



## Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for April 7, 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 April 7, 2022, as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.*

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**CFF Committee members participating:**

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)  
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio  
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio  
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio  
Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)

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**ODF Staff attending:**

Kristin Whitney, Administrative Specialist  
Jacob Wise, Administrative Specialist  
Adam Coble, Forest Health & Monitoring Manager  
Tim Holschbach, Fire Prevention Policy Manager  
Tim Hoffman, Public Affairs

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**Members not in attendance:**

Nick Hennemann, Interim FPA & Monitoring Deputy Chief  
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests  
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

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**Guests/Public:**

Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry

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**Chair Comments.** Chair Gerlach called the meeting to order, asked for changes to the agenda then public comment before moving onto the Forest Resources Division update.

**Division update.** Adam Coble, Forest Health and Monitoring Manager provided the division updates starting with current recent hires and upcoming recruitments with position information.

- Riparian Specialist, Roads Specialist, Aerial Survey Specialist, 3 – Monitoring specialists, and Fiscal Analyst

Adam touched on the committees plan to draft the report to present to the Board of Forestry in July before he moved onto an update on a survey to be sent to nurseries to inquire about seedling availability within the region. The Small Forestland Grant Program which is currently being coordinated by Alex Rahmlow was spoke about after. Several questions had been asked with the need to report to Alex to update the map generated to show progress, Adam mentioned the external ODF site having a section for the Small Forestland Grant Program. Amanda added that she had heard on the Landscape resiliency grant having staffing difficulties, a question was asked about the Stewardship foresters assisting with the program with follow up needed.

Adam gave an update on the Private Forest Accord, where they are at with drafting rule making/compliance monitoring and provided the process and timeline. The rule making and rule package needs to be completed by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the Habitat Conservation Plan first draft needs to be

completed by December 31st, 2022, with the need to apply for an incidental take permit completed by then using the same contractor as the State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan and considering the Board of Forestry's review and public comment. A question was asked about the draft HCP and the rule implementation which Coble answered and clarified with more to report back to the committee which Amanda added more clarification on the process and timeline with the committee to review draft rules this summer. Chair Gerlach clarified her question on the date the rules go into effect and the process landowners would take to get incidental take permits in return for changing practices, Amanda answered the question and provided more details on if it does not get approved.

Koala mentioned to Adam and Tim, public affairs specialist, what happens next, and the timeline are a bit hard to track the process timeline, public comment portion and asked for more details which Tim added clarity and the ODF external site will be updated accordingly with additional details from Barrett.

Amanda discussed the Board of Forestry's meeting from 4/6/2022 that was specifically on the forestry program for Oregon which is not regulatory in nature so the Board of Forestry is not looking at making large changes to the Forest Practices Act by revising the forestry program for Oregon that could occur down the line, and if Julie had been in the meeting the partnership for forestry education is looking into timelines and where the different modeling phases come in.

Barrett on behalf of the small forest owner mentioned that a proactive/formal outreach engagement with an organization/entity would be helpful, maybe the small forest owner office as it gets built up could provide that and provided an example that State Forests currently had done and the benefits to it, Koala and Wendy added more insight in agreement. Adam mentioned that he could check in with Nathan Agalzoff who is the coordinator for outreach then moved onto the next agenda item.

**Round Table.** Wendy started it off with the Board of Forestry meeting from 4/6/2022 and how extensive in timing it was, asked Ben if he could provide details and insight. Ben started and thanked Amanda for the overall big picture context from the meeting, he spoke on the Board's shared vision for all lands and forestry in Oregon and provided history and current details on the Board's timelines, process, and intent. More conversation on the Board of Forestry meeting continued started with discussion on offset credits and the public benefit from it and additional pressures/incentives.

Glenn asked Ben about a discussion about Forestry in Oregon on how the plan/process will be used and what influence it will have, what are we going to do with it? How will we have it influence our work? Ben provided a couple of thoughts and details from his short time with the Board so far.

Amanda spoke more on previous FPFO and the shared vision where it was compared to now with Climate Change and the Wildfire situations currently topics of discussion, her thought is this FPFO may be more successful with the collaborative perspective and engagement. Barrett spoke on previous public engagement and the Board's need to lead that, Ben spoke more about it and mentioned the changes in personnel to the Board of Forestry appointments and the alignments with all parties and how the Board is aware of gaining/regaining trust, and how do we build trust with the public.

Koala asked how the agency is working across other agencies and how we are coordinating keeping in mind the subsidies, incentives and transition technology. Noted that kind of leadership and direction would be great, spoke on the wildfire council in comparison. Adam added more context on ODF's coordination across other agencies and to make sure what was put in place remains effective.

Amanda noted along with Kaola that they participated in the US Forest service meeting for region 6, related to their 10 year wild fire strategy which discussed the similar topics. Takeaways from the meeting also included how they will focus their management and have a more strategic approach to have more partner engaged for all lands that could help with community stability and infrastructure.

