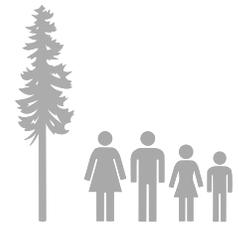




"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting October 20, 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 October 20, 2020 as a virtual online meeting hosted off-site.

CFF Committee members participating:

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, OSHA Executive Director Ex-Officio
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting) Pacific Forest Trust

ODF Staff:

Josh Barnard, ODF Project Lead
Susan Dominique, Committee Administrative Support
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Manager
Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Blake Ellis, Protection from Fire Division

Members not attending:

Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Rex Storm, AOL/OTFS Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Jeremy Felty, OSHA
Cheryl Cramer

1. Welcome and Review of the Agenda

[Experienced some technical difficulty.]

2. Roll Call

Swanson called roll of the participants in the virtual meeting and welcomed Wendy Gerlach as a new member to the Committee in the role of Citizen-At-Large.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum available.

4. Public Comment

None offered.

5. Private Forests Division Update – Josh Barnard

Note: The beginning of the meeting was not recorded so the following is a summary from notes taken. The recording was picked up for the Post-Fire discussion. Barnard provided a short update from the Private Forests Division. First noting the agency's COVID-19 work accommodations. All staff able to perform work from home are doing so and all meetings, including the Board of Forestry are being conducted virtually. He reported on an MOU between forest industry and conservation community members to make substantial changes to the Forest Practices Act. SB 1602 was introduced from that group as a collaborative effort and was signed by the Governor in the Special Session in June. That created a large work load for Division staff and have changed their staff structure somewhat to implement that work and meet the required timelines. Barnard reported that he agreed to be Project Lead for the Implementation of Senate Bill 1602. In accordance with that the Department asked Eric Hartstein, OWEB Policy/Legislative Coordinator to step in as Interim Deputy Division Chief to support the Division during the time that Barnard leads in implementing the SB 1602. He reported that with the Budget reductions mandated last spring and the severity of the September fire, the Governor has vetoed those reductions for the Department so there is at least the existing capacity to meet the challenges the Agency is now facing with fire recovery, legislatively required FPA rule changes and COVID-19 restrictions. So there is a huge work load at the field level as well for fire recovery and an ongoing effort of trying to balance priorities with the budget

re-instatement. They are having to shift some capacity in the field to different locations depending on need. The Protection Division also received back some funds as well. They will be maintaining some of the open positions if at all possible anticipating the potential for a negative economic impact for the next biennium in 2021-2023. But he reported that with the most recent forecast looking more favorable it is a positive sign.

6. **2020 Fire Season – Blake Ellis, Acting Deputy Chief, Protection Division**

Ellis noted that he is standing in for Doug Grafe as Deputy Chief. He began by reporting that there had been extreme drought conditions going into September for Central Oregon, Klamath, Southwest Oregon, Lane, Linn and Marion Counties and abnormal drought conditions for Northwest Oregon as well. There was a cold front and east wind event pushing heat west in the beginning of September, an alignment of natural forces with extreme wind gusts of 50 to 80 mph. Actually hurricane force winds. That combined with dry fuels fanned the Beachie Creek and Lions Head Fires and other fires on the landscape to spread fast to the west. The wind created a lot of scattered fire starts that grew incredibly fast early on. At the same time there was a spike in deployed resources nationally. The devastation was severe, 1.2 million acres burned, 4524 structures destroyed costing \$130 million dollars in suppression costs. There were 43 IMT mobilizations in Oregon deployed after September 7th. At the time of the meeting there was still one PNW IMT deployed on fires. An atypical year but with the Department still holding 94% of the total fires for the year at 10 acres or less. There were 35 times more human-caused fires over the 10 year average. 13 times more acres. He reported the strategic investments were made in aerial mapping systems with night vision. The average acres burned has climbed 95% for each 10 year interval. ODF-protected lands burned were 551,816 acres in 2020. The Santiam State Forest was devastated.

[The Fire Program Update is incomplete.]

