



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for December 9th, 2021



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 December 9, 2021, as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.

CFF Committee members participating:

Nick Hennemann, Interim FPA & Monitoring Deputy Chief
Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

ODF Staff attending:

Mike Kroon, All Lands Deputy Chief
Susan Muniz, Administrative Specialist
Adam Coble, Forest Health & Monitoring Mgr
Astrea Strawn, Seedling Coordinator
Al De Vos, Grant Ops Coordinator

Members not in attendance:

Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Genell Grow
Susan Gladwin
Tessa (last name not given)

Chair Gerlach opened the meeting and called for any changes in the agenda. The agenda included: Forest Resources Division Update; Seedling Program Coordination; Roundtable; Private Forests Accord Discussion; Workplan Discussion.

Forest Resources Division Update was provided by Nick Hennemann, Interim Deputy Chief. He reported that State Offices will be re-opening January 3rd. The Private Forests Accord negotiating group will be reporting to the legislature early 2022 as required under SB 1602. Two grant programs, the Small Forestland Grant and FireWise Community Grants launched on November 22nd. The 5-person review panel for scoring SFG proposals has been identified and includes McMichael and Jensen from the CFF. Others include a grants specialist from the USFS, OWEB and ODF. The FireWise Grant has already received submissions. They expect SFGP applications to come in early January because of the more involved application process. There has been a concern over the acreage limit definition of small forestland owners being a potential barrier to applicants. The funding needs to be spent by the end of the biennium. Hennemann announced that the State Forester has accepted the invitation to attend the January CFF meeting. He shared the drafted meeting schedule for 2022 coordinating those dates with the BOF meetings. He allowed time for Mike Kroon, All Lands Deputy to add comment. Kroon shared that Jeff Burns is the SB 762 Coordinator for now. (Formerly the FIU Coordinator.) Kroon has taken away the FIU folks until the 762 work is done, SB 762 is a forestland and rangelands restoration resiliency investment program authorized by the Senate in 2021. Proposals for that close next week. They have just hired a Coordinator for the FFR Program, mostly focusing on the Mt. Hood National Forest and Willamette National Forest restoration.

Seedling Program Coordination. Astrea Strawn, Coordinator of the Reforestation Project that came out of SB 5006 Section 183 which brought \$5 million dollars to increase seedling capacity and supply specifically to the areas affected by the 2020 fires. She has been working with the Seedling Workgroup who is now operating in an advisory capacity to the Department. She noted the first bottleneck they had identified was in the nursery response. There seems to be nursery capacity available but orders too low to meet nursery minimums. They have identified nurseries interested in expanding their production but that now has to be matched to seedling needs, order minimums, landowner planting schedules, and seedling species. She reiterated that orders placed in 2020 by ODF will be available to landowners of January of 2022. She spoke regarding the economic, and larger environmental benefits of assisting landowners directly. Contractor availability is another challenge that landowners face. ODF staff are working with other agencies and non-profit partners, like SNW to identify contractor needs and there is a potential with OWEB to create pass-through grants under 5006 but they are still assessing need and ability under the legislative language. They are partnering with American Forests and others to develop a climate resilient All Lands Reforestation Strategy for Oregon. Strategies should include climate-smart forestry components to increase carbon sequestration and support natural resource dependent communities. She reported they are also working with OWEB administering \$20 million in post-fire recovery grants to ensure the success of seedlings after planting.

Roundtable Comments.

- Jensen shared his concern about the complexity of notification processes and lack of communication to neighbors in the WUI regarding forest management activities that they feel affect them.
- McMichael expressed the general frustration of just how long it takes a forest to re-grow and especially for those affected by fire that it would be good to have some support navigating through both the processes and the loss.
- Brown emphasized his concern regarding the lack of responsiveness by the market to the small landowner seedling needs. The lack of speculative seedlings is very necessary for those small acreages that don't meet minimum order requirements and may not have understood the time frames required in the process. He suggested that efforts focus on creating local infrastructure for storage, distribution, and outreach. Emphasized that local leadership is needed.
- Swanson reported that Sustainable NW is coordinating with other non-profits on the seedling issue as well as workforce capacity and demand.
- Gerlach reported that the Land Trust is looking to hire foresters and getting them trained up and working with Columbia Land Trust on the carbon project.
- Ahrens agreed that seedlings are the big topic right now as well as landowner communications. Aggregating small orders is priority as nurseries need confidence in the demand to plant stock. He added that there are concerns about site prep being done prior to planting and getting infrastructure in place to store and distribute seedlings.
- Woodward was excited about the extra hiring being done but noted new hires need training and historical knowledge is being lost with retirements. OFRI is planning tours this year. Tree School Online is beginning. They are working on publications and wanting to include landowner profiles so may be reaching out to CFF for input.

PF Accord Discussion. Hennemann reminded members that SB 1602 provided Registrant's notification of helicopter spray operations through the e-notification system. The system is open to register for those within 1 mile of operation areas. And there is still a Subscriber function in FERNS for any of the public for all notification

types. Training and information on how to sign up is available on the ODF YouTube channel. He reported on the status of the Accord's work drafting language for legislative concepts coming out of the Accord's negotiations. ODF is not a party to that drafting although is available as a resource to the group. He said that those concepts will be available to view once complete. They anticipate a great deal of training and outreach will occur as a result of any legislated changes. Kroon added that the Incentives Programs will likely be a landing place for many landowners impacted.

Workplan Discussion. Gerlach focused on planning for the visit from the new State Forester and how the members could best take advantage of his time by introducing him to the Committee and how the Committee could contribute to the Board. Some take-aways from the discussion were:

1. General hello and statement of committee purpose/charter, makeup of committee. 1-5 min.
2. Individual introductions by voting members. 20 min.
3. Short presentation on family forest demographics. Julie and Glenn. 5-10 minutes.
4. General discussion of CFF priority issues. 20 min.
5. Question for the State Forester/Board Chair: How can we be useful to you in our advisory capacity? What are issues where our expertise could be most valuable? 10 min.
6. Closing.

Member commented regarding the importance of landowner outreach and communication networks, more boots-on-the-ground, education! Another was the possibility of direct neighbor-to-neighbor outreach and a suggestion again of creating a forestland resource map. Hennemann advised keeping the Charter as sideboard to the conversation and realizing that the references to the State Forester in the FPA rules also encompass the Department staff as agents of the State Forester.