



## Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for March 19, 2025



*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 March 19, 2025, 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)  
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)  
David Bugni, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Maurizio Valencio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio  
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio  
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio

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**ODF Staff attending:**

Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands  
Mirms Miller, Administrative Specialist  
Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist  
Kate Blauvelt, Family Forestland Coordinator  
Lori Bell, Forestland Assistance and Incentives Manager  
Emily Martin, Monitoring Specialist  
Boone Zimmerlee, Policy Coordinator  
Sarah Siefken, Natural Resource Specialist 2  
Jeff Peck, Marketing Unit Forester

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**Members not in attendance:**

Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)

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**Guests/Public:**

Theresa Hausser  
Cindy Henson  
Ben Deumling

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### Chair Comments.

- Chair Gerlach calls the meeting to order.
- Asks for comments on the agenda/meeting minutes.
- Recognized a quorum was established.
- Ask for public comments.
- Moved on to Chair updates.

### Division update.

- Mike Kroon provides division updates.

### Reforestation Report Results.

- Emily Martin provides a PowerPoint presentation on the Reforestation Report Results.
- Kate McMichael – We’ve been on a couple of these calls, and this is way better than what we have feared as far as getting the information out. Is this the presentation that will be shared?
  - Emily Martin – Will be pretty similar.
  - Sarah Seifken – Will be more like a panel but similar points.
- Dave Bugni – Often when you meet with people like us you are preaching to the choir, how do you plan to get outreach to the common person? Do you have a communication plan to reach out to those folks? Is it developed to a level that we can see and integrate it?
  - Sarah Seifken – I think the answer is all of the above. Because we are the compliance side, we are passing the torch to training folks/public affairs. We do have a draft communication plan that I believe we will be able to share soon. It’s going to be a multi-pronged attack to get this information out.

- Theresa Hausser – Was how many seedlings were planted tracked?
  - Emily Martin – It was not as it is not part of the rule, but some did provide that information.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – In all the different circles this is working through, how has been trying to describe that really this is about free to grow? Is there additional tables you can create around the samples and how many of those were actually reforested, these are places that have trees on them they just didn't always reach free to grow.
  - Emily Martin – Every unit we looked at, aside from maybe one, there is active reforestation efforts and the one that didn't actually made the goal because they knew what the natural area was capable of. But generally, people try and reforest the unit to the best of their ability and sometimes things get in the way of that free to grow status.
- Julie Woodward – Thanks to Emily and Sarah. I believe this committee is key for also being part of we are hearing this message and where do we need to go next? It is very likely we are bringing back, kind of like we had a seedling working group, it will likely morph into a reforestation working group. This is where we can do a lot more together as we move this forward.
- Kate McMichael – Moving forward, how accessible will the people who did the monitoring be to share the evidence of what they saw?
  - Emily Martin – I could see them being available to take questions, we just have to be careful and have a delicate line to walk because people realize we may have seen this on some peoples plots but it's not the end all be all.
  - Kate McMichael – Second question, what kind of vegetation were you speaking of for competing vegetation?
    - Emily Martin – Anything that was taller than the seedling.
- Glenn Ahrens – I don't remember seeing a previous study, is there anything to compare the results to from the past?
  - Emily Martin – Unfortunately not, there were other studies but they were not as statistically vigorous.
  - Glenn Ahrens – Did the statistical consultant have any input about how to interpret the results given the high rate of people who didn't allow the sample?
  - Emily Martin – They did include the non-responses in the statistical results.
- Maurizio Valerio – Is there clarity on what kind of forestry management or practices trigger a reforestation plan?
  - Kaola Swanson (in chat) – I think it's only final harvest that triggers reforestation.
  - Julie Woodward – It's not. It depends on your land, it's how many trees per acre.
- Kaola Swanson – Do you get a longer lead time on reforestation?
  - Mike Kroon – It depends on if there are issues with seedlings, or there are nursery doesn't grow you can get a waiver. It's not forever, just extends the time. You have to request this from the Stewardship Forester.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Is there a graphical representation or within the data is there a way to describe where things fell within the framework?
  - Sarah Seifken (in chat) – Page 13 of the report. It's pretty technical, but it shows the SEQ range.
- Julie Woodward (in chat) – Here is a snapshot of the reforestation requirements for TPA.
  - <https://oregonforests.org/publication-library/oregons-forest-protection-laws-an-illustrated-manual-2025>
- Jake Barker (in chat) - And a deeper dive:
  - <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=2863>
- Heather Hendersen will send out the PowerPoint presentation to the group.

## LandMapper Presentation.

- Jake Barker provides PowerPoint presentation on LandMapper.
- Glenn Ahrens – Does the hydrology actually type the streams?
  - Kate McMichael – It does give you them.
- Dave Bugni – If one can upload data, you can integrate your shrub data. Is something like this possible?
  - Jake Barker – I think that would be wonderful. What would be tricky is that ideally with LandMapper you have the chance to upload data, that's totally possible from a data standpoint but then you would have to be able to integrate it with the current data.
- Dave Bugni – Something else that would be helpful would be to calculate at least through the core spaces the pool riffle ratio.
  - Jake Barker – Unsure on that, right now it's mostly based on the forest canopy.
- Wendy Gerlach – For landowners looking for partners to do land conservation projects, is this linked in there?
  - Jake Barker – It will link you to the conservation groups near you.
- Boone Zimmerlee – Currently we have land fire data, curious about integration of the two or how those work together?
  - Jake Barker - All of the plots LandMapper uses is only on public land. Those are the reference points they train the model on. LandMapper has more data for the west side of Oregon, not sure how it compares to land fire. I would be cautious to answer that as a non-Ecotrust data wizard.