7. **After the Fire**

• **Salvage - Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager**

Barnard prefaced the agenda topic by emphasizing that the Agency is in the process of shifting from responding to the fires to the recovery side of things and how big an effort that will be. And more long term than fire season itself. He then turned the floor to Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager to speak on the salvage and incentives component of the Post-Fire Recovery. Swearingen reiterated from Blake Ellis' report that there was over one half million acres of ODF-protected acres that burned. That includes the BLM numbers. In that estimate approximately 425,000 acres of ODF-protected non-federal lands burned throughout the State of which 370,000 of those were basically private forestlands. 280,000 acres of those were industrial lands throughout the state, a major acreage of really high-productive industrial lands in the west slope of the Cascades burn. About 53,000 acres were small woodlands or non-industrial lands, a lot of acres to re-establish which included a mix of other private unspecified acres, small lots in residential acres. So there is a lot of work ahead in supporting restoration efforts. There is consequentially a lot of folks wanting to get the wood salvaged out quickly to gain whatever economic benefits they can within the 18 months after which damaged trees will lose any marketable quality. Along with any economic benefits, there is also a priority on protection of resources in restoration activities, water quality, wildlife habitat, and other benefits under the Forest Practices Act. And then moving towards the reforestation he shared that the Field Support Unit is working to provide extra guidance for our field folks mostly around Plans for Alternate Practices (PAP). The Plans for Alternate Practice is an established mechanism in the Forest Practices Act that allows alternatives to the normal standards. The Plans for Alternate Practice require agency approval and have to meet or exceed the rules already in the Forest Practices Act but it gives a little bit of latitude to landowners/operators still meeting the FPA standards. For example, regarding salvage, a normal clear-cut operation is limited to 120 acres, but under the Plan for Alternate Practice we can extend that acreage out, quite a bit larger than the normal 120 acres as large areas have been burned over. There have also been consideration of alternate plans for removal of hazard trees, logs, RMA's and scenic highways. A lot of these fires were on major highway corridors so we are working with ODOT to coordinate on what we can allow within those scenic highway buffers. Steep slope areas as well. The PAP allows a little more harvest in those areas as the trees are dead now, and not providing a benefit, and in some cases causing more of a hazard if left. Wildlife Leave Trees in burned areas, we need to ensure that we are cognizant of what we leave and where we are leaving it. Some large areas have burned that were wildlife areas so biologists are trying to determine whether to leave the burned areas as is or look at other options. There is also a need to alter or replace some of the culverts, and road re-construction and timing that outside the in-water work periods that ODF&W requires. The main thing we are working on now how to do salvage harvesting in the riparian management areas near Fish streams.

There are Alternate Prescriptions within the rules already dealing with Catastrophic Events which requires going in and counting basal area but that requires a lot of work considering the hundreds of miles of fire lines out there. A lot of miles of streams to look at and still provide adequate benefits. To address all those issues and do so short-staffed with Stewardship Foresters ODF is trying to balance the field capacity by moving foresters from less affected Districts to those more affected burn areas. There are an additional 5 Stewardship Foresters moving into the North Cascade District, into Molalla to help out with the Beachie and Riverside Fires. A lot of the larger landowners are moving their folks around as well. A lot of the Salem staff, has been working on SB 1602 so we were short-staffed to begin with. So they are looking to bring some folks from other agencies to assist. Members were interested in how the market would respond to the influx of salvage logs and log prices. Swearingen agreed that there is concern that the market will be flooded and they have to retool to process burned wood. James offered that log prices are always supply and demand driven. Burnt logs aren't nearly as valuable as green logs so he agrees that the market is going to be in somewhat of a turmoil with all that and it will probably be impossible in the short time frame to coordinate that demand and re-tooling.

• **Post-fire Recovery – Eric Hartstein**

Eric Hartstein, interim Deputy Chief presented on the recovery effort on behalf of Ryan Gordon who passed along his regrets for not delivering the information personally. Hartstein began that the recovery focus is very much on infrastructure, public health, public safety and they are starting to move into the direction of coordinating at the State and Federal level around other natural resource needs. And he agreed as mentioned earlier that there will be a multi-year effort needing good planning and requiring an All Lands approach. There will be a lot of opportunities to collaborate with the Forest Service and other land management entities and partners to prioritize and help fund needs at a big landscape scale here. Currently, they are trying to make sure that a lot of the parallel efforts that are occurring right now around assessment and coordination are sort of dove-tailed together. As far as the assessments there are Forest Service BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) Teams out doing assessments on federal land. The Forest Service focuses on rehabilitation and restoration on the Federal side including BLM as well. On the non-federal side FEMA has been able to convene what's called an Erosion Threat Assessment Reduction Teams (ETART). ODF is the lead agency, the convener on the State side and involve natural resource experts in a variety of disciplines pulling from State, Federal, local and non-profit entities like watershed councils, soil & water conservation districts that have an understanding of the local landscape to really hit the ground following the BAER assessment work in the next couple of weeks. The intent is once we get a good handle on the assessments then prioritization can begin and looking at funding models as funding will be scarce on this large a scale. For example Hartstein explained that one of the top priorities here is identifying where the biggest potential for landslides and mass erosion events may occur. But adding in the stream infrastructure, bridges, culverts, water intakes, so focusing long term. And also looking at the natural resource side, fish-use, fish and wildlife habitat. But the infrastructure, culverts and bridges are a major safety factor. Those ETART Teams will be feeding into a State and Federal Natural and Cultural Resource Task Force that is being co-led by ODF and OWEB. That task force is being convened as an informal group to be formalized as time goes on and will likely be the entity directing a lot of the post-fire recovery efforts here in the State. Member asked whether there would be a framework from this task force for communities dealing with recovery. Hartstein surmised that there probably would be some effort to streamline funding requests but that the group would not be the ones actually providing funding. For family forestland owners there are funding avenues available through NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offerings that have signups October 30 and December 30th for funds on soil stabilization, tree removal and certain emergency conservation measures that need to be implemented as soon as possible. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has an Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). He believes that there will be an offering or coordinated signup this fall and winter, with the goal to send a single ask to Washington, D.C. that would include funding for cost-share around site prep, tree establishment, planting. The cost-share is up to 75% for this program for small landowners. With the Stewardship Forester capacity that program requires from ODF being allocated right now towards salvage and other elements, hopefully when this program becomes available we will have staff capacity, or local partners that are able to come out and fill that role in partnership with ODF. Ahrens noted that ODF will be coordinating with OSU Fire Extension Service to help in outreach to people needing to access those funds but coordination of that help is underway as wherever landowners find the information they should receive the same answers about NRCS programs, EQIP and FSA. The Fire Extension Program just hired a person to cover the Willamette Valley, and West Cascades all the way up to the Columbia and over to Hood River. And Extension folks will be coming on board filling in the other regions too with their Fire Program Manager, Carrie Berger and our Fire Program Specialist Daniel Leavell. Ahrens asked whether in regards to the riparian areas and the hazard trees

that are in the RMAs and their removal as well as the salvage logging whether that goes from the upland edge down to the 20' zone. He clarified that covering Marion and Clackamas counties he has had a lot of questions from the rural/residential interface with small woodlands. OWEB and watershed councils have questions as well regarding salvage logging, large wood retained for fish habitat and the tradeoff with infrastructure risks with too much wood getting into streams, landslide hazards, etc. He emphasized there is a need for comprehensive FAQs but still to be informed by the bigger picture of downstream risk. Swearingen offered that most of what they are picking up is outside the residential areas. Streams coming off industrial ownerships to small woodlands. They have to make sure that downed wood is retained throughout the RMA. Even with a Plan for Alternate Practice that is always required. Leaving enough basal area determining whether it is dead or alive and when large wood recruitment will happen. The crux is down along the McKenzie or other drainages there are those homes between the road and the river that is not an FPA issue. Trying to coordinate that is going to require a multi-agency approach, with ODF&W, DEQ and DSL. Especially the large rivers flowing through there with navigable waters. Definitely an issue in those areas. The smaller parcels are not being addressed through ODF right now. Ahrens reiterated that these small landowners are not forestlands per se but there are hundreds of homes and miles of riverside and the aggregate of landowners are making these decisions without guidance so some sort of fact sheet that could be handed out when consulting with these people would go a long way.

Brown brought the discussion back to the Committee's charge and asked if anyone has been able to quantify the impacts to small woodland owners in acres involved. Ahrens shared that ODF and Extension have a GIS program component and are trying as soon as possible to get an overlay on the fire mapping of landowner data. Once the audience is ascertained they can coordinate the response. Brown suggested that with the high demands on natural resource funding it may be a good idea to look for available funding streams having to do with organizational development to leverage community response. James agreed that the biggest issue is to evaluate what the problem really looks like and then plan response. He offered that OSWA is trying to get that information as well and it's going to take an all-out effort from everybody. He recalled when they put the SSBT rules together they did that analysis and they actually sent out information to all the small parcels that were impacted that had SSBT streams that required different forest practice regulations. His perception is ODF does have the ability to do that, but probably don't have the time to mess with it but possibly could if they had the manpower to do so. Swanson appreciated the tangent highlighting the importance of having a comprehensive small woodland owner database that could serve many efforts and organizations. She offered that if that data doesn't currently exist or the map capability is not meeting the need she may have some funding contacts that would be interested in helping support the development of that. James mentioned the work done by EcoTrust and their Land Management Planning Tool and that OSWA is strongly supportive of the work to identify that parcel information. Ahrens added that the Partnership for Forestry Education with OFRI, ODF, OSU and others did put together a Woodland Owner Database but it has not been kept current and is a contact list without associated mapping of parcels but perhaps that needs to be prioritized. Members considered the potential of that as something the CFF should track and support. Ahrens suggested a postcard with all the information about NRCS and FSA disaster assistance go out to the available addresses. James countered that the main challenge is the funding expense of doing that. The EcoTrust data is not linked to that and it is not a public-facing list. The Woodland Owner Database is restricted only for use by the Partnership for Forestry Education member organizations for educational use.

Members decided it was a topic suited for a sub-committee. Kaola Swanson, Glenn Ahrens, Barrett Brown, Jim James, Jeremy Felty, Ryan Gordon enthusiastically supported the updating and availability of that data. Brown emphasized that the conversation should include any names connected to the Landowner Database so they can make some rapid progress on the data to be a planning tool available to the recovery effort in the short term and outreach in the future. Kaola emphasized its value as beneficial to any recovery outreach effort, implementation of the MOU, fire preparedness and forest management. James offered to host any phone conferences but was open to the first meeting hosted by ODF on ZOOM. Barnard noted that there was also an intention to continue a smaller group discussion on seed and seedling availability. All of this work will require significant coordination on the landscape. How does that effort look? The same group? Ahrens agreed that it may overlap a fair amount and had spoken to Ryan Gordon on this topic. They have called others to meet soon. So the whole question of cooperating on the Landowner Database as an outreach tool would benefit all post-fire recovery issues. Ahrens offered to contact Daniel Leavell and Carrie Berger for an update on their GIS capability their awareness of the Landowner Database. So with the lack of funding the data has not been regularly updated. So those issues would have to be part of the conversation as well. Ahrens also added that they also need State &

Private USDA folks and NRCS involved in that seedling discussion but particularly State & Private. He recalled that Geddes program is actually doing their own survey of nursery capacity. Barnard agreed to reach out to Janelle Geddes for State & Private and any other external agencies. Brown asked about adding Large Wood Recruitment in restoration opportunities and capturing that value as well when projects are planned. James offered that the watershed councils and/or ODF&W would have the expertise on what streams could benefit from additional falling. Another concern/need for improving outreach capability is the consequences of the contractor capacity and availability to do the salvage and restoration work in addition to any normal contracts they may have committed to. James shared that he heard from Rex Storm that there were a number of contractors that lost equipment in the fire, at a time when demand for their work in huge. And from the family woodland owners perspective in all likelihood they will be the last ones on the list to get a contractor hired. There has already been a projection that over time there will be less logging teams available. A lot of the logging crews are older and there have been predictions that over time their availability is going to be decreased. The infrastructure to keep things going is going to be challenged. James suggested that perhaps OSWA could facilitate some pooling of contracts in a given area they may be more competitive that way. Offering more landscape-wide work to allow for contractor efficiency to get the greatest number of acres without the expense of moving equipment. He couldn't commit OSWA at this point but thought the concept was a good one. Brown was able to offer some personal outreach to people in the Oregon Woodland Management Co-op who have done some work with aggregating sales into single operations as sale projects that might be able to hit the ground running.

Barnard returned to Eric as he has been involved in the seedling conversation and asked if he could provide an overview of where they stand at this point. Hartstein reported that there will be a small work group meeting to coordinate strategies addressing the shortage of seedlings anticipated and ensuring small woodland owners have access to that market. Hopefully there will be a way to coalesce those discussions and start forecasting needs and communicating with nurseries about opportunities to batch orders with multiple landowners. But another challenge is the widely acknowledged lack of nursery capacity to meet the demand in the next several years. He reported that ODF put in for a solicitation through the USFS State & Private Forestry Division a funding request which included some funding for building nursery capacity in this State. James pointed out the challenge of funding that initial planting given an ever-present risk of return. Nurseries will be happy to expand but they are not going to plant them for free without an upfront contracted future sale. Ahrens reflected that the industry side will have a handle on that pretty quick because they are on top of that and they have their own GIS estimates of their acreage. But on the small landowner side where there is the need for that analysis. The seedling need has a lot to do with the landowner behavior as well as the acres burned. Ahrens shared that he talked to Brian Kittler who is working with American Forests.org and they just finished a nationwide survey but also a NW survey on nursery capacity. And also heard that State & Private Forestry out of Idaho was doing a survey of the entire western U.S. on nursery capacity. The other thing that Brian Kittler mentioned is that as part of their Trillion Trees effort and just a lot of other kind of channels for philanthropy to help support planting trees locally and the real bottom line is whose going to plant those trees? Right now in our current infrastructure there will be a need to create new labor capacity as well to get all those trees planted. Woodward wanted to let the Committee know that the OFRI Board of Directors will be meeting and looking at doing a large comprehensive economic analysis of the fires and she committed to keeping the Committee updated on OFRI's efforts.

