

Oregon Board of Forestry
Forestry Program for Oregon Subcommittee
June 21, 2023 7:30-9:30 am
FACILITATOR's Summary

Subcommittee Purpose: Collaborative work forum for Board and Agency leadership to advance efforts to jointly develop a modern Forestry Program for Oregon. The subcommittee will serve until completion of the conceptual FPFO (high level vision, goals, strategies), targeted for December 2023.

In Attendance:

- Board members: Ben Deumling, Brenda McComb
- ODF leadership: Ryan Gordon, Ryan Greco, Dave Larson, Mike Wilson
- ODF technical staff: John Tokarczyk, Danny Norlander, Hilary Olivos-Rood
- Oregon Consensus Facilitator: Robin Harkless
- Guest: Wendy Willis, Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT)

<u>Action</u>	<u>By Whom</u>	<u>By When</u>
Work on refining Resilient Communities Strategies-language related to tribal engagement	John Tokarczyk will reach out to ODF tribal liaison and offer language	Draft to Subcommittee before July 19
Work on 'access' theme for Resilient Communities	Ryan, Ben, and Mike	Draft to Subcommittee before July 19
Work on Functional and Dynamic Ecosystem Goal/Strategies	Ben Deumling, Dave Larson	Draft to Subcommittee before July 19
Draft September Board meeting FPFO agenda topic with water-related Boards/Commissions on Climate Leadership	ODF and Robin	Draft for review at July 19 subcommittee meeting
Add OKT community engagement process	Robin	July - December

updates to future Subcommittee meeting agendas		
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FPFO Content

Resilient Communities Goal: The group revisited the latest version of the goal definition/description and strategy areas. Joe and Brenda had worked together to develop a definition, and Ryan Gordon worked with a few internal staff to offer some refinements as well. The aim was to make it clear and concise and to reflect the full spectrum of forest settings and values that the forest might contribute to resilient communities. After some discussion, it was agreed generally that the goal should succinctly and specifically articulate intentions for the state of the relationship between the forest and human communities. Reformatting and minor editing led to the following revised goal and context section:

Goal: Forest policy development and management decisions should be viewed through the lens of fostering healthy relationships with human communities and supporting community resilience. Forests support resilient human communities to be able to respond and adapt to anticipated and unanticipated social, economic, and ecological change.

Context: Forests have both direct and indirect effects on quality of life, economic opportunities for communities, and ecological conditions in rural, suburban, and urban areas across the state. Resilience varies regionally and between communities of place and culture. Forests provide a range of benefits to Oregonians and contribute to community resilience. Place-based and scientifically informed management approaches support forests to contribute a full range of benefits to enhance community resilience by meeting their needs.

Related to the Strategies, there was general alignment on the main categories, with some discussion around:

- Adding a strategy related to access. The group agreed to add an access strategy item under the ‘educated and engaged communities’ theme; and discussed the nuances around what types of access they intended, whether this was limited just to ‘healthy’ forests (they agreed it should not), and whether this needed to be confined to ‘public’ lands.
- In addition, a suggestion was made to address tribal engagement specifically, recognizing government to government relationships.
- Finally, Ryan Gordon suggested that OKT (conducting community engagement project) offered some verbiage for the diverse communities’ theme. The Subcommittee welcomed this language into the next draft for consideration.

Action: With some general direction from today’s discussion, Ben, Ryan, and Mike agreed to work together to refine the access strategies items.

Action: John Tokarczyk will reach out to the tribal liaison to get suggested language for the tribal engagement strategy item.

Action: OKT suggested language will be inserted for consideration in the next iteration of this goal area.

Functional and Dynamic Ecosystem Goal: Robin reminded the group of the leader's intent comments shared at the start of the Board discussion on the FPFO on June 8; reflecting back the hope for the FPFO to be 'bold', user friendly, and recognize the transitional nature of the various environments (ecological, climate, social, political, economic) requiring pivots in thinking and strategy for forest management. The Subcommittee reviewed the brainstormed report out notes from that discussion and discussed refinements to this goal that included:

- Goal definition - this should be forest-centric to complement the human-centric goal of Resilient Communities.
- "Forests persist" is a key phrase and the goal should say how forest policy and management decisions will support this in the ways of biodiversity, healthy native plant species, and fire resilience.
- The question of 'how' this will be implemented might be in the form of a decision tool for management. What actions will help facilitate forest resiliency? (This will be fleshed out later but good to have a lens of 'implementability' on the work along the way.)

