to see Alaska not in the red, at least for now! It looks good for us and some of the other complicating factors of the Northern Rockies and Great Basin and whatnot that are engaged. But not blanket red across their states. So I mention this a little earlier as to some indicators that we watch and what goes into how we factor fire season and what we think about as an outlook here locally for the State. And we track snowpack. And at this point we can safely say we had a below normal snowpack. And then it's amplified by the fact that we had a pretty early snowmelt. If the snowmelt comes off super early that's a huge factor for us, we start drying out. The good thing this year so far we haven't had that terrible prolonged warming drying yet. And who knows when that will hit. So long term drought, yeah, it's moving in and as I indicated it's gaining some strength. It's deepening and progressing across more areas of the State. And then the potential for below normal rainfall back in a previous slide, there is at least a below normal June rainfall, and we really start seeing our rainfall taper off anyway. We don't get a whole lot typically on average through late July, August and whatnot. So again with the two previous slides, warmer, drier July, August it's looking like a better chance than not that it will still be the case. And I think with that goes the dry lightning episodes are very unpredictable. We do usually see a couple of them per summer. I think given the forecast and the likelihood of where we might be in drier, warmer conditions certainly possible. And those are often times the wildcard that can make or break our fire season. If we don't see significant dry lightning events where we could have upwards of 100 fire starts come out of one storm across an area. If we don't see that typically we are a lot more successful with our initial attack. Our key performance measures keeping fires 10 acres or less to 98%. We typically average around 96% or so success there. What does that mean? Potential for an earlier fire season, central Oregon, southwest Oregon potentially. It is not uncommon for us to start to see large fires and a large fire criteria I'm speaking to 300 acres of grass, or 100 acres of timber in Central Oregon in early June. We've had several notable fires and I say the words, Two Bulls Fire and that means a lot to folks in Central Oregon and throughout the State. Akawana Fire, those are fires that were in Central Oregon in early June. Incident Management Team deployments. We don't have our seasonal firefighting force on and don't have our Severity Resources on yet. And so those are possible and typically that's where we've seen those occur. The bottom line is Nick Yonker is predicting that would have potential for an above average fire season for most of the State. And when I talk through a couple more slides you'll see the potential. What does it mean anymore for an 'average' fire season? So keep that in mind as we move forward with this discussion? And this is kind of what I am talking to. What is average anymore? Well, the average nowadays in the current decade we are in is not what it was back in the early 90's. As you can see this is a graphic depicting ODF protected lands starting with 1990 through the current decade, up through last year, and you can see the dramatic increase of the average acres burned that have happened on ODF-Protected Lands, its significant and its part of the problem that we are addressing as far as noticing that our fire seasons are more complex. We are seeing more acres burned. We are seeing more control problems with fires, you name it. Some will say the fire seasons are longer. I would agree with that to a large degree. We declare fire season as an administrative process here in this State. Not all states do that. Very few do. And when you look at statistic around our declared fire seasons they are pretty static. They are pretty stable. However, when you look at when we are having fires, which run every month of the calendar. And when you look at our acres burned you can see certainly we are having more complex longer duration fire seasons. So that is a factor for us as well as fires. You say above average and if somebody remembers the average fire season in 1990 it's very different now for all of us. It's the same for our federal partners. And this one compares all agencies, so ODF included into this and then our federal partners, most notably the US Forest Service and BLM. And you see the same kind of shift in acres burned. Except for when you add in all the jurisdictions, from the 10s of thousands to the 100s of thousands acres. And we've seen this certainly play out across the state in recent years where we've had much more large fires and even if you want to call them the 'mega-fire' types. Fires that are individually or complex over 100,000 acres. And we've seen more of those and more of an increase. So, we are all facing the same challenge. That's why we are preparing for fire season as we are. So looking at this year, as of the 18th of May,

so you can see, we are currently sitting at 96% of our fires kept at 10 acres or less. Remember I said our key performance measure is 98% and that is set by the legislature. And that's a pretty lofty goal for us to really attain. Our average is right around 96%. And when we average about 1000 fires per year statewide, under our jurisdiction and protection, it doesn't take many fires over 10 acres to exceed and start decreasing our success rate at this KPM. I will say that so far this year, I started with the Shangri-La Lane Fire, said it was under 20 acres. All of the fire activity that we have had thus far have been kept to 20 acres or less. There are no fires we've had that exceeded 20 acres. So that is pretty good and certainly ironically fire seasons are more complex, we are seeing larger fires, we are seeing more fires and extended seasons. And not too many years ago our KPM was a 94% and 95% and we were achieving that too often so the target got moved higher to 98%. Yet in reality we see an increase of fires that can escape 10 acres. So it's kind of a weird measure for us. But one of the things I want you to note out of this, lightning fires, we haven't had much lightning yet and so that has not been a big factor and has not contributed to our acreage. Typically, lightning fires contribute a lot to the acreage in a given year. Because they are more remote fires. They are fires that sometimes go undetected and are bigger than when we first initially attack them. Harder access issues, you name it. Multiple fires on the landscape from a lightning bust as I mentioned but so far not a factor. Human-caused fires, you know I mentioned SW Oregon District going into fire season and the result of an increase in human-caused fires, up significantly. Again, mostly due to backyard debris burning and other human started activity that are a little bit more deliberate. Just leave it as that. So you know that's something we are watching closely, I'll lead into some of the things we are doing to try to address those issues. By declaring fire season, that gives us the administrative ability to restrict outdoor burning to require more things on the side of the public for public restrictions around fire. As well as industry restrictions. It's a preventative, mitigative, communicative tool for us to use as we go into fire season. So, what we are tracking quite a bit more on the side of human-caused fires as I mentioned. 94% more human-caused fires year-to-date versus our 10 year average this time of year. 61% less acres burned than our 10-year average. So that's a good thing. We are catching them, as I said, none of the fires are exceeding 20 acres at this point in time so that's pretty good. So, going into fire season, we learned our lessons from the 2019 fire season and we do extensive after-action reviews with just about everybody we can to say, what did we learn? And we go through a slew of agreements that we update annually with our federal partners, other state and local partners. Our provincial partners in Canada through the NW Fire Compact. We've secured the Catastrophic Wildfire Insurance once again. With again another increase to our premium. Its right around \$4 million dollars for the premium for the same policy we've had in the past with a \$50 million dollar deductible and \$25 million dollars of coverage. The insurance was hit hard again last year beyond fire. So hurricanes, all natural disasters, the fires in California and industry-wide some of the increases have been up in the double digits, close to 20% premium increases and we are getting away with like a 6% or so premium increase. Good relationship there, it continues. We've built budgets for the adequate level of protection that we will present to the Board of Forestry in June. So the Board can approve those rates for those protection services. We are currently going through our seasonal hiring and training. And I will talk about modifications to that. I think it was last week that Division Chief Doug Grafe and the Oregon Military Department, State Fire Marshall's Office and the Oregon Emergency Management all briefed the Governor's office on what we're doing to collectively prepare for fire season and what we expect and how we are working together. And then our very successful Severity Program. We have that complement of those aircraft and resources that we bring on as a complement to our District firefighting resources. So these are statewide resources. Mostly aircraft that bolster our District capabilities and try to help us keep those fires small. Again, to help us keep those fires small again. Our goal is to prevent loss of acres to minimize costs, all of that.

Barnes: Ron, excuse me, can I jump in? So we were briefed on the budget reductions earlier in the meeting. And we see 8.5% for everybody. And yours look like \$3.3 million on one part. And on the bottom of the spreadsheet it was over \$4 million. And I'm sure you had a hand in making that spreadsheet. We saw all the

resources that won't be coming on due to the budget reduction. So how are we poised, is the Severity Program intact? Or is that a supplemental or does that get cut too? And how do we look for our resources?

Graham: Yeah, a couple of questions imbedded there for me, let me address the Severity Resources. Those are part of the Special Purpose Appropriations. Those are outside of our normal General Fund Budget Allocation. The Emergency Board met last month and they actually allocated our Severity Expenses for last season, the General Fund portion because given what happened in the legislative session. The Emergency Board had not met. So they weren't able to address all our fire season costs from the 2019 Fire Season. So the E-Board gave us the General Fund money to pay for last year's Severity Costs. They gave us the money for this year's Severity Cost up front. They said you know what, here it is get it now and get your stuff on contract. Typically, we would go back to the end of fire season and say, here's how we spent it, will you give it to us? We'll still have to come back and say, here's how we spent it but we are not going to have to ask for the money. It's been given to us. And then also, in our current biennial budget as an additional Special Purpose Appropriation was \$2 million dollars additional, which was to be used to mitigate the complex increasing fire season that we've been facing. So all totaled the Emergency Board released \$6 million dollars for those purposes. And those are not in our normal budget. And this so far these are not part of the budget reduction exercise. So that is part one. So in answer to that is that allows us to have our normal Severity complement and actually have a little bit more money to work with. They said that extra \$2 million, they said if you need some extra things get them. More aviation resources on contract, more hand crews, whatever a District may need so that's all good. Now the budget exercise you mentioned, the 8.5% and \$3.3 million to the Fire Program and those resources I don't know what you were briefed on totally in detail. But as we are looking at it right now, it's in a certain state or phase. Until we know we have to take some level of cuts we continue planning and proceeding and going forward. So, right now we are not really going into this going we are not certain. We are going to hire our seasonals, we are going to do what we are going to do. If it means having to re-evaluate some that stuff, depending on the level of this we will respond to it. And we've done the exercise so we know where and if we would have to reduce our budgets by what. So we are kind of in a strange place a little bit. Here on one hand it looks like we are saying we certainly it looks like we have the potential for a worse than average fire season. And yet we are looking at an 8.5% budget cut which for us if it was over a biennium we would spread that out over 2 years. But we are taking that all in one year. That's a pretty significant cut if in fact we have to take any of those cuts. So I don't know if that helps. You know the mode we are in right now is hey we have to continue planning for fire season, we have to continue to get seasonal firefighters hired and trained and deal with whatever decision is made as far as the budget in the direction we get.

Barnes: Okay, yeah that helps. It is the first shot through and obviously the legislature meets earlier there will be some funding. That is the worst case scenario it sounds like maybe?

Graham: Right. So the added complication this year, all those lessons learned that we go through has been preparing for COVID-19 and all the mitigation measures that we will have to do. And as an Agency we've been at this since early March. We've been working with our federal partners, there has been national guidance within the fire community around this. And there is also the guidance from all the health agencies, CDC, Oregon Health Authority all of those. So much so that is typical we have flooded the market with information. And now firefighters are now starting to say, you have to simplify this for me because there is so much guidance, so much direction, so much to read it's distracting me from fighting fire. So, we got to simplify some of the things we are doing and telling firefighters. And get that common sense approach. Like wash your hands, do all this stuff. It's evolving so drastically and quickly, CDC is now saying maybe it doesn't stay on surfaces as long as thought. You don't have to do this or do that so lots of lessons learned. So we have broken it down into three buckets right? What do we do as far as readiness and preparedness? It's going to have impacts on our training. We can't shove 40 people into a tiny classroom for a week and say we're going to do training and