BREAK

8. Timber & Conservation MOU/SB 1602/Siskiyou SSBT Rules – Josh Barnard

The members had been briefed on the MOU and had supported the approach in a Letter to the Board in terms of efficiencies and staff work last June. Late June during the first Special Session of 2020 the legislature did take action to formally put the MOU into effect and got some of those pieces initiated that had shorter timelines. Along with that formalized and initiated mediated sessions with the Governor's Office with those interested and signatory parties the Governor's Office released an RFP to find an appropriate mediator. The Senate Bill 1602 was signed into law on July 7th. We wanted to detail out the three main components of the bill and the implications for ODF. He described those as being directed by statute to adopt permanent rules for Salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout (SSBT) streams in the Siskiyou georegion putting those into effect by January 1st, 2021. Also to establish new buffers for applications of pesticide by helicopter also to be in effect by January 1st, 2021. It also directs us to provide a mechanism for an operator to provide notice to adjacent landowners of pending spray operations within a given timeframe. It also sets qualifications for who is

allowed to receive those notices and establishes water uses that would qualify for that same announcement. And sets a standard for reporting completion of sprayed units. Other components of the bill set into place a timeline for those Timber and Conservation mediated sessions and provided funding for that effort as well. In addition it directs the Department to work with Oregon Water Resources Department on some data reconciliation and requires a report to the Legislature to determine if OWRD data is accurate. It also sets civil penalties both on the operator side if they fail to produce records in a timely manner or fail to notify. And sets penalties for anyone notified that directly interferes with a spray operation. Where if they were qualified to receive that notification and chose to intentionally interfere it provides civil penalties on that side as well. In addition, it establishes new qualified entities that can request information through the Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC). And then the other piece that we were allocated resources for in this project were funding to update the FERNS electronic notification program and provide for a manual process to assess landowner qualifications to receive those notifications. Proof that they live within a mile of that operation or have a legal claim for surface water use. So ODF was allocated resources for one full-time FTE to help with processing those interested parties and getting those into the system correctly. Pesticide buffers do increase the distances both on streams and inhabited dwellings, schools and any of the noted water intakes that qualify. The interested folks that want the information will need to come to us to sign up as well as provide some evidence that they qualify. Part of this notification requirement is that it will be designed to function over mobile equipment so it is serviceable in the field. Same thing through the water rights side. If they are claiming a water use somewhere that they thing qualifies they will need to reach out to us so we can sign them up in the system. So we will probably be doing some outreach as we are putting this into effect but the way it is structured it is really on them to request to be entered into the system and really designed for those folks that live adjacent or have a water use adjacent to that 1 mile radius of planned operation. Barnard wanted to be clear that the new buffers explicitly apply to helicopter applications and do not include backpack spray or others. The buffer that is required on inhabited dwellings has been increased to 300' now and there is a clause in there that waives the requirement if it is the same entity that is doing the operation that owns the dwelling. Continuing in terms of the new stream buffers. For Type F and Type D streams it basically sets the width at 75' or if there is any existing RMA or required vegetative buffer that exists in rules currently it would be the wider of those two that exists. And any Type N that has water present at the time of pesticide application via helicopter they would also get a 50' buffer. Then 300' for inhabited dwellings, 300' for schools and 300' for any of those qualifying water intakes.