Action: Ben and Dave Larson will work with Robin to refine this section and send a draft to the Subcommittee before the July 19 meeting.

FPFO Process

Community Engagement - OKT: Wendy Willis joined the group to share emerging themes and process direction that has come from the first round of community connector conversations the OKT team has conducted. 54 people/small groups have been interviewed and the OKT team has attended two community events (Maxville Heritage event in Joseph, Washington County Powwow).

On substance, emergent themes across the groups included:

- Recognition that forests are under pressure
- New and growing awareness and attention on forests due to wildfire and climate change
- Ability to recognize and articulate the various values (e.g., the "triangle of interests" related to recreation, timber industry, and ecological needs).
- Recognition that forest policy and culture speak to the urban/rural divide
- Need to educate about forests - both science/ecology and social values
- BIPOC/LGBTQ+ and people with disabilities communities reflected safety and belonging/access concerns

On process design, given the feedback so far, OKT suggested:

- This process is an opportunity to build relationships. Board/Staff should consider attending events to listen and connect. "How are people talking about these issues?"

Responding to potential concerns about the influence on the conversation if board members are present, Wendy offered that this will matter in some settings but not others and that OKT would be available to help coach and design for this.

- No summer events given many will be out in the forests so suggested engagement events be scheduled in the Winter.
- Given that many community connectors understood and were able to talk about various values, OKT suggested the next step of engagement should gather various values stories and then share them in community forums to engage in a conversation about trade-offs and intersections, including ways to create balance.

Action: Overall, the Subcommittee was supportive of the direction OKT is going with the design and appreciated the input to date. They wondered how to bring these conversations into FPFO content development and whether this engagement would be considered representative in a way to scale to the statewide policy setting. The Subcommittee will receive regular updates at monthly meetings about this work and OKT will bring design questions for input to these sessions as needed. *(Facilitator's Note: OKT will join the July 19 discussion to update the group on design ideas and engage feedback and input on the next steps from the Subcommittee.)*

Subcommittee meeting procedures

- The public and participants accessed the meeting through phone and online video conference options.
- The meeting commenced at 7:32 a.m. and adjourned at 9:33 a.m.
- The June 21, 2023, audio (1:46:26, 104 MB) posted online at,

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Documents/fpfosub/20230621-bof-fpfosub-audio.mp3>

**Biodiversity Goal and Strategies:
v 6-8-23 Board meeting brainstorm**

**Goal: Functional and Dynamic Ecosystem
6-8 Board meeting small group brainstorm report out**

Group 1 - Definition ideas:

- Ability to adapt
- Diverse
- Various age classes and species
- Keeping all the parts in place is a goal, but each area looks differently
- Succession is evolving
- Values change over time at the landscape level
- Sustainable environmentally, economically and socially
 - Vision - improves over time
- Recognizable to the non-professional person/ citizens of Oregon - communication and education is important around this

Strategy ideas:

- What metrics are we looking at? infrastructure? tools?
- Place based decision making

Group 2 - Draft definition: *Biodiverse, resilient native plant communities that facilitate the giving and receiving of benefits and services for all Oregonians/local communities and Oregonians.*

- Context - this FPFO is visionary, where we want to be, transition point
- How do we pivot from here to where we want to be? Healthy ecosystems.
- Framing of ecosystem - pivot from human centered to human as an integral part of the whole.
 - What do we want to see? Biodiversity, resilient native plant communities, fire resilient ecosystem, adaptable, partnership - sharing and receiving benefits
- Relationship between humans and the ecosystem - giving and receiving of services. Reciprocity.

Group 3-

Definition: Resilient Forests = *Forests that can persist in a functional and dynamic state in the face of change.*

- What is this whole document about? Foundation = a vision for all forests. But with limitations in our scope of authorities? "guidance for how we can influence where we can." also a good communication and partnering tool - sit with other agencies and look at where our priorities overlap and intersect with others.
- Stigma with words - what does functional and dynamic mean? "resiliency".
- Era/period of change. Resilient forests are the foundation that support all other goals. Starting point for the other goals.
- Related to community resilient goal: