



SW Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2024

I. Roll Call

| Committee Members Present | | Committee Members Not Present |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Chair Dana Kjos Darin McMichael Steve Swanson | Chris Arnold Kale Woosley Michael Scott | N/A |
| ODF Staff | | Guests/Public |
| Emily Gregorio Mirms Miller Kyle Abraham Kirk Ausland Lee Winslow Joe Touchstone Sam Schoch Jay Morey | Scott Swearingen Adam Coble TJ Ramos Thomas Whittington Jennifer Ward Jim Gersbach Greg Wagenblast Doug Thackery | LB Phillips |

II. Chair Comments – Chair Kjos

- i. Chair Kjos called the meeting to order.
- ii. Roll call was completed, and a quorum was established.
- iii. There were no changes to the agenda.
- iv. There was no public comment.
- v. Chair update:
 - A. Steve Swanson provided a brief background.
 - B. Kale Woosley provided a brief background.
 - C. TJ Ramos made a brief remark about filling vacancies, noting that they are in process and fire season complicated the search.

III. Division Updates – Kyle Abraham and TJ Ramos

- i. Kyle Abraham provided a division update. The following was noted:
 - A. Fire season constrained team resources and the ability to complete some tasks as many staff were on fire teams.
 - B. Post fire recovery conversations with the eastside are ongoing.
 - C. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) administrative draft was submitted to the federal services in July. They will provide questions and comments for adjustments before it goes to the federal public comment period. Incidental take permits are still targeted for 2027 per legislation with the Private Forest Accord (PFA).

Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Southwest Regional Forest Practice Committee [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held on October 17, 2024, hosted by the ODF Forest Resources Division

- D. Reviewed organizational chart changes in the division, noting it has been relatively stable, and the division continues filling vacancies, as well as the topline organizational chart.
- E. There have been new stewardship forester hires with increased workload from the PFA, there are about 70.
- ii. TJ Ramos provided an area fire update with the following noted:
 - A. The area had less fires than the 10-year average by about 100 across the area, and less acres burned.
 - B. Bottom Creek fire was a Type 3.
 - C. Statistical fires were around 350 for all of Southern Oregon Area.
 - D. Chair Kjos asked about using IR cameras, especially with smoking piles. TJ Ramos said he had not heard anything yet but would be interested to look.

IV. Operator of the Year Discussion and Voting – Kirk Ausland

- i. Kirk Ausland reviewed the directives and purpose of the Operator of the Year program, and the opportunity to update the directive with other types of awards as well.
 - A. Discussed the Climate Smart award and a habitat conservation award that ODF and ODFW offer.
 - B. Kyle Abraham asked the committee to brainstorm changes to the directive and how we would make them between now and May. The committee expressed support for changing the directive to include more options for recognition.
- ii. The committee reviewed the corresponding videos for D&H Logging Co. and Brothers Excavation & Construction, LLC. and discussed each operation.
- iii. Committee members ranked the two operations, voting unanimously to select D&H Logging Co. as Operator of the Year with a merit award for Brothers Excavation & Construction, LLC.

V. Technical Guidance (FPTG) Development and Stream Flow Permanence Update – Scott Swearingen and Thomas Whittington

- i. Scott Swearingen reviewed accomplishments and next steps with FPTG. The following was noted:
 - A. Reviewed which FPTG and Tech Notes are completed, and which are upcoming.
 - B. Team resources towards FPTG were constrained due to working on the HCP draft, training events, and fire season.
- ii. Thomas Whittington reviewed stream modeling. The following was noted.
 - A. ODFW, Pacific Northwest Research Station, USGS, and ODF are all collaborating and currently in development for predicting flow permanence for streams in Oregon.
 - B. He noted the following about model selection:
 - a. USDS PROSPER model for the east side of the state is available statewide and is peer reviewed; this is in initial reviews.
 - b. Western Oregon Wet or Dry (WOWTDR) model for the west side of the state is nearing completion. ODFW staff will then do an internal model review, and a full collaborative process may start if the review has a positive outcome.

- c. Other models are available but these two are most appropriate for forest practices.
- d. The timeline is dependent on final approved water models from the authors, so no definite timeline yet. The agency will discuss solutions to resolve the potential time delay. The committee expressed that this is important to them because it is difficult and dangerous for field staff

VI. Electronic Notification System (FERNS) Changes – Joe Touchstone

- i. Joe Touchstone presented information. The following was noted:
 - A. The committee expressed concern about compliance and the risk of penalties while the process changes. There will be an ODF reminder and forester communications.
 - B. There is no method to sort notifications by activity currently, but it is in the update list and added that completion reporting changes do not apply to helicopter sprays.
 - C. There is an exhaustive list of potential updates and committee feedback can help steer priorities.

VII. Forest Resources Training Strategy – Jennifer Ward

- i. Jennifer Ward presented information. The following was noted:
 - A. Chair Kjos expressed interest in reviewing the training materials for foresters.
 - a. ACTION: Jennifer Ward to share them when they are completed.
 - B. There will be more attention to video production moving forward, as well as ways to track when training is being done.

VIII. Compliance Monitoring Update – Sam Schoch

- i. Sam Schoch presented information. The following was noted:
 - A. Reforestation study:
 - a. The data is unit-wise and not plot level, and the responses are binary as “yes” or “no” which can affect the results. Chair Kjos noted that there may be context missing and expressed concern around having the data incorrectly show negative results
 - b. Chair Kjos asked that a footnote be added if the data is calculated differently than in the past to ensure there are accurate comparisons.
 - c. There are PFA requirements for a statistician to help with the work.
 - d. There are still some obstacles about how to enter land, but there is more access and ability due to legislative changes to go onto land for compliance monitoring.
 - e.

IX. Closing Remarks – Chair Kjos

- i. Emily Gregorio reviewed completion for required training.
- ii. Chair Kjos adjourned the meeting.