Member asked if the Department has been directed to integrate the Water Resources database points of diversion into a GIS layer. Barnard confirmed that they are required to use OWRD data and it needs to be accurate enough to be implemented on the ground, but they are just beginning the conversation. He cautioned that there shouldn't be an assumption that someone could register for water rights through the pesticide notification mechanism. Simultaneously they are having to formulate the training, education and outreach needed both on the Pesticide rule changes and the rulemaking for the SSBT streams in the Siskiyou. Paul Clements, Private Forests Training Coordinator and Nick Hennemann in Public Affairs are working that up for internal and external parties. As far as meeting the timeframe for a January 1st effective date, as soon as we got this direction from the legislature we submitted a Consent Agenda Item to the Board in July, to initiate the rulemaking process. Using the Siskiyou Advisory Committee that had originally been convened to advise on the Siskiyou Streamside Protection Sufficiency review and now this rulemaking process. There was a Public Comment Period in September and public hearing held so we've completed all the public portions at least for the Administrative Procedures Act process and are framing up the agenda item for the November Board meeting to adopt those rules to be effective January 1. The implementation of the electronic notification for helicopter spray operations and the required announcement will take the Department at least through June 30 and may go over into the next biennium. We weren't able to start that work till we had the funds and the fire effort wound down.

LUNCH

James wanted to reference the interest parties have shown in the MOU process itself. That the MOU does outline some information tools and processes. Members are actually limited in commenting on the process as communications need to be collectively determined and produced. The Governor's Office is playing a key role in this process but at this point in time he underscored that it's not appropriate to share any information until the team decides on any information to come forward. The MOU language itself speaks to the intent of the group pertaining to getting an Habitat Conservation Plan as

the final intent of the process. Swanson asked how the Board would engage on a private forests HCP. James answered that there should be legislation in 2022 that would outline the process but that is yet to be determined.

9. **Work Plan Review - All**

Barnard led a discussion on the current work plan in light of the issues publically prioritized, such as fire restoration and rulemaking. The committee's earlier dialog seemed to set a good precedent for whether we want to add or subtract items originally set up in the 2019-2020 Work Plan. Currently he reviewed that there were several categories to the plan. Water Quality, Family Forestland Viability, Forestland Owner Recreational Immunity, Input to the BOF on key topics. Forest Health, Fire, Forest Chemical Use and Seed and Seedling Availability and Climate Change. Then considering there had been a fair amount of discussion and interest from the Committee in specific areas relative to post-fire recovery he was interested in reviewing those items in light of current events.

Swanson offered that they have talked at length about communication and outreach with family forestland owners. James emphasized OSWA's leadership in that role with the legislature especially on the efforts to get forestland owners to pay more for fire protection. So there was a suggestion to add a bullet on the equity of costs for family forestlands (under both Fire and Viability).

Ahrens thought it pertinent to continue with that as a priority not only for fire recovery, but also wildfire preparedness and education as there is this huge increase in awareness asking what are we going to do now? What are we going to do different? What are we going to do more of? So, it just ramps up the importance of not only the woodland owner but this interface with people that have dwellings and buildings and not identified as woodland owners. What's the best and most strategic way for this partnership of all of us, including ODF, to help communities and the woodland owners surrounding those communities at the interface at with the larger forestland? How do we implement fire-adapted communities in Oregon? What is the role of us to help the Board of Forestry do that? Woodward reminded members that historically much of the Committee's effort has been in facilitation and installation of community collaboratives. Ahrens offered that there should be more money and more attention coming our way because of this disaster. How are we going to make the best use of that in response and mitigation? Thinking back to the Wildfire Response Council work Swanson offered that there is a new council being formed that is focused entirely on that. The WERC, the Wildfire and Economic Recovery Council whose focus will be on communities and discerning the different needs and geographic areas as well as different types of owners. James expressed his concerns that the family forestland owners are not getting fully integrated in those discussions. Ahrens suggested the importance of identifying these State convened councils to ensure a connection to forestry and inclusion of family forestland concerns in discussions and solutions. Another is the Cultural and Natural Resources Task Force. Hartstein offered that that group is at the Director level for staff implementation of post-fire analysis and assessment to guide recovery and restoration work. He offered to check on the makeup of the task force.