Gary added the point of speaking to private landowners and because of new regulatory process, there is confusion within the communities and landowners to who owns the land. Owners are not sure if they no longer own the lands to do what they will. There is fear that there may be legal issues and or future lawsuits between landowners and US Forest Services for taking rights away from using privately owned forests without compensation. ODF needs to define who owns the forest so that when a new rule is implemented that ODF is to justify and compensate that landowner. (Small landowners 200 acres or less)

Ben Deumling agreed these conversations need to be had, forests are a unique landscape that belong to individuals but to provide benefits greater than what a particular owner might appreciate and spoke on commonwealth benefits and be clear on the tools available. Barrett spoke on the small landowners' thoughts and reflections of the view from their perspectives could be and the need for more engagement/communication earlier on.

Ben to wrap up the FPFO conversation to think about what a vision for all forestlands in Oregon means to you, what does that vision look like and share it with him/the Board of Forestry. It is an ongoing conversation the Board is trying to engage now, no formal memo/letter to the Board is needed it was more of an informal ask.

**Prescribed Fire Program.** Tim Holschbach, Fire Prevention and Policy Manager. Kate started with a question for a comment on the WUI and what the actual impact on the small woodland owners should be assuming and expectations. When will definitions be implemented and more detail on what the rules and decisions are being made. Tim provided detailed information on the outline and framework for this, the two main things ODF is working on are zeroing in on assigning properties specific risk and then identifying if you are in the WUI or out with the rulemaking package which the information is being used by other state agencies. The next step is the defensible space code that Oregon State Fire Marshalls is working on is the biggest requirement of a landowner around their structures is the next step in the process. Amanda added additional clarity to Kate's question and other information.

Amanda asked when will the map be viewable/progress. Tim spoke on OSU working on reframing the Oregon Explorer and will be released along with landowner notifications at the end of June 2022 is when it should be available. Public hearings are scheduled for 4/19/22 at 9am, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7am, there is an email address to turn in written comment. Barrett added onto the public hearings that if the public won't be completely sure of the expectations in their role for public comment with the disconnect in outreach with information.

Tim continued with ODF currently working on a Certified Burn Manager program, its authorized authorities are found in ORS 526.360. This certified program states that when a private owner Prescribe burns on their property and it were to spread across property lines to another privately owned forest, the other landowner cannot sue if they were not negligent providing an example then onto the process of the revised rules. There is outreach to other states to have discussions on their programs and what they

require for training and how their certifications are setup. There is no deadline for the certificate, to put more thoughtfulness into it to be successful, this will help with training and preparing individual/landowners for certified prescribe burning. Tim stated that the rule set done mid-summer then around September presenting to the Board and provided more details and adjusted timeline.

Gerlach inquired about the certification process for prescribed fire training. What would be a requirement that would be appropriate landscape and appropriate use for prescribed fire in addition to season, humidity and wind factors.

Tim spoke on the reason to in folks from other States to help bring ideas from their certification process. There will be an in class educational training and, implementing a field training experience, noted the difference with what you learn in a classroom that can differ from when you are lighting burn piles. The field experience will help landowners gain the knowledge so that they are not just out there burning piles and broadcast burning. Amanda added relating to the types of burning, area, and complexity, and climate would be an integral part of the training with the burn boss to be the individual to make the call based on the data. Tim explained more on the training providers and provide the framework for them and the advisory committee to ensure the mark is met, and the intent.

Amanda mentioned it is something being worked on in the reforestation side as well as firefighting, adding diversity and inclusion concepts to provide translation services, or documents in multiple formats prepared for the training to be radically inclusive as AOL has members from the Latinx community and others. Tim agreed to the suggestion.

Glenn asked when will we see a timeline or opportunities for landowners to try out prescribed fire burning in different regions of Oregon? Where will it apply and where will it be useful for private landowners?

Tim responded with there are no mandates for prescribed burns, it's completely voluntary but if pursued that is where requirement come in and provided additional details and timelines.

Amanda provided an update on the Work Force Concepts; AOL has been continually working with ODF to create a Work Force Special specialist to be added to policy option package. Also is continuing to work on a legislative concept for a Task Force or a council that will bring together significant partners that are engaged that will discuss work force capacity.

Barrett spoke on some of the small woodland chapters taking interest in the State Forests trust of Oregon, formerly the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust that is a nonprofit way for folks to contribute to recreation, education, and interpretation opportunities and other details.

Chair Gerlach brought the meeting to conclusion mentioning housekeeping items and the upcoming meeting in May discussing the annual report for the July Board of Forestry meeting and suggestions for items to speak on. Amanda spoke on the Oregon DEQ biomass utilization working group and if the group is interested in getting a speaker to attend, the small forestland owner is a huge component which the group agreed. Chair Gerlach adjourned the meeting.