expect that we won't have issues with that. So, we've postponed some training. We cancelled some training. We cancelled our Incident Management Team training in April which was a joint training with Office of the State Fire Marshall which is a huge impact but there was a flip-side to it unbenounced to us we rotated all 3 of our Incident Management Teams through the Emergency Coordination Center for 14 day assignments so they got some real good training. They got some really good refresher training in a non-fire setting. In a very complex planning, coordinating kind of assignment in a non-fire situation. So all three of our teams have been out and trained and given some experience which is good and bad because they have been out 14 days already. That could lead to fatigue down the road and at least address the fact that we had to cancel our training. We also participated in the State level Multi-Agency Coordinating Group and Chief Doug Grafe and Travis Medema, and others with the State Fire Marshall's Office helped facilitate that group for the last month or so, a little bit longer, 6 weeks and that's been another valuable training and learning exercise for us to be involved at the highest level of planning and response from the State down through our Incident Management Team so we have gained a lot there. Other mitigations to training we are utilizing a lot more online training, virtual training, smaller classroom sizes. Those can sometimes equate to increased cost because instead of being able to hold a class just one time for 40 people, now we have to do it 4 times for groups of 10 and such. So we recognized training from last year that is still current on people's records and said if you are current we will waive it for this year. We will pick it back up next year. We've communicated with partners and contractors, here is what we are doing, here is what national guidance is and if they choose to accept that same guidance, we'll honor it and recognize it as well. In the prevention public information side we have certainly have increase all our presence about getting word out about fire prevention and the early start of fire season. I'm going to show you some stuff from Keep Oregon Green here later. May is Wildfire Preparedness Month, so that's all ongoing. We've been working very closely with our federal partners and interagency partners to make sure that we are hitting the public information side very much so. The top of the slide, we did some work locally with OPB and Think Out Loud and that reaches a broad audience and our Southwest Oregon District Forester, Dave Larson has been talking locally on public radio and whatnot as well trying to spread the message around what we are doing around these 3 buckets. So as I move into Initial Attack that's where we start rolling firefighters out to fires. One of our keys, we start with preparedness, we try to prevent fires. That reduces our exposure. Initial Attack we want to be super aggressive on our Initial Attack, do it safely. That's going to prevent Large Fires on the landscape. So if we can't prevent a fire from starting, we want to keep them small. We want to keep them under the 10 to 20 acre mark. Not being out there for days. Not having to bring in a bunch of people and have added exposure hours. So, super aggressive and we always do initial attack. And that's part of you know, if we have some extra Severity resources we have some ability to do that. And the most complex area around this really is like Extended Attack. And we've been working closely with all three of our Incident Management Teams (IMT) as well as the Pacific Northwest Incident Management Teams, Interagency Teams and teams across the country really trying to plan for extended attack. And what does a fire camp look like in fire season 2020 with COVID-19 potentially and who do we need to involve with our incidents and other partners, our local and state health authorities and some added resources in segregating people and keeping people in modules and providing PPE, personal protective equipment to mitigate COVID-19 and the non-fire side of things. Extra cloth face masks, extra cleaning and disinfecting things. And then the big complex piece that is evolving is like how do we track and trace and isolate people to ensure the safety of our firefighters? We are taking some lessons learned from the Agricultural sectors of the state and how they are dealing with people harvesting industry and whatnot. Those are ongoing now and we see all of our plans as living ongoing documents that we will update throughout the season. We are watching those lessons learned. Immediately people did things like, well put one person in each vehicle. So instead of three vehicles showing up to a remote fire you have 20 vehicles, where do you put them out in the woods, so that creates a problem. So maybe that's not the best idea, and then firefighters started wearing face masks in vehicle and getting within 6 feet of each other and travelling down the road for two hours to get to the fire and that is hot, sweaty and uncomfortable. Maybe that's not the answer. And then our friends in Florida that we work with closely over the years have had some large fires. So as soon as they can catch their

breath and talk to us we are asking them what you learned. Same with New Mexico, they had some fires last week and employed local, county and state health authorities to help de-contaminate, disinfect equipment and deal with people. They had a suspected COVID case on a firefighter, and how did they isolate that module? So, those are the real time lessons learned that we are tracking and will keep evolving throughout the fire season. So let me pause a moment, as I suspect there will be a question or two around this topic.

Barnes: Yeah, who's got a question?

Graham: Or maybe not? That's good. Okay, I'll move on because I know I am going long on time. As I mentioned May is Wildfire Awareness Month, we've been working with a slew of partners across the screen there definitely increasing our Fire Prevention ads, social media, the stuff that Keep Oregon Green is doing is fantastic. The Smokey Bear license plates were a game changer for Keep Oregon Green and their funding and their ability to increase their presence. Here they are over 75 years old now and one of the last existing and really high functioning Keep Oregon Green organizations in the country. A real credit to Kris Babbs, the Board and all of their predecessors that have made that so very successful. So that's been a big part. I'm going to play this clip, its audio only but this is part of Kris' new campaign that she was able to secure. Hopefully you can hear this. Let me know if you can't hear this in a couple of seconds at your end. [Technical problems] Let's try that again. [Audio]

You guys hear that that time? Kris Babbs fantastic work and obviously I don't have to tell you who that voice is. That was quite a thing, Kris has been working on that for a couple of years. That all came together and she got to spend a day with Mr. Elliot here in the State down by Eugene at a place he uses to do a lot of that work. And just phenomenal, great work. There is just a ton more of those to come. That kind of marketing campaign with that familiar voice, that's going to do a lot of work for us. Kudos to Kris, we congratulate her on that and we are thrilled to be part of that. Just a couple of things and I will wrap it up here. The other things we are doing to help mitigate some of the complex fire season, the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund administered through the Emergency Fire Cost Committee these are landowner dollars. Part of the Oregon Wildfire Protection Act in 2013, says if there is fire cost money left over at the end of a year it can be used to make strategic investments. And from the 2016 fire season there was such money left over and the Emergency Fire Cost Committee said we are going to make some investments in most recently an infrared mapping system for our Partnervia observer aircraft. So we have some night vision capability and forward looking infrared, mapping software. Almost 700,000 dollars' worth of investment to help us find and detect fire sooner when we can't see them with the cameras there's so much smoke in the air, lightning fires going undetected, like Horse Prairie went undetected for a long time before it was initial attack and considerable size. So that is going on, that's going to be ready for this fire season. We will be still going through some ongoing testing through this fire season with pilot proficiency but it's a game changer for us. We usually utilize this through contract services and pay quite a bit of money to bring in those contract aviation resources and they are in high competition. Now we will have that capability in our own aircraft. So a game-changer for us. As well as continuing to expand and upgrade our communication networks and our fire detection cameras. We will be integrating our fire detection cameras hopefully in the near future in another joint venture we are doing with the State Fire Marshall's Office. Taking a product called, the Intterra Situation Analyst that was developed down in Klamath County with the ...fire department. That allows personnel see a common operating picture of a fire. You can see the perimeter. You can see the resources going to it. Water sources all that stuff. And the forward looking infrared on our Partnervia will be integrated into that. So, if that plane is flying and mapping hot spots of fires you will be able to see that in the Intterra Situation Analyst. The really cool part of the Situation Analyst for us is we are now owning it statewide with the State Fire Marshall's office on the wildland fire side we will be able to give access to our landowner and industry partners to that same system. That is a benefit we did not have in the past. So that's going to be huge for us, we are going to be talking here with that group this afternoon and we're probably

a week away from signing the contract and having that in place for about 10 years before we have to renew it again. So, I'm pretty excited about that for us as another great new technology tool going forward. So I mentioned our Severity Program, and the Severity resources and we've got a host of resources that we bring on from detection aircraft to small helicopters that carry people around, and water and the medium size helicopters that primarily carry water to single engine air tankers for dropping water and then the one large air tanker that we had. And we have some partnerships with WADNR for some of their resources and shared facilities as well. There again we are extremely fortunate that if there are budget cuts that there are not touching the Severity Program. That's extremely critical. Every year we tell a lot of success stories at how many fires these resources help keep in check and keep from becoming the next large fire on the landscape. It's a \$5 million dollar budget currently. That is \$3 million dollars of landowner money, \$2 million dollars of General Fund money and one large fire on the landscape can quickly exceed \$40 or \$50 million dollars for a \$5 million dollar investment? Just one example. That's a super great program for us. So with that I will close with what we typically close with is all the partnerships that make what we do possible. It's not just Oregon Department of Forestry. It's all these partnerships and relationships that we have across the State, across the west, across the country and into Canada. So, with that I appreciate you guys letting me go long. That was a lot to cover and I am certainly available for questions.

Barnes: Well we sure appreciate it. Thank you for spending time with us to let us be aware of all the things happening. We talked about this earlier and we would help to mobilize some of the small woodland people in our areas to put pressure on lawmakers and whoever, if the budget does turn out to be ugly as it looks. So keep us in the know and we will help out what we can.

Graham: Yeah, absolutely appreciate your efforts as always. All landowners, small woodland owners, industrial landowners, you name it we appreciate all of those efforts. And I was on a conference call earlier with the 17 Western States that we are in partnership with and several states are going through those budget reduction exercises as we speak, we are not in that alone. What that does do is raise concern for us because we rely on those partnerships and relationships for surge capacity in firefighting. And what happens to one state or agency affects others. Everything you do for us is greatly appreciated! Thank you for giving me bonus time! It's always a pleasure to come and speak with you guys, even if we are not in the same room in person. Overall the experience was good as far as technology. My alarm system watch dog went off only once during the whole presentation so that is pretty good!

Barnes: Alright, be safe out there!

Graham: Yes, take care! Thank you.

11. Overview of NRCS Programs – Andrew Owen, NRCS State Forester

Barnard: Andrew Owen is up next to provide an overview of NRCS Programs. If you all recall, I think it might have been the March meeting or the meeting before that where we had the discussion and there was some interest in inviting him in to one of our meetings and have him provide an overview and getting to know him a little bit.

Owen: I sure am! Good afternoon everybody just do a screen share here. Alright, and can everyone see the display on your screen? You'd think by now I would be a pro in doing this. [Technical issues]

I don't know that I can get you caught back up on your agenda, so I'll do my best to go quick and get you caught up but I do appreciate the invite to come talk. Hopefully, this is either a refresher for some or brand new information for others. Again, my name is Andrew Owen. I'm currently the Conservation State Forester for the

Natural Resources Conservation Service. My position is based out of Portland. I do have duties statewide and those can range on a daily basis but primarily I work quite often with ODF. ODF is key in the delivery of our, through a statewide agreement, delivering technical assistance and streamlining financial assistance on the ground for non-industrial forestland owners. So, today I will be blazing through this stuff. Really just wanted to get a high level overview on how our agency operates. Some of the funding streams and funding sources that we have. I have obviously tiered a lot of the discussion down specifically to the forestry programs. So what I will be showing you is a condensed version of what we offer in terms of financial and technical assistance specific to forestland management. So briefly be covering a little bit of background and history about our Agency. Some of our Farm Bill programs, there are quite a few changes, I'm going to talk primarily about the 2018 Farm Bill and how that is being implemented but more specifically about how we operate and it's a little different than other states. Our strategic approach to conservation. That is the area that is a little bit new, it's quite unique to Oregon and its working very very well. I know ODF has been a key player in helping roll that out on private forestlands. And then one of the techniques that we use for the strategic approach are conservation implementation strategies. So giving you a little bit about that showing you where you can find more information if you are interested in more details. Hopefully I can leave a little bit of time on the end for some questions. If not I'd be happy to come back and go into detail on other programs or other ways we offer technical assistance to private landowners. Just a quick brief history. We were back in 35' Bill 7436 authorized under the US Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Service which was a change as the result of the Dust Bowl. Soil conservation was really the primary driver of this agency. And then a little more recently in '94, STS, or the Soil Conservation Service became the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which really expanded the breadth of the work that we do not only soil conservation but clean air, clean water, habitat conservation, forestland conservation. So really expanded the breadth of the services the agency provides landowners. I imagine that this presentation is also available on the history of the agency and that is a hyperlink there so if you get a copy and you are interested in a little more depth on how our agency became an agency and some of the drivers behind that there is a great link and great history story there.

This is how we are structured. Obviously you are all familiar with the county lines in the State of Oregon, but what is unique of how we operate specifically is in a 'basin' strategy. So we broke it into 4 distinct basins. Each basin operates with a basin team leader. And you can see all the contact information. But we basically have the North Coast to the Willamette, Central Coast to the Willamette, Southwest Basin, so you've got the west side of the State and the east side of the State essentially. John Day, Umatilla and High Desert. Each of those basins is supported through a variety of staff at the County Service Center offices. We've got a whole range of staff from Soil Conservationists to Wildlife Biologists. We are not a super heavy agency in forestry. And that's, one of the reasons for that is we found through strategic and formal agreements with the State Agency we can expand our footprint and find a lot more efficiencies and using the existing State agencies and their technical assistance to deliver forestry. And that is exactly what we are doing in Oregon with outstanding results. I should back up a little bit. I wanted to try and catch up. I've been with the Agency for about a year, my anniversary is on Memorial Day. So I started about a year ago, this coming Monday. I spend the last 20 years in the desert southwest out of Arizona. Most recently I was serving as the Deputy State Forester for Arizona Dept. of Forestry in ... doing a lot of similar work. We had a similar arrangement with the NRCS there, where our agency delivered the forestry expertise and technical assistance and got the Farm Bill money to the ground. So a lot of similar concerns down there. Riparian restoration, fuels reduction, ... so quite similar was pretty easy onboarding out here. So I should have started with that, my apologies. I thought it would be important to brief the group where our direction comes from. So the Chief Laue wanted to focus 2020 and beyond strategically. And how we could best deliver the 2018 Farm Bill and you'll notice it's really set on streamlining our processes to deliver the highest quality customer service. Our agency is really driven on high quality customer services to private landowners and that is a huge priority of this Chief's priorities this year and beyond of course. He also really focused on reaching groups of underserved communities that we haven't been reaching out to. So the

non-traditional communities, private landowners and producers that we haven't necessarily been outreaching to in the past. So just a quick look at the list of where we really focus our efforts in delivering the 2018 Farm Bill. I wanted to take a quick dive starting at the high national level and hopefully as we go through everything can be integrated down to the local working group level. So I wanted to touch on some of the programs then. Again this is not an extensive list of programs that we offer. But the majority of the programs that have that crosswalk intersection with forestry. And I was struck by this as I was putting this presentation together I noticed the striking numbers on average nationwide through the NRCS we are delivering approximately \$8 million dollars every single day in the agricultural system....I think Oregon particularly is taking really good advantage of the Farm Bill funding that comes down to the local level. So our primary program that many of you have probably heard of I'm happy to elaborate more on this. This is our main program. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is both a technical assistance to agriculture and private landowner producers. Really focused on improving water quality, air quality and conservation of ground and surface water, reducing soil erosion and sedimentation and improving and conserving wild habitat. A couple of figures around EQIP program from 2019 to 2023 our EQIP Program has authorized to a \$9.17 billion dollars. \$1.75 billion in Fiscal Year 19 and 20. \$1.8 billion in Fiscal Year 21; \$1.85 billion in Fiscal Year 22 and getting to just over \$2 billion dollars in Fiscal Year 23. So, see a significant amount of resources available to private landowners, both technical and conservation financing. The RCPP Program I think it's a pretty big thing to hand a hat on in Oregon, Oregon has the most RCPPs from any other state. It's the Regional Conservation Partnership Program totally partner-led, locally led and partner led project or program. So this sends money directly to a partner that is taking on Conservation... this can be a multi-state or single state project. Some of the projects are focused on critical conservation areas that can get access to a national pot of money or you can focus on more local drivers with resource concerns. In parentheses there you'll see a new authorized program onto the 2018 Farm Bill that is rolling out this year. It is called AFA, Alternative Funding Arrangements. And it's very forward-thinking basically what that program does is has all the authorizations of classic RCPP but it puts a lot more emphasis on contracting and the financial management in the hands of the partner. We recognize that is one of the areas that we can streamline so we're seeing some really good applications and projects being scoped to use AFA and we think it's going to be successful and I think it's going to be here for years to come. So it's another attempt to streamlining the process to get our technical and financial assistance on the ground in terms of conservation. This is the largest conservation program. Another lesson learned for me as I was putting this presentation together. The largest conservation program in the United States. So this is the Cadillac that we offer as conservation programs. The "new" CSP, new being some changes that it went through in the 2018 Farm Bill. Its provides adaptive management options where we can better respond to market conditions, weather conditions. It allows the unique part about this is that it allows the participants of the program to choose and bundle enhancements rather than selecting one or two practices that they would like to apply. This is a bundling approach. It is really looking at streamlining the process of how to get conservation dollars to the ground. But so this would be an example of a lot of the prescribed fire can fit into this bucket or if landowners have been engaged with EQIP in the past and they are ready to take their conservation efforts, their management plan to the next level, some very thoughtful practices are involved in CSP. That is a really, really neat program that is doing really well in Oregon. And I think in years to come you will probably see a lot more about this program. We do offer a couple of different easement programs. Kurt and I were just out on a couple of HFRPs. We currently have 12 active HFRPs. All in efforts to conserve working forest lands and create better spotted owl habitat. So those all came on line in 2009 and 2012. A number of restoration activities has occurred on those lands trying to set the projects on the trajectory to promote really quality habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. The other programs, are the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program which really focuses on helping landowners, land trusts and other entities to protect, restore and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and other working farms and ranches by deploying conservation easements on... one other one I wanted to bring your attention to, this is a really fantastic program, we've done quite well in Oregon. Specifically, on getting these projects awarded. A huge, huge dollars associated with the Joint Chiefs, this is the Chief of the Forest Service and the Chief of the NRCS coming

together in the spirit of shared stewardship where we can go after a separate funding pool and focus on projects with adjacency in mind, so where you have the Forest Service working on NEPA cleared projects, the private landowners on the adjacent side can be strategic and try and pair projects to get results across a landscape. It really does change the trajectory of those forested properties. This year you'll see we have to get two new projects on line. Really excited about those, I think those are really going to change the character and get the forest in both of those locations on a better trajectory. You'll see the Upper Crook River Restoration and Central Wasco. Those are both working hand-in-hand at the local level between the Forest Service and the NRCS with, in both of these cases, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry and other partners playing a lead role in delivering the results for the private side... this is one of my favorite programs because it is very cutting edge. This is where we could be thinking and looking into the future. This is the Conservation Innovation Grant. So this is a competition, a competitive grant. It does require a 1:1 matching component, but this is a program that really gets new conservation ideas on the ground. We can identify where we need streamlining, where innovation is lacking and like I said we get the crystal ball out and see what it is going to take to advance some of the issues and get new practices on the ground that can get us caught up, or ahead of the curve if you will. This year's priorities for the CIG grant are water re-use, water quality, air quality, and energy and wildlife habitat. So there are 2 different pots of different pots of funding that you can go after there is a national competition which is got about a few more weeks for those applications to get collected and the Oregon competition if you go on our website you can get the flavor of some of the CIG grants that have been awarded in the past. And they are really quite cutting edge. We one just recently that closed and was focused on bio-char which is just an outstanding project and actually helps set the rates and builds the science around using bio-char both on the farm and as a forest residual waste method. Through the CIG grant we're able to develop our cost scenarios. We are able to develop our CSP enhancement projects based on the CIG. So you've got the creativity and you've got some innovative ideas, this is one of the few grants out there that is direct innovation and turnkey projects to change the way we do business. So as you can see we have many of the same goals as other forest managers. And how we want to advance restoration across forested lands. It was really striking to look through the State Action Plan to see themes carried over from our Strategic Approach to Conservation and they are tied right into the State Action Plan. And they general revolve around high risk reduction, improving forest health conditions, promoting desirable timber, habitat and so on and so forth. It's a very natural fit to be working with you and be working with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. So this is one of the most important slides I think to get out of it. We are a very locally driven organizations. The decisions don't come down from Washington, D.C. office or the State office. The decisions of where to apply conservation to the ground are from the local resources. So each Conservation District or each County has local working groups which are comprised of non-industrial private forest landowners, agricultural producers, professionals, they come together and develop the strategic plan for their County and Area focusing on, we have a list of natural resource concerns everything from air quality, water quality, soil conservation, wildfire risk, excess biomass, they take that list and delineate on the ground where those funds should be deployed. So the funding mechanisms and funding pools are not decided at the highest level, they are decided at the ground level where it really matters. With that there is a suite of practices to address those resource concerns of wildfire and excess biomass as local resource concern, forestland improvement, woody biomass, would be the tools that they would use to get at those problems. Just a quick slide here on the strategic approach to conservation. This is an approach that State Conservation has deployed a little over a decade ago. And literally the impetus behind it is not to have random acts of conservation but to be really focused on where conservation is needed and where our funding can be applied in the best way possible. So, through the strategic approach to conservation come the Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS). Note a lot of acronyms, and I apologize for that but this is the only way that we deliver our EQIP dollars to the ground. So the idea, again, working with the local working groups, identifying what the greatest need of conservation is, we develop these comprehensive implementation strategies. They build budgets, they build timelines, time horizons, and outreach strategies, monitoring protocols and so forth if those projects are selected from our panel they would then have the funding needed to get these