Brown brought the discussion back to the work plan. Suggesting perhaps reviewing the list to exclude items, re-word or add based on current priorities and Board topics. Obvious additions might be bullet items under the Fire category. Swanson asked Barnard about staying informed and providing recommendations on Board topics. Barnard replied that a lot of topics overlap but he was curious as to what specifically the Committee sees themselves engaging in over the next year whether that is the post-fire piece or SB 1602 issues? Gerlach offered that the Forest/Urban interface issues will probably be important and best linked viewpoint to represent to the Board. James suggested Seedlings needs to remain prioritized along with the shortage of labor forthcoming. And of course, outreach on grant programs and incentives. Barnard offered to clean up the Plan and for example remove the Siskiyou item, etc...and then send it back out for comment. On the topic of BOF Key Topics the charge to the Committee is being in that advisory role and perhaps that that is not an issue in itself but could inform the work plan priorities. Brown added that given the limited time and attention that the Committee has with the Board the work plan interests should be kept timely and follow the current issues to make sure that they are achieving that primary function. Gerlach thought that some issues are always a high priority but in a given year should evolve. She suggested keeping a broader range of issues but highlighting those the members want to keep focus on or matching up with what is before the Board. Relative to that Barnard announced that the Board was slotted to get new members in September which would have facilitated our Board of Forestry Retreat in October. And that did not happen. Normally at the Board Retreat the Board would formulate their work plan to finalize it in January. That process now is delayed and they are going to get their first look at it in January to be finalized in March

or April in terms of planning purposes. He believed at least through next spring we are not going to have any topics before the Board based upon that and predicting pretty far out in our current operating environment and what can happen. So he shared that he is thinking around the timeframe of when typically pull together our Annual Report and it's going to come down to some of these more emerging issues that we as the Committee choose to focus on. Brown asked about optimizing the Committee's input on the Board's work plan development? Barnard detailed the potential work plan process and when Private Forests presents their priorities there will be an opportunity to comment or provide perspective on that.

Swanson suggested making use of Eric Hartstein's familiarity with OWEB in line with the needs of small forestland owners and issues with funding match for NRCS dollars how can the Committee best advocate for that match? And that issue may go well under Water Quality or Landowner Viability. James agreed on the importance of OWEB funding and thought there would be a keen interest from forestland owners in that. Hartstein responded that he was sure that OWEB would appreciate the support from CFF. But there is the caveat is that so much of it is Lottery Funding to drive the match in forest restoration and technical assistance grant programs all of which is constitutionally dedicated so. As far as State agencies go, OWEB's budget is one that is kind of set more or less based on participation in the lottery revenue that is generated. OWEB does get about 20 to 25% of the Agency's budget through Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds which comes from NOAA and a little bit of Fish & Wildlife in NRCS dollars. Swanson wanted to note that State match is often an issue for a lot of the federal programs. Swanson also wanted to highlight that we don't have John Peel on the call representing Eastern Oregon representation so to keep the work plan item open in relation to landowners on the east side as well.

Barnard brought up the July BOF meeting and the CFF Annual Report presented then, two BOF members had requests of the Committee. Cindy Deacon-Williams that expressed a concern on behalf of Nils Christofferson for the family forestland viability in Eastern Oregon and basically encouraged the Department and CFF to continue to work together and pinpoint the underlying causes. And the next piece they were interested on is potentially incorporating some of the information from the National Woodland Owners Survey and they were interested in a formal update relative to that information as well. There wasn't any timeline associated with that but those were the couple of comments relative to CFF's work back in July.

10. Meeting Schedule - All

Barnard began noting the meetings scheduled already until the end of the year. The next meeting is on November 19th and December 10th. The group discussed what dates worked best in the new year. January 13th; February 18th; March 18th; April 14th; May 20th; June 23rd as the last meeting for the summer.

11. Committee Vacancies - All

Committee Membership: The committee shall be composed of no more than thirteen members consisting of seven voting members:

- Four family forestland owners: one from each of the Department of Forestry's three administrative regions and one at-large.
- One forest industry representative.
- One environmental community representative.
- One citizen-at-large (preferably, this member shall serve as committee chairperson).

Barnard noted one vacancy on the Committee. He recalled Vroman was checking in with a potential member for Landowner-At-Large. (OSWA member Jim Letourneau.) He will follow up on that contact. We are going to continue to work on filling that vacancy but in addition there may be another opportunity put before us, Evan Barnes, Chair and Southern Oregon representative (who wasn't able to attend the meeting), his term expires at the end of this year and will leave a pretty big gap in terms of the Chair of the Committee so members might put some thought into how we want to go about that and potentially inviting in some folks or seeing, generating a list of folks that we might think are a viable chair of the Committee and working through that process as the Board would have to approve the new appointment at their July meeting. Swanson asked the status of the Shared Stewardship Committee and reconnecting with the possibility of a new member coming on from that sub-group. Brown offered that after the last discussion he had reached out to that member who did express interest in that position. (Dan Logan) I was brought up that not only the Chair would be needed and is

usually the Citizen-At-Large position but then also the Southern Oregon Area representative. Barnard included that John Peel's time expires as well so there is the potential for more than one vacancy to be filled.