#### **Meet and Greet – Forest Resources Division Chief.**

- Josh Barnard provides a brief history of his time with Oregon Department of Forestry.
- The committee introduces themselves to Josh Barnard.
- Wendy Gerlach – There are a lot of committees, do you have a vision for the way to make sure that for the community and the department it makes sense to have these committees and make sure they are providing useful input.
  - Josh Barnard – It's a pretty conscious discussion and making sure we aren't duplicating effort. As we navigate different policy topics, it's important to look at what is our interface with these various committees? The advice we get from you all is very helpful, and it is an ongoing dialog on how to best use this information.
- Glenn Ahrens – The topic of seedlings and helping small landowners reforest is a particular important topic. Really looking at next steps in developing post fire assistance, partnerships and networks because it has been really challenging. Curious about the department's plan for doing this kind of rapid response, real eager to see how we will team up on this.
  - Josh Barnard – Likely will be ongoing business for a while.

#### **Board of Forestry Update.**

- Ben Deumling provides an update on the Board of Forestry.
- Julie Woodward – Just want to point out that right now though it might be a little limiting for small woodland owners, I think like most technology becomes more and more available it seems to be a lot of our logging companies, just in the last few years we have seen it more on the landscape. It just provides a lot of great benefits from what we have seen. Though it may not be now might be a future tool to give landowners opportunities.
- Glenn Ahrens – We have a podcast about tethered logging.
- Josh Barnard talks on tethered logging.
- Ben Deumling discusses some hot topic items to be aware of including the PFA and the Fire Hazard Map.
- David Bugni – At this stage in the legislative process, is there any benefit that our committee can provide? I would hate to see it all go down the drain with the hard work that's been done. Who do we write to?

- Ben Deumling – Write to your legislators.
- Julie Woodward – I would just caution saying that we don't have any tools, because we do have some long-term data that we watch on that. I think where it is, a lot of times in the valley area where land may have not been typically forestland, but we grew forests there that we are now seeing converted to other uses. I think just thinking about how we approach some of that terminology would be a great conversation.
- Glenn Ahrens – There have been studies, I think the last one was 20 years ago, where they did what you need to do to get at that. So certainly, the data is there, it's a question on do we muster a new project that's really going to get down and do it accurately to give us an idea of just how bad is it.
- Maurizio Valerio – In addition to all that we have said the diminishing infrastructure that allow us to bring and put the value to some of that, when the ability of bringing a product to the market it basically becomes impossible because sawmills are closing. Especially on the eastern side of the state we don't have places to process. We are left with a few alternatives. We have to come up with quick and courageous models to bring to families and communities to say let's try this out.
- Ben Deumling – All of these points are great. I think often when someone says "There's a problem" the knee jerk reaction is oh what is the regulation that's going to solve the problem? I think this conversation is a testament to the great minds in this room. I think there is a problem and the solutions are wide ranging.
- Julie Woodward – Want to encourage the Board of Forestry, there are other Boards who have put forward for the legislature some of those big picture things. Look at some of the similar sectors and the things they bring forward on behalf of the industry.

#### **Legislative Updates.**

- Derrick Wheeler provides legislative update.
- Maurizio Valerio – In your opinion what is the most impactful bill to this committee?
  - Derrick Wheeler – I would say House Bill 3940, other than our budget build.
- Maurizio Valerio – Senate Bill 1061, any gut feeling on that one?
  - Derrick Wheeler – It's not a popular idea with mill owners, timber graders, or large timber owners. But people are receptive to it, the issue becomes "how do you do it?"
- Kate McMichael – What volume are you hearing at the capital level about the state forester bill?
  - Derrick Wheeler – None at the moment but likely will be hearing more soon.

#### **Roundtable.**

- Maurizio Valerio (4:53) – We were visiting Wallowa High School and we were shown their forestry program. They have started dragging logs and sawing logs with the Forestry students, and they are building a new building where the sawmill is housed. They have received 40 acres from the local landowner so the forestry students have a learning ground where they can manage the forest now. One of the loggers was given an honorary teacher of Wallowa High School award because he guided the students in the forest.
- Maurizio Valerio – I shop a lot at the farmer's market. The idea of locally grown and locally consumed doesn't apply to lumber at all. As I envision it, it would be nice to think that we could find a way to get this to apply to lumber.
- Julie Woodward – Next week is the international mass timber conference and one of the things we are doing is taking architects, designers and engineers out into the forests and showing them locally sourced wood in Oregon. We have a publication talking about using local material. The illustrated pamphlets were delivered to Oregon Department of Forestry and will be available this weekend at tree school.
- Glenn Ahrens – Tree School is coming up this Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The other thing on my mind is the reforestation challenge and post fire recovery. How do we do better with helping landowners succeed?

- Kate McMichael – Another bill that I don't remember the number for is the OSU Statewide bill. This is one that would have a huge impact on not only those who work at OSU and extension but all of us who depend on them. The family forest convention is June 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Tree Farmer of the year will be at Jack Dalton's place.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – The Forest Service just had their comment period close on the NW Forest Plan Amendment. Many different organizations put in comments. The future of federal forests is pretty influx right now. Will be a pretty interesting few years. To tie back into the workforce development, AOL continues to be very engaged around workforce development and are tied in with OSU and the Higher Education Coordination Commission as well as chatting with others. We are looking at trying to find solutions for getting more programs for studying forestry and AG CTE at the high school level to have dual credit opportunities.
- Chair Gerlach calls the meeting to a close.