projects done. This is a quick graphic, and again this is available on our website, I encourage you if you haven't been there to go take a look at this. It's a really well-developed demonstration on how we develop the CISs. The Conservation Implementation Strategies, but if you hover or any of the polygons there, and click on them it will take you to this page right here that shows you what the primary concern is for those polygons. The partners included, what the conservation practices that are we are getting at. So we have a suite of 350 different practices. Instead of tuned in all those in every area, we really tuned in on what practices are going to be most effective. And that helps the project managers and conservation that is really focus their work in these specific areas. Going from that bigger scale of the large polygon, what helps us determine again to not have random acts of conservation are locally developed EQIP ranking questions. We also have a set of screening questions that we can go through to make sure we are selecting the highest priority projects within those geographies so we can really measure the impact across the landscape. Again each one is very unique. We have a number of them that focus on fire and fuels reduction, to forest structure and composition. A number of them for irrigation for producers. So the breadth of how these CISs can be developed are really quite broad. This is a quick list, again this is not an extensive list this is really just the forestry-focused CISs that we have across the State. So you see broken down by basin some of the names and titles and counties that are represented. We do have an opportunity annually to go through a change to update old ones, to close out old ones (if we feel that we have met the conservation needs in that area), or to start building new ones. If you do go to our website and take a look at the polygons you'll see that there is some overlap where you may have multiple resource concerns perhaps some different land uses. So you can have some range and pasture issues that are within the same footprint or planning areas. That are forestry ones but what is unique about that is they are managed separately. So you can overlap CISs and strategies, but how they are delivered on the ground is a completely separate project. So we can build these out and do our monitoring and efficiency check-ins to see if we are really getting what we set up to do. One other thing I would say about the CISs we found with this approach is really the building blocks to bigger strategies. So generally, these projects had started as CISs and then they either ramp up, addressing them at a small scale, getting them to work done that we set up to do. Or we can make a case to put in for larger, more comprehensive projects, like I was showing you on some of the other programs. So a lot of these start with the building blocks, for 2 and 3 years. A lot of real hard and concentrated, focused outreach to landowners once we feel that the on-ramping is good and we've got a 5 and 6 year strategy in place. These are real nice turnkey projects into RCPPs and other funding sources like Joint Chiefs, like I mentioned earlier. So this is how this is kind of the building blocks and basics of how we do our planning. We are a federal agency so we do have to go through somewhat of a NEPA process. But this is all part of our Chief's design in streamlining our process to deliver the highest quality customer service. So, in many cases, we work directly hand-in-hand with ODF where they will help identify or fill in the blanks in a lot of these cases. So they bring the technical experience, we also work tied at the hip really with what we call TSPs or Technical Service Providers. So we have a list of quality criteria that... can go through. They can get on a list where we actually pay consultants to do forest management planning to get the landowners in que for EQIP funding. So this is the process that we would follow, basically determining inventory our resources doing the Quality Assurance analysis, seeing if there are any alternatives similar to general NEPA process. And then implementing the plan. And we do follow-up on evaluation to make sure that our practice life spans are what they say they should be. So a ten-year practice life span on a fuels reduction we have monitoring protocols to ensure that that we are actually doing what we said we are going to do. Question?

Barnard... have a few minutes to hang around?

Owen: I certainly do.

Barnard: Okay, I hate to jump in there but the next person after you has to leave at 2:20 and I think if we just

have a few minutes from her and then we could come back and finish this. I hate to interrupt in the middle but just allow her to introduce her concept. Would that work for you?

Owen: It would but I have an interview call at 2:30, we have a new Range Specialist. Two more slides and then I could end, or I can always come back later too.

Barnard: Go ahead and finish up where you are at.

Owen: The last thing I wanted to bring your attention to is a project funded by the NRCS and a group of other partners to have the American Forest Foundation (AFF), consulting through the AFF to deliver the NRCS nationally deliver a report that helps to optimize the delivery of our programs. The last slide I wanted to show you was some of the results of that. And what's really cool to draw your attention to it all of the selected actions within the plan you'll see that Oregon is really maximizing those already. So I thought that was a really great summary. Some states don't have the formal agreement already in place. Some states are brand new to RCPPs and Joint Chiefs. And I'll tell you Oregon has really set the bar quite high in a lot of those programs. And so I think, I guess that was the last slide. So I can take questions or feel free to stick around for a few minutes, or I can be reached by email there if you have any questions that you want to email. Or I can come back at another time.

Barnes: Andrew, thank you. Can you send that PowerPoint to us? That would be great, to Susan and then she can distribute that to us.

Owen: You got it absolutely.

Barnes: Thank you very much, we do appreciate it. I'm sorry about this tight timeline. Josh is pretty brave breaking in there like that!

Owen: No problem at all. I've stopped sharing and the floor is yours Dr. Graves.

12. Family Forests Landowner Survey –

Graves: Thanks for letting me break in here for a very short introduction to a project that I am working on that I am hoping to recruit some volunteers from your group to help me out with. So, it does need to be short... So, I am a post-doc researcher with Portland State University, the Natural Resources Management Lab there. And working in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy here in Oregon. My research has for the last couple of years focused on trying to... how natural and working lands can play a role in climate change mitigation in the State of Oregon... and modeling associated with that I am happy to talk about at a different time. Now we are really interested in, following Andrew and all of his description of the NRCS incentive programs is really trying to understand how likely non-industrial private forestland owners, particularly on the western side of Oregon are to engage in a suite of different incentives. And this is a survey we are intending to send out as soon as I can. At Portland State we still can't convene small groups of students to work together so, it will be a little bit longer before I can get folks together too actually to deploy the survey. It is a mail out survey, and the intention of the survey is to better understand current management actions, management plans, interests in a series of different conservation programs including things like easements, the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP), is a great model for some of the things that we are thinking about. And it has a focus on trying to provide a set of different incentives from different ideas to these landowners to see if they would be willing to engage at different levels of incentives. So if I talk about incentives, I'm talking about both things like if you had more technical assistance; if you had more cost-sharing; or a payment for acres to set aside some of your lands. All of these are considered in the incentives. What I am hoping for from you all is some assistance in gut-checking this survey. So as part of the survey process, what we like to do is have some folks that will pilot the survey with us.