12. Partner Update/Adjourn - All

James began announcing that OSWA's Annual Meeting was canceled in 2020 and rescheduled as a joint Oregon Small Woodlands Association and the Oregon Tree Farm System's Annual Meeting in Springfield July 22 through the 24th and called the "Oregon Family Forest Convention". The theme is going to be "Working Forests: Wood, Water, Wildlife and Recreation". It's scheduled to be at the Holiday Inn Express in the Gateway area of Springfield as an indoor event. If there are still restrictions plans will change. Saturday is going to be our Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year woods tour then Thursday will be a Forest Management Planning Tool event on Thursday for family woodland owners using Land Mapper, that's the EcoTrust landscape management planning tool. Then a program on Friday.

Swanson provided her own update related to community forests. Sustainable NW is the convener and facilitator of the NW Community Forest Coalition which is really focused on helping municipalities or communities to acquire and manage their forestlands for whatever benefits they are most interested in. Butte Falls in southern Oregon is looking at acquiring their lands both for recreational value and fire resilience and they are working with several communities on the coast of Oregon look to acquire forestland for long term drinking water security as well as revenue. This year they are hosting an on-line version of their conference. The convention is scheduled for October 28th, 29th with a bonus conversation on the 30th. You can find the registration at: www.nwcommunityforests.org the topics include case studies as well as some experts talking about financing, forest management planning, and other topics like that they may be of interest.

Brown shared that in the last month there was a video tour on their tree farm. Because it was video it reached a few people that would not have traveled to the farm. It's archived in OSWA's webpage so it had a lot more reach with that information and the whole point is to try and pack a lot of encouragement and education into these tours. James added that it could also be accessed on the KnowYourForest.com site. He shared that Barrett Brown was Washington County's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. His property was selected for the tour and was extremely interesting. We talked a lot about forest thinning and Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Extension and Tom Nygren, a professional forester talked about how they interface with NRCS and then highlighted Barrett's stream restoration project on East Fork Dairy Creek and speaking on recreation he created a piece of equipment to help build trails on forestland. Fran Cafferata-Coe did a conversation about wildlife in your forests. The tour was very informative.

Ahrens reminded the group that there are video webinars with OSU Extension and our partners with OFRI with the Partnership with Forestry Education. They've been ongoing with Tree School online since April when we gave up on the in-person events in March. He reported that Amanda Brenner their Tree School Coordinator and his assistant in Extension, says they've had over 8000 participants over the 30 webinars since April. And that's 8000 views either in person or live during the webinar or recorded afterwards on YouTube so that's, we are getting more participation virtually than otherwise participated in an in-person event. He estimated that his office contacts through the phone, email or online have doubled this year compared to last year. The new Fire Program has been ramping up hiring 16 people this year and taking some leadership there. As webinars cross the boundaries the Fire Program has put out Fire Preparedness Webinars and now a series of weekly After the Fire Webinars. Those have been really well attended. Hundreds of people at each of these events. OFRI has been hosting these Tree School Webinars. Everything is there on the KnowYourForest website. As well as duplicated access through Extension Forestry site. It's certainly a good way to work together remotely.

Woodward went on to elaborate that this year partnerships have really been about trying to do what we can to innovate and figure out how to reach people. There are a few other OFRI projects they have going on. One of them is working with other folks at ODF to put together issues, before all the fires. At this time they want us to move forward on one about slash piling and burning especially in the NW. A lot of landowners confront this as a liability issue, so that has been a project that is also moving along with some other partners. Last week there was a SAF Conference and it was well-attended but also recorded. Some bonus sessions included one with Christine Buhl from the Department, about the common insights and conversations about what could happen with all these forests and the insects. Some things that landowners can do to in order to help mitigate that. And then, Sarah Navarro who is now in the Forest Service and talks

about the forest pathogens. Then their Trees to Taps study that came out helping to think about drinking water from forests. And then the just released the Carbon Report that has a lot of different studies that we looked at from OSU and other agencies, all in one place.

Swanson noted that coming to the end of the meeting they still were unable to have a quorum to approve the minutes. Before signing off Barnard asked how the members felt about the agenda. James pushed for minimizing the hour for lunch and continuing business. Swanson reflected that she did miss the informal conversations that occurred during the breaks when meeting in-person and suggested for those interested they could remain online and eat, allowing for some conversations off agenda. James and others agreed that those conversations do add real value.

Swanson called the meeting adjourned.