



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for February 9, 2022



Under 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 February 9, 2022, 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)
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio

ODF Staff attending:

Kristin Whitney, Administrative Specialist
Alex Rahmlow, Small Forestland Grant Program
Adam Coble, Monitoring & Forest Health Manager

Members not in attendance:

Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)

Guests/Public:

Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry
Susana Gladwin, Public

Chair Comments. Chair Gerlach called the meeting to order and asked to adjust the agenda to welcome Board of Forestry member Ben Deumling, then carry out the remaining agenda.

Board member Deumling comments. Introduced himself and expressed his excitement to be working with the committee. Chair Gerlach and committee members introduced themselves. Kate shared the need for assistance and interest in the Accord and the small forest owner office within the bill. Ben offered that the annual report from last year was very helpful, particularly capturing the diverse perspectives the committee brings out. Amanda shared the committee has discussed helping with workforce development and the range of needs for the many types, sizes of forests, and geography. Maurizio added that his company has a paid internship program for high school students through their company and with nearby landowners; there are other programs to provide them with heavy equipment certification possibilities. Wendy mentioned WUI concerns, the different issues for small forest landowners, the diversity of viewpoints being offered, post-fire recovery, seedling availability, workforce, habitat conservation plan, and Eastern Oregon needs. Maurizio expressed the need for understanding that there's a broad spectrum of small woodland ownerships and the importance of bringing an inclusive approach to how small landowners view themselves – micro, small, medium, and large ownerships. Ben wants to work with the department on some strategies for the next Legislative session which starts at the department level. He said he was pleased with the discussion items, thanked the Committee, and offered to be available to continue the discussions. Deputy Chief Hennemann added context for the flow of topics and discussions to and from the board for the committee to help inform topics on the Board's workplan, and affirmed that Ben could carry those messages too.

Amanda asked Ben for any suggestions on how the CFF can engage in the conversation on the Forestry Plan for Oregon recognizing there is to be a decision point at the April Board of Forestry with some revision. Ben spoke about the Board's plan, status, and states how CFF input would be useful. Wendy asked what Ben's participation in CFF meetings would look like. He will participate as he is able, likely joining for an hour or so per meeting. Kaola would like a webinar to learn how the Accord will give small forestland owners the information about the small forestland office, tax credits, and what they would want to know. Julie said OFRI started discussions with ODF and others to do outreach and training on what the landowners need. Nick added more context on the PFA and limitations until the Accord bills become law. He explained that the bill and report the positions requested will include outreach and training which has a lot of decisions to be made; where the internal team ODF to adjust to fit the bill and get that started. Chair Gerlach asked about when the Board intends to engage the Accord through its workplan. The bills are still in Legislature. Deumling confirmed tracking by the staff, the department, and the board and having placeholders for this anticipated work. Deputy Chief Hennemann confirmed the Private Forest Accord Report referenced in the bill is on the ODF webpage and provided link.

Small Forestland Grant Program. Alex Rahmlow thanked the small forestland grant program review team. He reported that the SFGP received 33 applications: for the Firewise grant program, 85 applicants. The SFGP team proposed funding 23 projects of the 33 applications based on applications receiving a score of 70 or better and funds available. The applications and scoring will be available on the ODF website in mid-February.

The SFG summary is:

- 23 proposals
- \$5,000/property
- 6-acre average
- See slides

The Firewise summary is:

- 20 communities
- \$40,000/community
- \$42 of benefit/resident
- See slides

Mark Vroman asked about interest from the regions, if there is a percentage available – Rahmlow offers to send information later. Wendy commented about seeing the projects being in dry locations, Mauricio Valerio provides examples of small landowners getting assistance from a larger organization which Alex agrees then adds more context. Amanda Astor inquired about ODF stewardship forester and OSU-extension involvement in the proposals. Alex responds with being district-specific, some districts have long-standing working relationships in some areas than others including the number of stewardship foresters across the state. Glenn reported that OSU extension helped with some of the application efforts; the organizations were not as ready because it happened so quickly. Amanda asked if it would help to have OSU-extension involved as a sponsor? Glen replied that it might, but many people are new to this approach. OSU-extension has a role, maybe or maybe not as a sponsor and assisting the current sponsors – defers by community and region. Alex mentions the outreach made to OSU about sponsorship. Julie asked about a template available for each project on fuels reduction/management plan since it's different than Firewise; Alex responds with the intent of the grants and talks about the plans per applicant and is looking to define the next biennium.