The pilot that I am hoping to do would be basically a pilot interview with any of you who are willing that would have you go through the survey on a ZOOM call like this with me so that I can learn from you which parts of the survey makes sense, or things in the survey that seem to come from a bias angle or objectionable to you in any way. Those types of things that we can better understand that we make sure we are not presenting a survey that people won't respond to in anyway. So, I think that all I have time to offer you at the moment, are there any quick questions just to clarify what it is that we are doing. And what I am asking of you.

Barnes: Yes, Dr. Graves. I saw in there in your initial letter was between the target properties between 100 acres and 3000 acres?

Graves: Yes.

Barnes: So you're working in that group, so trying to find answers in that sort of demographic?

Graves: Yes, exactly. So to have, that would be forestland between 100 and 3000 acres. So, they may be landowners of more than 3000 acres but forestland of 3000 acres.

Barnes: Most of the family forests, Julie could probably tell us better, but are probably centered in lower acreage in the family forestland, when you get into small industrial you get into the bigger acreages but family forestlands are probably at average of a couple of hundred to maybe 400 to 500.

Graves: Yeah we see that with the distribution of ownership sizes for sure. There is a lot of owners in that 1 to 500. I've... just in the Chat box, I did put my email in there as well. So it's Rose.graves@pdx.edu if any of you are willing or excited to participate in pilot surveys please shoot me an email there. Are there any other clarification points or questions that I can answer?

James: Rose, this is Jim James, Oregon Small Woodlands Association. And my sense is that we have a lot of members that would like to participate in that. And we can communicate off line but I think we could put together a ZOOM meeting with some interested landowners and you can do a Q&A with multiple people at the same time. So, I'll get your email address and email you my information. And we'd like to participate.

Graves: Thank you Jim! Perfect.

Gordon: I'll follow up that email as well. I just wanted to make you aware of there is another study going on right now at OSU that is focused on thinning practices. I'll forward this message to you. And they have been administering it the last couple of weeks. I just wanted to make you aware of that in terms of time between getting survey fatigue for folks.

Graves: Yeah, thank you very much.

Barnes: What is your time frame?

Graves: We are intending to mail the survey out towards the end of June, early July. So I would like to do, we are finalizing the survey the survey instrument through the end of this month or first of June and hopefully get it printed mid-June. So any interviews would happen in the next two to three weeks.

Barnes: Okay I think we can find some fodder for you.

Graves: Okay well thank you very much enjoy the rest of your afternoon. I'll talk with some of you again soon. Take care thank you.

Barnes: Okay, what didn't we do here? Josh?

Barnard: I think I'll look for Susan's head nod here, but I think she got what she needed for the report piece. Thinking about the Board and the July meeting and framing up the report for that. There were a couple of other things. Jim sent an email in the last few days. Jim are you hearing me?

James: Yes.

Barnes: What did you have there? I read that...

James: It was a recommended draft letter for the CFF to support the MOU letter. I sent it to both you and Kaola. Now I'll email it to Barrett as soon as the call is over.

Barnes: Okay. Kaola probably already has that drafted right?

Swanson: Oh, yes multitasking over here!

Barnes: Okay, alright it seemed like there was one other thing.

Barnard: So one thing to note for Susan's conversation. It will be this new one when it is drafted when we were discussing the report. So the current plan to for the June Board meeting will be something to include in that one. Once that process is completed.

Dominique: Thank you for the reminder.

James: And this last call. I thought that OSWA could take the lead and set up a ZOOM meeting for OSWA members who might be interested. I'm going to make the broad assumption that you and Barrett would be interested.

Barnes: I'll have to buy 20 acres of forestland! I don't quite qualify for the 100 acres.

James: The point I was going to make to her was the average acreage for an OSWA member is just over 70 acres. And to draw the line at 100, my guess is a lot of 70 acre landowners would have the same opinion on that questionnaire than as a 100 acre landowner would be.

Barnes: Yeah. That's good Jim.

James: All also send that out and cc this committee and anyone else that would like to participate. I'll try and set that up in a relatively short period of time because of facilitator requests.

Gordon: Jim you might coordinate with her a little bit. Before you broadcast too broadly to get a sense of how many people she would want to have included. Just thinking about her methodology and everything she may not want to have a ton of people up front, because they would potentially not be able to be included in the actual survey.

James: Okay, I will assume it's just a handful. I'll email her and coordinate it.

Barnes: I think Ryan is saying take the cream off the top!

Ahrens: I have a question. Andrew is gone now right?

Barnes: Yes.

Ahrens: So I was going to ask him, and Ryan you might know, just the EQIP funding for fuels reduction and thinning, and all those other things, I was looking at their map and didn't really see how that is deployed and I would just be curious, I hear in some of the different regions, whether that is fully utilized or if we need to do more to get landowners connected with that. It seems like the EQIP funds are a growing opportunity for fuels reduction in forestry. I think there are a lot of people that do not know about that and how it is working around the state. And if there is more you can do to do outreach on that.

Gordon: I think, so I'll take one step back and say that if we had time to follow up Andrew's presentation just to say that NRCS and EQIP is the primary mechanism that we have right now to provide landowner assistance. So that partnership is really important for our program and Glenn to answer your question, it varies around the State. If we were having this conversation 2 or 3 years ago, I would have said that we really have a need to try and increase engagement with forestland owners to encourage the continued and additional development of forestry-related CISs. Those Conservation Implementation Strategies he was talking about. But I think as you saw on his presentation, we have now quite a few forestry-related investments around the State. The place where we probably see the fewest of those, is in Northwest Oregon, up in your neck of the woods, Glenn. And I think in those places where those forestry CISs are on the ground we have pretty good utilization of them because we've done a great job of working with NRCS and other partners on the outreach piece of it. If you are interested in your area in trying to further develop a CIS related to fuels, I think that would be great conversation to have with the District Conservationist up there. I know it has been challenging to get ODF engagement with NRCS in your neck of the woods. But that doesn't mean that NRCS still couldn't move forward with some forestry-related CISs there.

Ahrens: Yeah, thanks, it was just something I noticed, I was thinking that there was maybe more we could do. And wasn't sure the network, who I should talk to. We can follow up on that later.

Gordon: Yeah, we can connect a little offline and strategize a way particularly in your area to get something going with NRCS. That's really a long-winded answer. That's what I am known for so...

James: I have one more topic that I will bring up. And that is membership on this CFF and I don't know if Jim Latourno was contacted. I think I said I would and did not. And I think Barrett has mentioned that Dan Logan would have an interest. And Wendy has been on the last couple of calls and she's expressed an interest in being the Citizen-At-Large individual. And I was glad she left the call because I didn't want to bring it up in front of her. But, I think we have some opportunities to build up the slate of CFF. I think the way that works is we recommend to the Board who that is.