Monitoring & compliance. Adam Coble, forest health and monitoring manager, updated the committee on staff recruitments. He then shared the compliance monitoring update. The compliance monitoring work monitors compliance with the laws. The last report consisted of four reports was from 2013-2017 data. Since then, the team received input on how to improve the study, data analysis, and information reported. Mount Hood Environmental reviewed the program; MHE reported to the board in November 2021 about its recommendations on how to improve the study and that the department has adjusted its proposed study to address the recommended changes. Data collection started in Fall 2021 and will likely be done in the next few months. Effectiveness monitoring that tracks whether the law's work has been paused. The current project looks at streamside's and how the laws obtain the goals of the statutes and administrative rules. The team is also doing modeling that includes recruiting large woody debris in streams.

Chair Gerlach asked about the work if the legislation passes the Private Forest Accord, if there are any plans for potential changes. Adam speaks on how the department could change to accommodate the potential changes in the rules and any overlaps with the HCP/others. Glenn asked what accuracy the information could provide for whether small forestland owners are or are not complying with the forestry laws. How well can small forestland owner compliance be determined based on the study design? Adam explained that MHE's recommendations include helping improve the accuracy. Adam said the design will likely include a better representation of small forestland owners. Glenn said it could inform whether the outreach that's being done is targeting the right people. Adam responds that end results ODF report to the legislature, and it is useful in targeting training efforts for the landowners based on individual needs.

Forest Resources Division/Legislative Update. Deputy Division Chief commented on the Accord which consists of SB 1501, SB 1502, and HB 4055, and what they address. He adds the status of the Fiscal Impact Statement submitted to ways and means has about 50-60 positions for about \$20M; to include field delivery, technical specialists for streams-roads, policy analysts, admin support, GIS, and training outreach. Hennemann touched on another bill; SB 1573 which proposes to appropriate \$50M to State Forestry Department to fund increased forest thinning operations in specified wildfire-prone counties; 10 are listed related to Alex's presentation. Nick shared there are no updates yet on in-person meetings and re-opening state offices and last, he touched on the last meeting on the new landowners connecting with resources out there having OSWA and local realtor group working together. Glenn mentions OSU-extension is integrated with similar outreach and offers a brochure to realtors is a good idea; OSU has a brochure that may need updating. Kate touches on the information out there that doesn't clarify the size of ownership and the obligations of small landowners. Mauricio, had a neighbor inquire about credits and/or is there value tracking for a landowner to be valued for what it is? Koala mentions some grants have an in-kind or match option to add value to the grant; Julie adds there's a form from another project that a landowner can fill out to notify they are going above the Forest Practices Act they used to track; OWEB designed but believes its more for grants funds. Wendy mentions a tool like a conservation easement which one could exceed the management requirements and donate or sell to get a tax credit; there are grants available for ecological goals or to not fragment. Julie adds Oregon Explorer as a tool where one can add data that tracks various data across the state through OSU: the institute of natural resources.

Roundtable.

Maurizio reported that the NEOSWA group formed and a link on the OSWA website to announce the new chapter. May 14 will be the first annual meeting and tour at Maurizio's property; on May 13 there will be about 60 students from Baker High School visiting the property to learn about forestry.

Amanda said that AOL is moving forward with ODF to develop a Policy Option Package related to workforce development. Also discussing a possible workgroup to help inform this position's work; She is trying to develop forest mitigation language for added funding from the legislature; also working on trying to gain funding for wildfire restoration too.

Kate will be hosting a group to learn about biochar, forestry management, and forestry products with OSU. Kate added that knowyourforests.com is the page she turns to; the ODF page is difficult to find the right page.

Julie talks about March 1-2, 8-noon, the State of the State [Forest Health 2022 | College of Forestry \(oregonstate.edu\)](#) SAF credits may be available; it is virtual and at no charge. OFRI is working on the resources available to small forestland owners; If members want to be on the review committee, they should contact Julie. The Starker Lecture Julie is sharing this year which series is focused on women in forestry; on May 10th there will be a capstone opportunity available at the OFRI campus.

Kaola asked that the small forestland office, OSU-extension, OFRI, and Partnership for Forestry Education work closely.

Gary mentions the challenge of finding seedlings, planting, and growing trees after a catastrophic fire or other catastrophes; He'd like to see about grants for reforestation on small woodlands. He shared the Oregon Logging Conference will be happening in late February.

Glenn shared that those small landowners need help with contract drafting specifications for fuels reduction and technical assistance on small forestland ownerships; He's interested in hearing from others with this type of contract drafting experience.

Workplan. Discussed whether and how to approach engagement with the board. The discussion included working together across agencies, associations, and forestry groups; looking at topical discussions, such as workforce development, and then committee members pursuing them to bring back to the group. To look at initiatives that the committee could help further; having staff present and listen to the committee's thoughts to help inform service delivery by the department. How can the committee help make the connecting points with collaborations, groups, or associations; maybe have some on the committee like soil and watershed and be the voice for small landowners. Having a topic of discussion per meeting to produce more topic-related discussion and work items; not necessarily produce a product every month they are working toward but informational. The agenda topics for the next meeting were presented and meeting adjourned.