Vroman: I did get a chance to talk with Jim Latourno. He was a little lukewarm at first. I'm not sure he's onboard. He was headed out for a short vacation and indicated that he would get back to me. I haven't pursued that conversation. It's been at least 2 weeks.

James: He was really active in OSWA for a long long time. I mean really active. And then he wanted to slow down. He's denied a couple of opportunities to be more engaged, so that doesn't surprise me. That would be great, if he would.

Vroman: That was my initial conversation but towards the end he asked if I needed an immediate answer and I said no, he said let me think about it. So I think he's probably thought about it a while but I can re-engage him and see what he says.

Brown: That sounds like the tone of somebody that can't resist volunteering but who has paid quite a few dues already.

Vroman: That was the sense that I got. That he'd given for quite a while.

Barnes: Okay is our position that Josh, or Ryan that our At-Large person available then? We are looking for someone too for them?

Barnard: As far as I know there's been no other outreach or contact. I think early on there was some names that came up but I know that Wendy had expressed at one of our previous meetings she would be interested in that role. She has been at the last couple of meetings, so in as far as you all see as the fit there we could continue down that pathway in terms of that role. I believe we could include that as a portion of what goes into the Board in July, because they do approve that. We can work the other ones out as we go. I am not opposed to pick out a particular Board meeting while we figure out who the other member is and I can draft the Staff Report that works into the appointment process.

Swanson: Sorry this is Kaola, I just had a quick question, I'm sorry I had to briefly step out, so I might have missed this when we were talking about the Stewardship committee, but I was under the impression that we are considering merging and would that effect our membership at all or reduce the need to fill these? Or would it be the same?

Barnard: Um, we had in the discussion, what we had was what we are going to do is insert the SSCC under CFF as a workgroup. Which will then provide the opportunity to for us to fill from both roles. And I believe that is part of the conversation that we were just related to, so the name Dan Logan actually is a landowner that is on the SSCC and could fill one of landowner roles. Like the Landowner-at-Large role here. But there has also been outreach by Mark to another one. So what I was hearing was maybe we need to let that play out first but there is an opportunity to do that. The piece that I don't think I saw a solution for, and correct me if I am wrong, is the Citizen-At-Large is someone that does not have a connection with forestland. That was the position that Wendy had expressed interest in at a prior meeting. Does that help?

Swanson: Yeah, thank you.

James: And Kaola the other... was that each organization would still have their own reasons to exist and those would not cross over. So both will operate just like they do now, just have a connection we didn't have in the past.

Swanson: Got ya.

James: I don't see why it would make a difference if somebody was on both.

Barnes: Okay what else do we have? Josh are we pretty well filled up?

Barnard: So, does that context that I have for the tentative 2 members we are talking about stand? It sounds like Mark is waiting to get back to one person that has been invited to have that conversation but it sounds like folks might be interested in Dan Logan. So what I am hearing that the exact conversation has to play out first. With the inquiry to Jim Latourno. Is that accurate?

Vroman: I'll get a definitive answer from him within the next two weeks. I'll send you something.

James: And I think Jim would be really good if he said yes.

Vroman: I thoroughly agree and intent to turn up the heat!

Barnes: Alright, that's what I like to hear!

Barnard: And the other question was whether everyone was interested in Wendy filling that other role or not is the other question I heard posed. So I would leave that for your discussion.

Barnes: Yeah she is able and she's engaged and you' know it's someone that we need to have another voice. I would say we should push her nomination forward. What does everybody else think?

Vroman: I would agree.

Swanson: I agree.

James: I'm not a voting member but I agree.

Barnes: You are getting close Jim we consider you one but you are not. Barrett what do you think?

Brown: Agreed.

Barnes: John are you still there? Nope.

Storm: I'm in.

Barnes: And Glenn?

Ahrens: I'm not a voting member but I agree.

Barnes: It's just an informal question. Ryan you aren't a voting member either?

Gordon: I won't presume to meddle in Committee affairs!

Barnes: Okay, then should we extend an offer to her, or how do we do that?

Barnard: So I was going to say, I will find out what that official process is. I will need to connect with Kyle as this is the first one I've done. So I need to connect with him and figure out that process. So whether it comes from me or how to do that. And its sounds like we will try and include that with this next step with the Board.

Barnes: Unless there is anything else that anybody has for the Good of the Order?

Barnard: So thinking ahead this is the last meeting for the summer. And we are prepping for the July Board meeting, when I was chatting with Kyle. It sounded like last time there was more than just him and the Chair that was presenting. Is that correct Evan, last year at the Board meeting?

Barnes: Yes, I'd have to think back. I think it was Gilbert and Bonnie, as well or but I think Barrett went up too, but I think that was over 2469. At least a one-time other people participated, yes.

Barnard: So my basic question is, one, we've discussed about the report a little bit, but I also heard dialog about the potential of having new Board members and the messaging you could convey there. Is there a particular approach you would like as we prepare for that meeting? Do we need to meet any further on that? I guess that's a question I wanted to propose to the Committee and you Evan and see how we want to approach that.

Barnes: Yeah, and any or all are welcome. I think the Committee presenting to the Board is wholly important. The personal message to them and if it is a video or a virtual ZOOM or something we will go with that for sure. But I think that is the end of our season and our year-end report and bringing that message to them is important. So, I'm in favor of anyone else that wants to participate. However we do that. So we probably should get together to summarize our presentation. And the Annual Report will go into the Board packet, but then we would just have a short version and highlight, a couple of members it would be great to do that.

Barnard: When you did it last time did you meet to prior to that? Or did you meet on your own? Did you need support in pulling that together? Or did you guys meet...

Barnes: It seems like we lined it up ahead of time and sent some things around. And we each had a cheat sheet on what we were going to talk about, and got flustered and tore it up, and just ad libbed the whole thing. Yeah, I go off script and don't use the teleprompter.

Brown: I think other than blocking out the time we didn't need any other support work from you guys.

Barnard: Okay, sounds good.

Brown: I would participate again Evan.

Barnes: That would be great. I assume that will be a ZOOM or virtual meeting. If that is in person I would come up and do that. When is that?

Barnard: The 22nd.

Barnes: That gives us more possibility of being an in-person meeting doesn't it? Would be the next Phase or something.

Barnard: Yeah and what, I mentioned this and maybe Susan can help me, as we roll past the June Board meeting and we hear what the July Board meeting is looking like we can update you all and that could be a start of that conversation. About how to prepare for that, depending on what we are hearing at that point.

Barnes: Okay that sounds great, good meeting everybody! And I adjourn it!

5.55.03